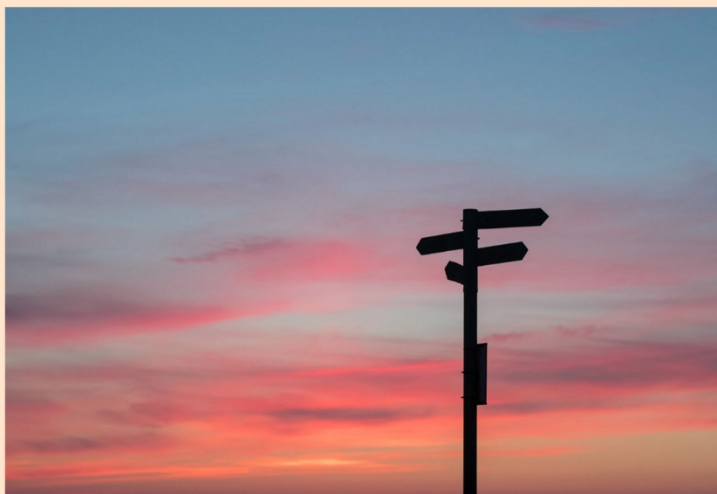


Discerning Truth



and Divine Guidance

Eva Peck

**Discerning Truth
and
Divine Guidance**

Eva Peck

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Dedicated to all
who desire to know
how to discern
divine truth and guidance.

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Introduction

Life on earth is full of choices and decisions – ranging from moment by moment to those that may affect us for years to come. We need to decide when to get up, what to eat, what to put on, how to respond to other people or situations, and more. All decisions have consequences – some immediate, some later, some good, some not so good. We all desire to be happy and as much as possible, to avoid suffering. To a significant degree, our happiness and lack of suffering is determined by our daily and longer-ranging decisions.

The best and safest way to make decisions is to seek divine guidance – to surrender our lives to God and His will and to ask for His wisdom. I believe, based on a Bible promise in James 1:5, that if we ask, we will receive – our prayers for guidance and wisdom will be answered. For immediate choices, if we are in a relationship with our heavenly Father, we'll be shown right there and then. For bigger, longer-ranging

decisions, clarity may not come straight away, but in due time our dilemmas will become clear.

Divine guidance may be manifested in various ways which may vary from individual to individual. They include desires, insights, events, circumstances, open or closed doors, comments from others, what we read that resonates with us, signs, songs, as well as inner voice and intuition. For some it may even be dreams or ESP experiences. Insights may come from logistically compiling a pros and cons list, from gathering facts and getting counsel, and/or from intuition. An important dimension in knowing the right decision is peace of mind.

Two other important aspects of guidance are wisdom – evaluating whether or not an action is wise and prudent – and right timing – when the time is right to move ahead, the inspiration comes, circumstances become favorable, “the light changes to green”.

Sometimes, guidance is easy to see, but other times it may be harder to discern and feel like a

bit of trial and error. To see clearly, or at least less hazily, may take time – even months or years. It may feel like travelling on a road with multiple turn-offs. We feel led to take one turn-off only to find a road filled with obstacles and then a dead end. We try another path and it looks promising. It seems to be an open door – which subsequently closes. We pray some more and try again – and again. Eventually we hit on the right path and feel confident and at peace that this is where we are meant to be. In looking back, we may see clearly why the other paths were not meant to be, and be grateful that we were stopped from taking them and saved from unnecessary hardship and suffering.

The chapters in this book focus on discerning truth and divine guidance. This is an individual journey for each person, but the principles may help all as they work on discerning what is their best course of action in the countless small and big decisions that this life brings.

What is Discernment?

Discernment is simply the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong, wise and unwise choices. Other synonyms or action words in discernment are to examine, distinguish, discriminate, judge.

The Bible gives several examples of areas where discernment is needed:

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 exhorts us in a general way: “*Test everything*. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.”

1 Corinthians 14:29 instructs us to discern what is spoken: “Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should *weigh carefully what is said*.”

1 John 4:1 gives a warning that not every spirit is believable: “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but *test the spirits* to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” We learn [elsewhere](#) that true spirits should “acknowledge

that Jesus is the best beloved son of God, and brought to the knowledge of mankind the rebestowal of the Divine Love, and declared to men the way in which that Love may be obtained.” These are the spirits that can teach us spiritual truths.

Everyone should and can learn to discern truth from error to a considerable degree, but some have been given a special gift of discernment, while others have different gifts through which we are all to work together and complement each other:

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 – “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another *distinguishing between spirits*, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation

of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

Discernment is needed in every aspect of our lives – from minute-to-minute choices which include matters of health and lifestyle, thoughts, words and actions, to short-term and longer-ranging decisions, as well as in accepting or rejecting as truth what we hear or read. Discerning right from wrong thoughts, words and actions is important because lack of or incorrect discernment and the resulting unwise choices will lead to unpleasant consequences for ourselves and others – either sooner or later in this life and/or thereafter.

