

Discretion

Today, one is hard-pressed in America to find a person of discretion. We can define discretion as the ability to control or govern one's actions, attitudes, and thoughts in accordance with good taste and proper discernment or judgment. It has to do with the ability to order one's life in line with what you know and believe to be true.

We will look at:

1. The Source of Discretion (where it comes from)
2. The Need to Seek Discretion
3. The Benefits of having Discretion
4. Practical Steps to Help Show and Cultivate Discretion

The Source of Discretion

- **1 Chronicles 22:12**
12 Only the LORD give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.
- **2 Chronicles 2:12**
12 Then Hiram continued, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who will build a house for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

The Lord gives discretion to those who ask Him.

- **Proverbs 1:4**
4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

God's Word is a source of discretion. This verse speaks specifically of the Proverbs.
- **Proverbs 8:12**
12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge {and} discretion.

Wisdom produces discretion. These two virtues travel as a pair.

The Need to Seek Discretion

- **Proverbs 3:21**
21 My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,
- **Proverbs 5:2**
2 That you may observe discretion And your lips may reserve knowledge.
- **Proverbs 11:22**
22 {As} a ring of gold in a swine's snout {So is} a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.

We are commanded to seek discretion. A lady without discretion is inappropriate. Despite our society and culture, discretion is still a virtue to be sought after and cultivated.

The Benefits of having Discretion

- **Proverbs 2:11**
11 Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you,

Discretion will guard you from sin.

- **Proverbs 19:11**
11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

Discretion causes us to be slow to anger.

Practical Steps to Help Show and Cultivate Discretion

1. Choose wise friends. Wise people are discreet people. So, if you choose friends who are wise, you are more likely to be discreet.
2. Ask God to give you judgment and discernment, so that you will have proper understanding and be able to choose the proper thing to do in a given situation.
3. Study the Word of God, which will equip you to make right choices and help you have good judgment.
4. Once you understand what you should do, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to obey Him, and do what is right, no matter the cost or the popularity of the decision.

Since discretion is in such short supply in our culture, I pray that God will help you to be a beacon of refreshing discretion to our dark world. May God give His people the ability to think clearly, Biblically, and wisely. May His Spirit empower us to do what is right.