



# The High Cost of Spiritual Discernment

God offers no cheap discipleship program. In Luke chapter fourteen the Lord gave three reasons why we cannot be His disciple. He warned His followers to “*count the cost.*”

1. Christ said if family or even our own lives are more important than truth we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26).
2. If we refuse to bear the cross He gives us to bear we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:27).
3. If we are not willing to forsake all that we have we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:33).

Discernment only comes from God and He will not give discernment to anyone who is not willing to pay the price to be His disciple. Therefore, the first thing one who wants discernment must do is decide if he or she is willing to pay the price.

**Beware it is very expensive.**

## The First Step To Discernment Is To Earnestly Pray For Discernment

The phrase “*teach me*” occurs in fifteen prayers in the Word of God. Fourteen of them were prayers from the “*man after God’s own heart*” and one time the words came from Job who was not talking to God but was talking to one of his critics. Job was humble enough to learn even from his critics. Discernment is costly. It begins with humility.

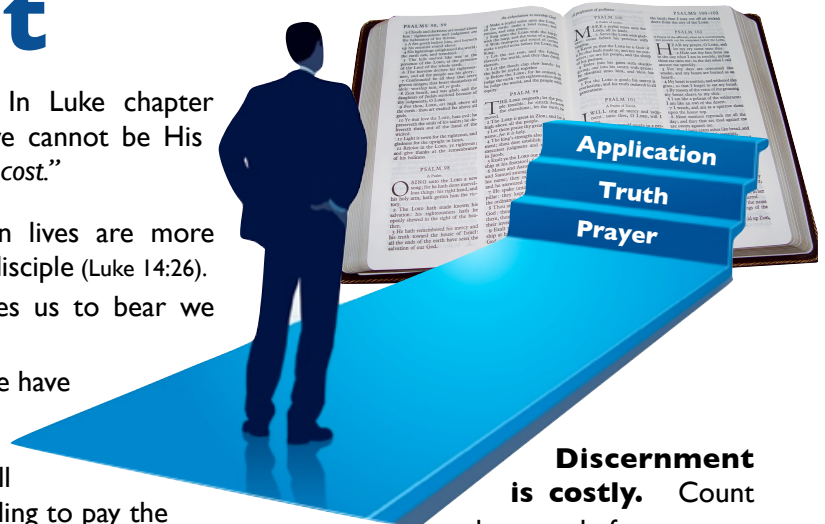
## The Second Step To Discernment Is An Earnest Desire For The Truth

The only source of total truth is the Word of God. The only way to discern the truth concerning the things we read in God’s Word is to genuinely allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into “*all truth*” (John 16:13).

This means we are not looking for Scriptures to support what we already think we know about any issue. It also means we will not be concerned about what our peers think. We genuinely want the truth. This will most likely cost you some friends; however, the gift of discernment is costly.

## The Third Step To Discernment Is Applying The Truth

The Psalmist prayed “*Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*” Notice that the prayer includes “*I will walk in thy truth.*” This might include that you will need to admit that you have been wrong about some issue.



**Discernment is costly.** Count the cost before you go seeking discernment.

Discernment put Noah and his family against the entire world. Discernment totally changed the lifestyle of Abraham. It caused Enoch to walk alone, Joseph to be hated by his brothers, sold as a slave, and spend many years in a dungeon. It put Moses on the backside of the desert, the three Hebrew children in the furnace. Discernment caused all of the disciples to be hated, Paul to be lied about, whipped, imprisoned and forsaken by most Christians.

This is why Christ took His disciples up on the mountain at the beginning of their ministry and explained the true cost of discipleship. He said to be His disciple would taken them on the narrow path and warned them ahead of time that “*few there be that find it*” (Matthew 7:14).

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