For example, unkind words will hurt another person who in turn may hurt others. The originator of this chain reaction will eventually reap the effect of their unkindness – what goes around comes around. Failure to distinguish between truth and error leaves us subject to accepting false teaching or ending up with feelings of confusion. Wrong ideas may lead to

wrong thinking and beliefs resulting in, for example, unnecessary frustration, a false sense of security, feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness, unwise actions, and more.

This book focuses on three areas of life and suggests how to discern what are the best choices to make. The areas are discerning daily minute-to-minute thoughts, words and actions, discerning shorter- and longer-range decisions, and discerning between truth and error. In all discernment, there are two grounding principles for those on a spiritual path – knowing God’s will and following divine guidance. These principles will be looked at first.

God's Will and Divine Guidance

Divine guidance will always follow what is within God's will – it will never go against God's will. Sometimes these two go directly hand in hand. So how do we know God's will?

God's will is defined by His *moral laws* – the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, etc. Not all biblical laws are moral laws and binding on Christians, so discernment is needed right here. It is important to understand whom the Old Testament was written for and the changes brought about by Jesus in the New Testament.

Many of the laws in the Pentateuch (five books of Moses) were intended for the nation Israel under the *Old Covenant*. Some were national and collective. Some were ceremonial and ritualistic and were pointing to future spiritual realities as expanded upon in my book [*The Fulfillment of Old Testament Types*](#). However, beyond those laws, much of the Old

Testament communicates directly, in principle, or through proverbs and wisdom sayings God's will for humanity – how to live and interact with others in this life. If applied, these principles would lead to a peaceful society and considerable degree of happiness. In this way, Israel was to be an example of a nation under and blessed by God and a light to other nations, who would as a result of want to know more.

Unfortunately, this seldom happened and so Israel, instead of being especially blessed, reaped the consequences of their sins and rebellion against God. They first wanted a king to rule over them rather than God, and so became a kingdom. This kingdom later split into a divided monarchy – two kingdoms under the names of Israel and Judah. With further descent into sin and corruption, both kingdoms eventually lost their land and went into exile. Modern Israel is just a small remnant that became a nation again – the rest of the people's descendants are scattered throughout the

world, many having lost their knowledge of who their ancestors were.

Jesus came to the Jewish nation (Judah), the descendants of those whom after about 70 years of exile, the Persian king Cyrus allowed to return to their devastated homeland and rebuild. Their religious leaders imposed super strict laws on the people in fear of displeasing God again because of law breaking, in particular, breaking the Sabbath commandment.

Jesus came as the messenger of the *New Covenant* – unlike Moses, who was a lawgiver. This involves the “new heart” prophesied by the prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah and is the result of soul transformation accomplished by the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

In his teachings, Jesus supported the *moral laws* of the Old Testament but also introduced the availability of God’s Love to become a true child of God and at-one with our heavenly

Father. He raised the Old Testament commandments to an entirely new level – the spirit of the law. They were no longer just commands, but rather were to be transcended through love – Divine Love in people’s hearts.

Those of his disciples guided by the Divine Love in their souls and hearts would love not just their friends but also their enemies. Through soul transformation, they would manifest the “fruit of the Spirit” as listed in Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithful-ness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Love and these kinds of fruit transcend all moral and ethical laws and automatically fulfill them.

Following the leading of the Spirit/Divine Love is an antidote to gratifying the desires and inclinations of the human nature with its sinful tendencies as Galatians 5 further explains: Gal 5:16-18 – “So I say, live by the Spirit [follow the leading of the Spirit/Divine Love], and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law [the law is fulfilled and transcended].”

The next few verses list some of the actions that the unrestrained sinful nature can lead to: Galatians 5:19-21 – “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

The passage continues after listing the contrasting fruit of the Spirit mentioned above: Galatians 5:24-25 – “Those who belong to Christ Jesus [are following the Divine Love path and being transformed within at the heart level] have crucified the sinful nature with its passions

and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

It needs to be pointed out, that some New Testament laws were for the time or culture in which they were given and are not universal. These include such things as hair styles and head coverings, as well as church procedures. However, much of the teachings ascribed to Jesus and his disciples contain spiritual principles that are God’s will for Christians who are led by the Holy Spirit and transformed by God’s Love on the inside.

So God’s will is to live by His moral law – which needs to be taught and modelled ideally within a family setting from a young age as children are growing up. For those having a personal relationship with God, who through God’s Love in their hearts are on the Divine Love path, God’s will is to follow the leading of their heart as it is being transformed by God’s Love and transcending the letter of the moral law. Jesus gave some powerful examples of this in his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.

In an overarching way, God's will is for us to be happy (the word "blessed" in the Beatitudes can also be translated as "happy"), which happens when we make others happy, make loving choices and avoid causing hurt and harm.

As mentioned, God's guidance will never contradict God's will. In situations where we are to choose how to respond to another person, God's will and guidance is always to respond in the way that is the kindest and most loving.

God's specific guidance becomes important in less clear-cut decisions, where several options exist. This is where discernment is needed. Guidance may come through many different ways, such as hearing an inner voice, circumstantial events, coincidences, dreams and more.

