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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 11 - Eliminating False Discernment (Part 2)

Peace Must Rule Our Hearts

There is a tension underlying false discernment, an anxiety that pressures the mind to make a judgment. True discernment emerges out of a tranquil and pure heart, one that is almost surprised by the wisdom and grace in the voice of Christ. Remember, our thoughts will always be colored by the attitudes of our hearts. Jesus said, “The mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart” (Matthew 12:34). He also said, “Out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts” (Mark 7:21). Again, He said, “the pure in heart... shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). From the heart the mouth speaks, the eyes see, and the mind thinks. In fact, Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) tells us to diligently guard our hearts for “out of [the heart] spring the issues of life.”

Life, as we perceive it, is based upon the condition of our heart. This is very important because the gifts of the Spirit must pass through our hearts before they are presented to the world around us. In other words, if our hearts are not right, the gifts will not be right either.

When the heart has unrest it cannot hear from God. Therefore, we must learn to mistrust our judgment when our heart is bitter, angry, ambitious or harboring strife for any reason. The Scriptures tell us to “let the peace of Christ rule [act as arbiter] in [our] hearts” (Colossians 3:15). To hear clearly from God, we must first have peace.

Solomon wrote, “One hand full of rest is better than two fists full of labor and striving after wind” (Ecclesiastes 4:6). There is too much labor and toil in our minds, too much striving after the wind. If we want discernment we must become aggressively calm. This is not a passive state of mind but an expectant, focused waiting upon God. Discernment comes from our sensitivity to Christ in the realm of the Spirit. It comes as we allow love to be our motivation and secure the peace of Christ in our hearts. Through a life so prepared by God, the gift of discernment is revealed.