Emotions – for example, peace versus doubt – are also an important guide. Fear is not necessarily a sign that we shouldn't move ahead on something if there are no other negative indications. Our heart and emotions can be

seen as our GPS – God’s Protective System – and feeling uneasy about doing something or something taking place in our lives should be heeded or at least given second thoughts. Feelings of unease or negative emotions can be warning lights or red flags that something is not right.

Looking back on life, we can see how often and lovingly we have been guided and understand why certain things were or were not meant to be.

Discerning Guidance in Daily Decisions

In a broad sense, our lives are guided by influences from other humans, such as parents, peers, teachers, religious leaders and counsellors, as well as cultural customs and societal laws. Those influences too need discernment. While we subconsciously absorb them as young children, we can start discerning as we mature and establish our own value systems.

This kind of discernment is personal and not necessarily the same for each person. If our value system is based on God's will, then the Bible can be a good guide. In addition, each person is individually influenced both by their worldly surroundings and significant others or, if they are open to it, also by God's guidance, spirit guides and spiritual friends. All the guidance that we perceive, no matter where it is coming from, needs to be discerned in making choices. God's ways and thoughts are different

and higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9), so divine guidance may be different from our first thoughts or natural inclinations.

On the Divine Love path, we are developing a relationship with our heavenly Father and choosing in humility to surrender to His Will. We are being transformed at the soul level by His Divine Love and becoming His true children as opposed to just God's creations. With our growth and progression in this manner, we'll more and more desire to do God's will in all our actions.

We have free will and God doesn't want to control us. However, He is guiding us to develop in our character and giftedness. In fact, the ultimate goal is to become holy and perfect as our heavenly Father is holy and perfect – through acquiring and being transformed by His unconditional Love that is available to us in unlimited amount for the asking (Matthew 5:44-48; 1 Peter 1:15-16).

As we continue to grow in grace and knowledge, following in the footsteps of our elder brother Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18), we are given more freedom just like human children as they mature are given more freedom and responsibility. So we may not be given exact guidance as to what to do in all instances, and in any case, we always have free will to choose what to do. We may choose to follow or ignore guidance and reap the consequences of our choice – either good or not so good.

Throughout each day, dozens of choices present themselves. To many of them, we may respond without thinking or even realizing that we had made a choice. If we are in a good spiritual condition, we are likely to respond well and kindly. In challenging or agitating situations, our response may range from kind (within God's will and our inner guidance) to one of annoyance, anger, or worse.

It is not easy to consistently stay in Love and walk in grace. Being mindful and asking constantly to be helped and guided to do the

right thing makes making good minute-to-minute decisions easier. Depending on our responses – loving or otherwise – we’ll either feel good afterwards or not so good. Let’s look at a couple of examples.

A young, newly licensed driver overtakes you at a high speed and in a dangerous manner. Thankfully, nothing happens. Our almost instant and instinctive reaction is to shake our head and call him a nasty name out loud, under our breath, or in our thoughts. After that, we have some choices. We can think with disgust something like: “Oh, these crazy young people – where is the world going? May the police see this person and give them a ticket. May they learn the hard way!” Or, we can give thanks, feeling grateful that everyone is safe, and ask for protection for the reckless driver and those he/she will encounter on the road ahead. We can also pray that he/she be led to realize the possible consequences of their dangerous driving and to change, ideally before having an accident.

The first choice may leave us agitated, angry, or even vengeful. The second two choices, in which we have reoriented our perspective from negative to positive, will leave us feeling compassionate and grateful – a much better mental, emotional and spiritual state.

On another occasion, someone insists they are right in their belief and/or action. You know or strongly feel that they are not. You can choose to argue and try to convince them to see it your way. Since they are not going to give in, the argument is likely to escalate and become more unpleasant. Or, you can make a different choice at the outset and just let them have their way and opinion. In the overall scheme of things, it doesn't matter one way or the other.

As the late Dr. Wayne Dyer used to say, it is often better to be kind than to be right. Again, the first choice will likely make both parties feel upset and even angry, with nothing resolved. The second choice is one of pursuing peace.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called [children] of God.” (Matthew 5:9). James 3:17-18 tells us: “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

The apostle Paul adds: Romans 14:17-19 – “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [or other relatively minor issues], but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

Another choice that we may encounter during an average day is whether or not to say something. We can use a 5-step check summarized by the word THINK:

T – is it *true* and *timely*?

H – is it *helpful*?

I – is it *inspiring*, or *inclusive* as opposed to divisive, such as negative gossip?

N – is it *necessary*? (Some things are better unsaid.)

K – is it *kind*? (Being kind is often preferable to being right.)

If the answer to any of the question is not a clear *Yes*, we may want to think twice about saying it.

Here is another important principle: “If we could see the whole truth of any situation, our only response would be one of compassion.” (Mingyur Rinpoche – Buddhist monk/author). Or, in different words, “Don’t judge a man until you have walked a mile in his moccasins.” This applies to others, as well as to ourselves. We are all wounded and imperfect and need to be gentle on ourselves.

Loving decisions with respect to ourselves include proper self-care, for example, allowing

enough time for rest, recreation, healthy meals, time in the sun, exercise, etc., and controlling unhealthy stress. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle and care for the body will go a long way toward making right decisions when interacting with others. And most encouraging, we can always ask for assistance from our heavenly Father and our spirit guides and helpers.

In summary, each day is full of small choices and decisions. If we pray at the start of the day and during the day for guidance and help to do the right thing and act in love, and if we are mindful of the choices before us as they present themselves and are able to choose to respond calmly, kindly, wisely and compassionately, rather than reacting in kind or with annoyance, we'll be staying in God's will and following God-given guidance.

If we fail to do that, and from time to time we inevitably will, we have a loving and merciful Father who understands our weaknesses and is always ready to forgive and comfort us. So we don't ever have to "beat ourselves up" for not

being and acting in a perfect way, but rather learn from each situation and resolve to do better next time.

We are on a journey learning to walk in a new way and will inevitably stumble and fall. But if we desire to keep going, growing, and following in the footsteps of our elder brother Jesus who loved with God's Divine Love, we will be helped, strengthened and given the wisdom and discernment how to act the next time.

Discerning Guidance in Mid- to Longer-Term Decisions

Life often brings us onto major crossroads and the choices we need to make may have consequences for months or years, even potentially the rest of our earthly lives. Examples of these kinds of decisions are a career or job change, selecting a partner in marriage or business, a major investment, an overseas mission, etc. It is therefore very important to pray for guidance and discern the guideposts to the best of our ability.

Sometimes it is not strictly a matter of God's will – there may be no sin or wrong in any one of two or more options that may present themselves, such as taking this or that job, buying this or that house, marrying this or that person. It may not even be a matter of wisdom in general – there might be nothing unwise in the opportunities per se. But on closer look, one

may be *better or wiser to pursue for us personally* – we may be happier, be able to better use our gifts and contribute, live in a neighbourhood where we can make more friends or serve more, etc.

Therefore, if possible, it is good to give ourselves plenty of time to discern the best among several alternatives. Then, when a decision is made, we'll be able to proceed in confidence, knowing that we have done the best to discern among the choices.

I believe that both the head and heart should be involved in discerning the best course of action in major decisions and there should be harmony between them before proceeding. It is important however, that at the soul level we really desire God's will, not our own will. Try to start by being unattached to either outcome and trust that following God's guidance will lead to the best outcome overall. To truly discern what God's will is in big decisions, much prayer and a good spiritual condition are required. It may take time before clarity emerges, so if the

decision is not urgent, give yourself the needed time to decide.

Romans 12:2 can be seen as a grounding scripture to discerning God's will: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

In other words, pray, maintain a good spiritual condition, try to see the situation from a divine perspective rather than a worldly perspective, and ask how God may be glorified the most through your eventual choice. Trust and act on the promise to seek first the Kingdom of God and all else will be provided.

The following questions may be useful in the process of discerning the best course to follow in important, longer-ranging decisions. Of course, not all of them may be applicable to every kind of decision, depending on the issue we are considering.

- **How clear is the guidance?**

Are you truly guided from beyond or are you just wanting to follow a certain course of action based on your own feelings and desires? This is not necessarily wrong, because one way that guidance can come is through feelings and desires. It is, however, important to discern the motive/s behind the desires – is it to want to do our will and please the ego, or to follow God’s will and serve and glorify God? The Psalmist learned and passed on this exhortation:

Psalm 37:4-7 – “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.” And here is a promise from the book of Proverbs, chapter 16, verse 3 – “Commit to the LORD

whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

- **Is the course of action loving to all involved?**

This too involves examination of motives – is my desire to serve others or to only please and gratify myself? Are we contemplating a course of action to get recognition, gain or fame (which is not wrong of and by itself if not purely self-motivated) or to give and serve God and others? Of course, any course of action should also be loving to ourselves. However, if our motives are *solely* for our own benefit regardless of the outcomes for others, it may not be a good option. A soulful self-examination is called for here.

- **Is the timing right?**

Timing can be essential to the right outcome in a pursuit. It is important that we don't take matters into our own hands and run ahead of God. It has been said that God is

seldom early, but He is never late. Even if it may seem to us that God is late, the timing will be perfect for the greatest good as the story of Jesus and the sick and dying Lazarus in John 11 illustrates.

- **What do the physical circumstances indicate?**

Sometimes, physical circumstances such as open doors, favours shown, encouragement from others, smooth sailing, and even certain signs may suggest to proceed with the desired course of action. However, discernment is still needed in that every open door is not one that we should walk through. Give yourself time and keep praying till you are reasonably certain.

- **Is it wise?**

Wisdom is a gift from God available in abundance for the asking. There is, however, also worldly wisdom, which may

lead to success in this world, but have negative consequences in the world to come.

James 3:13-18 contrasts the two types of wisdom: “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him *show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility* that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have *envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice*. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all *pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere*. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

- **Does the pursuit fit my gifts?**

The more we can use our gifts and enjoy what we are doing, the better will be the outcome. Guidance will often be in line with the use of our gifts. However, we can also be guided into a situation that will be an opportunity to develop previously unrecognized gifts and to grow. Sometimes necessity may lead us to, for example, a less than “perfect” job, but if we keep praying and seeking God’s will, this may change in time. While we wait, we may witness how we are being helped along the way.

- **Do I have sufficient facts to decide?**

Before any decision, it is unlikely that we’ll ever have all the facts. However, we should be reasonably knowledgeable of what we are likely to encounter if we follow a particular course of action. So explore, ask questions, and get as much understanding as you can before making an important decision. Be

aware of any “fine print” information and take it into consideration.

- **Do I have what it takes to become successful?**

Counting the cost is an important principle. This may be more than just money. Factors like physical health and strength, skills and abilities, and availability of other resources may need to be considered. Some have been guided to proceed with a vision or goal on faith and been greatly blessed as God has richly provided along the way, sometimes from day to day. So if you feel confident to proceed on faith, go ahead. But if you don't have that kind of faith and doubts exist, take time to discern further and make sure that you have the means – financial and otherwise – to make the situation work.

- **Are the inherent risks acceptable?**

Nothing in life is without risk. The question is how much risk are we willing to take?

This varies among people – for some the risk tolerance is greater than for others. Another question is, what is the worst-case scenario that could happen? If it did, can I live with it? If the answer is no, it may not be the best course of action.

- **What are the options, and is this the best option?**

The best option may not be the obvious or the easiest option. We may be guided into something that will make us rely on God more and grow as a result. But it is important to consider all other options if they exist and choose what, based on the guidance that we can discern, seems to be the best one.

- **Does it feel right at the heart level?**

This may be ultimately the most important consideration. Even if all the facts look good, are we at peace with the contemplated decision or do we have serious doubts? The

reason for the doubts should be examined. Are there valid reasons for them – are they red flags not to proceed? Are they based on things like other people’s opinions, who may not understand our situation? Or, are our spirit guides calling for caution? Are there facts we haven’t taken into account or are denying? If serious doubts persist and a decision is not of faith, it may not be right or the timing may not be right. Give yourself time to further discern this.

The above questions show that discernment of divine guidance and making wise choices is not based on hard and fast rules. It is more an art than science. Above all, it involves not just what we can see through our mind and physical senses, but also what we can only perceive through our heart and soul perceptions.

Often, if there are options, more than one option may be fine and have a good outcome. If deciding on an issue is difficult, after a certain point, make a decision to the best of your ability. Sometimes, that can be better than

making no decision – though making no change for the time being is in itself a decision. Divine guidance is not hard and fast and is personal and individual. Also, most decisions, if proven not the best, can be changed. So once you feel that you can see a way forward, proceed with confidence. Continue seeking further guidance and wisdom on an ongoing basis.

Don't be surprised when obstacles emerge – they do not necessarily mean that the decision was wrong, but rather are a normal part of life. Again, pray for help and guidance in overcoming them and moving forward.

I'll end this chapter with two wonderfully reassuring promises:

1 Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted [tried or tested] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Discerning Truth from Error

This chapter gives principles for discerning the truth value of something. This is necessary, no matter where the information comes from, or who says it. Key questions are:

- Does it make sense?
- Does it resonate at the soul level?
- Is it experientially true?

In listening to any medium claiming to receive a message from any spirit, [Jesus emphatically counsels](#), echoing the biblical counsel mentioned at the beginning of the book: “always test the truth that comes. If you are not satisfied within your hearts or through some demonstration of this truth in your experience, then do not give credence to what is spoken, ... If there is doubt, release your hold upon this information and ask for guidance and confirmation of its veracity.

“Mortals are prone to not take responsibility for their acceptance and absorption of the truth. They prefer to put the onus upon the messenger rather than the capacity of the soul through the spirit of truth that is within each soul to comprehend and accept what has been conveyed. ... When you doubt something that has been spoken to you and you yearn to know its truth or error, bring it to God. Ask for confirmation, for a sign, for the signal from that place in your soul that knows truth. When you have confirmed and have conferred truth within your mind, let it sink to your soul. Embrace this truth and live by this truth. Do not allow another to convince you otherwise.

“It is your journey to know truth, to truly know, to embrace, and to allow truth to be in every part of you. In your actions and thoughts, in your soul, in all of you, may truth reside and be an expression of who you are, your beautiful being that God has created and has a deep desire that you know of His presence, His Being, and His creation. ...

Truth will come in golden drops, freeing you from error, bringing you to a place of strength and clarity, of a knowing that is deep and abides within your soul. Thus God in His Love desires to bring all humanity to that place of purity, light and truth where Love reigns supreme ... Go to God, beloveds, for your truth. Words are but words but what they convey may inspire an awakening within your soul of truth which will bring joy and freedom and upliftment.”

The same message tells us that the pursuit of truth in all areas of life will result in spiritual growth and blessings. “You yearn for truth. You seek it in your prayers. You seek it in your thoughts. You seek it in expressions of your life. ... Truth grows as your souls grows in Love, [as] you walk in Light, ... [and] shed all that is of darkness. As you awaken in this beautiful blessing of Love, so truth will grow within you. Your gifts will blossom and bring forth much fruit that may be used to nourish your brothers and sisters upon their journey of love.”

We learn more about growing in truth in [this message](#): “What is sacred is your belief and connection, your rapport with your Heavenly Father. ... Receiving His Love, His essence, within your soul, will bring the truth, which will emerge from your souls, and find lodgement within your minds. It will incrementally develop and unfold and evolve, so that a true and complete understanding will come to you through your soul’s perceptions and your mind’s efforts to accept these truths as God gives them to you, through His Love, and through His communication to you.

“Truth is not altogether absolute. It is perceived by each individual soul, and although the foundation of truth can be universal, the perception of truth is not necessarily so. ... You must encourage each soul to find this truth through their own efforts and perceptions and prayers, and though their truth, their understanding, their perspective may be slightly different from yours, it is no less valid. ... To express your truth to others and to bring a

suggestion of truth in the written word, for that is merely all that it is, is a productive action. So indeed, each human ... is compelled to share their truth with others and this must be honored.

“For you do not know the Absolute Truth, my beloveds. You have your own personal version and understanding ... You must see that this is all relevant or relative to the experience of each individual and you must have compassion even for those who believe in error, for they earnestly wish and desire to seek truth. And though they have been shown a false path, and possibly will walk a circuitous route to truth, they will come to God in time, and you must not put roadblocks to that journey. Give what you can of your own heartfelt understanding of truth. Do not confront others and say, ‘you are wrong’. No, my beloveds, you must merely live your truth and speak your truth in loving ways. Share what you know and remember that these are just words.

“The real truth lies within your soul and the light that you carry and that channel of Love which God is building within you. This speaks truth, beloveds, more powerfully than anything else. To be that channel of God’s Love and to embrace all of those you meet and to allow in gracious ways for them to express themselves, without you stepping in to correct what you believe is untruth, is doing God’s bidding.

“Yes, there are times ... when those around you speak blatant error and express profound negativity. In these times you must confront error. In these times you must speak truth, for you must never enter a negative condition unless you make an effort to bring greater Light. But in the case of those who believe in the vicarious atonement and other such false beliefs of the Christian religion come to you and voice their opinions, it is not necessary for you to correct them. There may come at the odd time an opportunity to do so where that soul is open to what you have to say. But most often these precious souls who mean well are not open to

your truth. Do not judge, but be humble and kind and wish them well with a prayer, for there will come a time for each seeking soul, that they may come to the truth, the truth of why Jesus walked the earth and his true mission of Love, and all of the falsity will fall away. It is mere understandings of the mind, and the mind changes its perspective and understandings so very often. And you must accept that each soul has their path to follow, their route to take to God.”

To sum up, here are a few points regarding the nature of truth, how to discern our own truth, and how to share truth.

We are encouraged to always test the truth, no matter its source. Each person should take the responsibility for their own discernment and acceptance of truth. To test any spiritual information, bring it to God. Ask for confirmation, such as a sign or signal from without or within. Others may also help us confirm and validate truth.

When you have confirmed truth within your mind, let it sink into your soul. Embrace this truth and live by it. These points are further expanded on in [this message from John](#).

Truth is not altogether absolute. Rather, it is perceived slightly differently by each individual soul, as they search for it on their journey. All the perspectives arrived at by seekers' own efforts, prayers, perceptions and understanding are equally valid. The truth residing in each person's soul, thoughts and actions is an expression of who they are.

Coming to know truth is a gradual process of revelation, transformation and being freed from error. As we grow in God's Love, more and more truth will emerge from our souls and lodge in our minds. A God-given understanding will come through the soul's perceptions and the mind's efforts to accept these truths.

As we come to see truth, there is an honourable desire to share it with others. This should be done with compassion for those who

believe error, for they are sincere in their beliefs and their search for truth. Rather than being confrontational, share your heartfelt understanding in loving ways. The most important is living the truth, which is powerfully communicated through the light we carry and the channel of Love that God is building within us.

Most of the sincere people we encounter are not open to our truth. Do not judge them, but be humble and kind. We know that there will come a time for each seeking soul, when they will learn the truth of Jesus' mission of Love, and all the falsity will fall away. Accept that each soul has their own route to take to God, and eventually, they will all reach a place of happiness either in the sphere of the Perfect Man or in the Celestial Kingdom.

Aiding Discernment

As mentioned, the process of discernment involves both the mind and heart, which should end up in harmony for major decisions. However, the body too plays an important part in discernment. The body and mind are intimately connected to each other and the body is an instrument through which most of our perceptions come and through which the mind and soul operate. In this life, we also connect to our Creator through the body, mind and soul.

The Psalmist, awed by his physical body, burst into praising his Creator in Psalm 139:14-18: “I praise you because I am fearfully [awesomely] and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I [my soul] was made in the secret place [long before incarnation]. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. ... How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to

count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.”

The apostle Paul reminds believers in Corinth: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Scientists are discovering more and more about the marvels of the human body. [This source](#) lists just 15 mind-boggling examples of the surprising and incredible processes that make up a person.

1. Your body is made of about seven octillion atoms (that’s 7 followed by 27 zeros).
2. There are 37 trillion cells in your body.
3. Stomach acid can dissolve metal.
4. Your skin’s outer layer sheds every 2-4 weeks, amounting to roughly 0.7 kg of dead skin in a year.
5. Cells in the inner lens of the eye, muscle cells of the heart, and the neurons of the

cerebral cortex are the only cells that will be with you your entire life.

6. If you were to spread out all the wrinkles in your brain, it would be about the size of a pillowcase.

7. There are a trillion nerves powering your memory. Studies have shown that after viewing 2,500 images for only three seconds each, participants could recall if they had seen the images with 92 per cent accuracy.

8. You spend 10 per cent of the day blinking.

9. Your eyes can distinguish between 2.3 and 7.5 million different colours.

10. Your nose can differentiate between one trillion different smells.

11. Without your pinky finger, you would lose 50% of your hand's strength.

12. Your heart beats 100,000 times per day, pumping 5.5 litres blood per minute, which adds up to about three million litres of blood a year.

13. Human decomposition begins around four minutes after death, a process known as 'self-digestion' where your enzymes and bacteria eat you away.

14. Three to five pounds of your body are made up of bacteria. Between 100 million to one billion bacteria can grow on each tooth.

15. If all the DNA in your body were uncoiled, it would stretch out to about 10 billion miles, which is from Earth to Pluto and back.

Stop often to appreciate your body and all that it does for you. Be grateful for all the senses, for your legs, feet, arms, hands, the heart and all the other organs that are functioning without your knowing or conscious control. Don't take the body for granted.

The body is what connects us to the outside world, but also to God. It is an amazing instrument that serves us day and night, and months and years on end if we listen to it and give it the care it needs. It can be seen as [our most loyal friend](#) and servant. If we abuse it, it

has an incredible internal healing and restoration power, which, however, is not limitless. If we continue to ignore the warning signals, the time will come when the body will break down and to a more or less significant degree impede our functioning.

The body needs proper nourishment, clean water, rest and recreation, fresh air and sunshine, physical and mental exercise, as well as a peaceful mind. It is beyond the scope of this book to go into the details of a healthy lifestyle, but this is an important factor in sound discernment, both at the minute-by-minute level and the longer-range level. If we don't feel or function well, we are less likely to hear divine guidance or respond lovingly to challenging situations.

A healthy, well-functioning body will aid us in maintaining a good spiritual condition, which in turn will assist us in discerning God's will and guidance. Many factors influence our spiritual condition. These include daily prayer, positive thinking, staying in the light and a harmonious

environment, avoiding excessive attachments, maintaining appropriate diet and sufficient hydration, avoiding toxic substances, keeping positive company and relationships, staying fit, having adequate rest, taking personal responsibility, maintaining faith, hope and peace of mind, having purpose, feeling worthy and loved, and feeling safe and secure.

Our heavenly Father is more than happy to meet each person where they are and promises that when any individual, at soul level, even without their consciousness thereof, yearns for a relationship with Him and for His Divine Love, they will receive it.

Jesus promised: Ask and you shall receive. Echoing Peter's opening greeting in one of his epistles: 2 Peter 1:2 – Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Since prayer and specifically prayer for Divine Love is important for embarking on the Divine Love journey toward salvation and the

needed soul growth, which in turn will sharpen the powers of discernment of truth and wise actions, the next chapter provides several sample prayers for God's Love.

Prayer for Divine Love

The following are example prayers for the receipt of the Divine Love. None of them have to be prayed verbatim, but they can give ideas how to approach the Father who is always happy when His children ask for His Holy Spirit which imparts the Divine Love (Luke 11:13).

It is important to be consistent and continue to pray for the Divine Love, as soul transformation doesn't happen all at once, but is a process.

“Prayer Perfect”

The prayer below contains the basic truths given to humankind by Celestial Spirits.

Our Father, who are in heaven, we recognize that You are all holy and loving and merciful, and that we are Your children, and not the subservient, sinful and depraved creatures that our false teachers would have us believe. That we are the greatest of Your creation, and the most wonderful of all Your handiworks, and the

objects of Your great soul's love and tenderest care.

That Your will is that we become at one with You, and partake of Your great Love which You have bestowed upon us through Your mercy and desire that we become, in truth, Your children, through love, and not through the sacrifice and death of any of Your creatures.

We pray that You will open up our souls to the inflowing of Your Love, and that then may come Your Holy Spirit to bring into our souls Your Love in great abundance, until our souls shall be transformed into the very essence of Yourself; and that there may come to us faith — such faith as will cause us to realize that we are truly Your children and one with You in very substance and not in image only.

Let us have such faith as will cause us to know that You are our Father, and the bestower of every good and perfect gift, and that only we, ourselves, can prevent Your love changing us from the mortal to the immortal.

Let us never cease to realize that Your Love is waiting for each and all of us, and that when we come to You, in faith and earnest aspiration, Your Love will never be withheld from us.

Keep us in the shadow of Your Love every hour and moment of our lives, and help us to overcome all temptations of the flesh, and the influence of the powers of the evil ones, which so constantly surround us and endeavour to turn our thoughts away from You to the pleasures and allurements of this world.

We thank You for Your love and the privilege of receiving it, and we believe that You are our Father — the loving Father who smiles upon us in our weakness, and is always ready to help us and take us to Your arms of love.

We pray this with all the earnestness and longings of our souls, and trusting in Your Love, give You all the glory and honour and love that our finite souls can give. Amen.

The following is a list of other Prayer Perfect Resources:

- [Video version](#) of the prayer
- [Sung version of the prayer](#) accompanied by piano.
- Illustrated PDF file of the prayer is at [Prayer for Divine Love](#)
- For an illustrated JPG image, [go to this page](#).
- For an outline of the prayer, go to [Prayer Perfect Outline](#)
- To see the structure of the prayer, go to [Prayer Perfect Structure](#)
- A [7-part slide show](#) of the prayer combined with the spiritual practice of *Lectio Divina*
- A slide show combined with [reading of the prayer](#)

Prayers from the Bible

Here are four personally inspiring Bible passages which are prayers of thanksgiving attributed to the apostle Paul (though the exact authorship is not important). They are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible and are easy to read. I have bolded the parts that particularly speak to me, and have also

inserted notes in brackets that parallel information in this book.

Ephesians 1:16-19:

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that **you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** [*prayer for increased soul perceptions*] in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious inheritance** [*Celestial Kingdom*] in the saints, **19 and his incomparably great power** [*Divine Love that transforms our souls from divine image to divine substance and mortal to immortal*] for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ...

Ephesians 3:16-21

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, *[soul growth and soul perceptions through Divine Love]* **17** so that Christ *[Divine Love]* may dwell in your hearts through faith. *[Divine Love in the soul]* And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, **18** may have power, together with all the saints, to **grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. *[all aspects of Divine Love]* **20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us *[how awesome!]*, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11

9 And this is my prayer: **that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight**, [*prayer for growth in Divine Love and soul perceptions*] **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. [*through Divine Love transforming the soul.*]

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-14

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** because we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints** – **5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven** [*again, Divine Love?*] and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and

growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood **God's grace in all its truth.** [*Divine Love is a gift of grace*] ...

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** [*again, soul perceptions*] **10** And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way:** bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully **12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.** [*Celestial Kingdom reached through Divine Love*] **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he**

loves, [*Celestial Kingdom of which Jesus is the Master*] **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [*through praying for and receiving the Divine Love*].

Concluding Thoughts

Our life on earth is short and fleeting, but we are largely responsible for what we make out of it. We have a free will to make the countless small choices in our day-to-day experiences, as well as more significant decisions that may set or alter the course of the rest of our lives. Many of the decisions we make can have significant good or not so good consequences – either straight away or down the line. Therefore it is important to make the best choices that we can.

The safest and surest way to make wise decisions is to surrender to God and seek His will and guidance. We continue to walk with God as we then try to discern His will and guidance specifically for our lives. God promises wisdom for the asking. He also promises to impart into our souls His Love and nature for the asking. Why not say “yes” to such a generous offer that will enable us to make the most of our lives here and now and to reap great happiness throughout eternity?

The most lasting and most fruitful decision that we can make in this life is to seek God's Love imparted by the Holy Spirit, and to then follow its leading as it transforms our heart into a new heart and our soul into divine substance. This decision, if we stay on the path, will guarantee us an immortal life of indescribable joy and unlimited growth and opportunity in atonement with God in His Celestial Kingdom. Let's all plan to meet there!

In conclusion, I'd like to echo the apostle Paul's joyous exclamation in Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Further Reading

More about this and related subjects can be found on the author's website as well as the following:

- [Universal Spirituality website](#)
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. I](#)
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. II](#)
- [New Birth website](#)

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- *Salvation*, Eva Peck
- *Problem of Evil*, Eva Peck

- *Answers to Prayer*, Eva Peck
- *The Bible as a Guide to Life*, Eva Peck
- *Life After Death*, Eva Peck
- *Jesus Christ – A New Look at His Identity and Mission*, Eva Peck and Michael Nedbal
- *Fulfillments of Old Testament Types*, Eva Peck
- *Who and What Is God?* Eva Peck
- *Nature of Soul and Spirit*, Eva Peck

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- *Colour and Contrast – Artwork of Jindrich Degen* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Faces and Forms Across Time – Artwork of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck

- *Variations – Art Exhibition of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
- *Floral and Nature Art – Photography of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Nature's Beauty – Art Photography of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
- *Volné verše*, Jindrich Degen (Czech poetry)
- *Verše pro dnešní dobu*, Jindrich Degen (Czech poetry)

Pathway Publishing

Seeking truth and beauty



Discerning Truth and Divine Guidance

Discernment is needed in every aspect of our lives - from minute-to-minute choices which include matters of health and lifestyle, thoughts, words and actions, to short-term and longer-ranging decisions, as well as in accepting or rejecting as truth what we hear or read. Discerning right from wrong thoughts, words and actions is important because incorrect discernment and the resulting unwise choices will lead to unpleasant consequences for ourselves and others - either sooner or later in this life and/or thereafter.

This small book focuses on three areas of life and suggests how to discern what are the best choices to make. The areas are discerning daily minute-to-minute thoughts, words and actions, discerning shorter- and longer-range decisions and discerning between truth and error.

Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister and trustee in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual themes, as well as building and maintaining several websites. Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex.



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