

Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

Philippians 1:9-11

9 And this I pray, that your *love* may abound still more and more in *real knowledge* and all *discernment*, **10** so that you may approve the things that are excellent, (*distinguish between the things which differ*) in order to be *sincere* and *blameless* until the day of Christ; **11** *having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* --NASU

Love Without Knowledge

An open Bible with a red bookmark is shown. In the foreground, there are dried, pressed flowers and leaves, possibly from a book of nature or a similar collection. The background is dark, making the Bible and the flowers stand out.

Romans 10:2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal (*love*) for God, ***but not in accordance with knowledge.***

Knowledge Without Love

John 5:39-42 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; (*knowledge*) it is these that testify about Me; **40** and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. **41** "I do not receive glory from men; **42** but I know you, that *you do not have the love of God in yourselves.*

Knowledge Without Love

1 Corinthians 12:31b “...And I show you a still more excellent way.” 13:2 “If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”

But, Knowledge and Love Together!

1 Corinthians 8:1 – NASU Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge** makes arrogant (*puffeth up* – KJV), but **love** edifies (*buildeth up* – KJV).

Knowledge and Love Together!



Ephesians 4:15 ...but speaking the truth (*knowledge*) in love (*attitude*), we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,...

A Necessary Balance

Right Attitude

*“And this I pray,
that your **love**
may abound still
more and more*

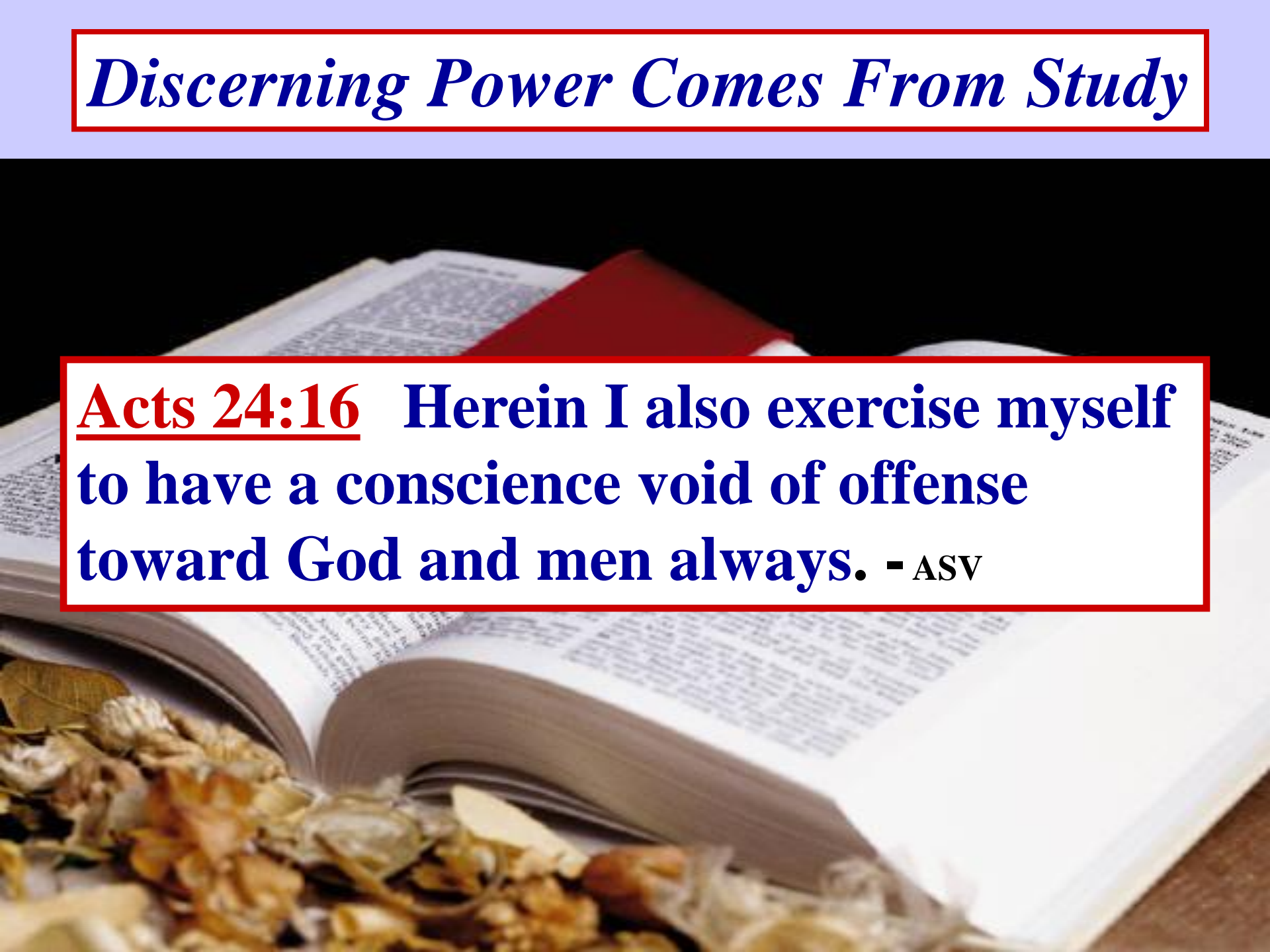
Right Action

*in real knowledge
and all
discernment*

*“**Real Knowledge**”* (*epi-ginosko*) – The word is intensified by *“epi”* to suggest a full, special, precise and correct knowledge.

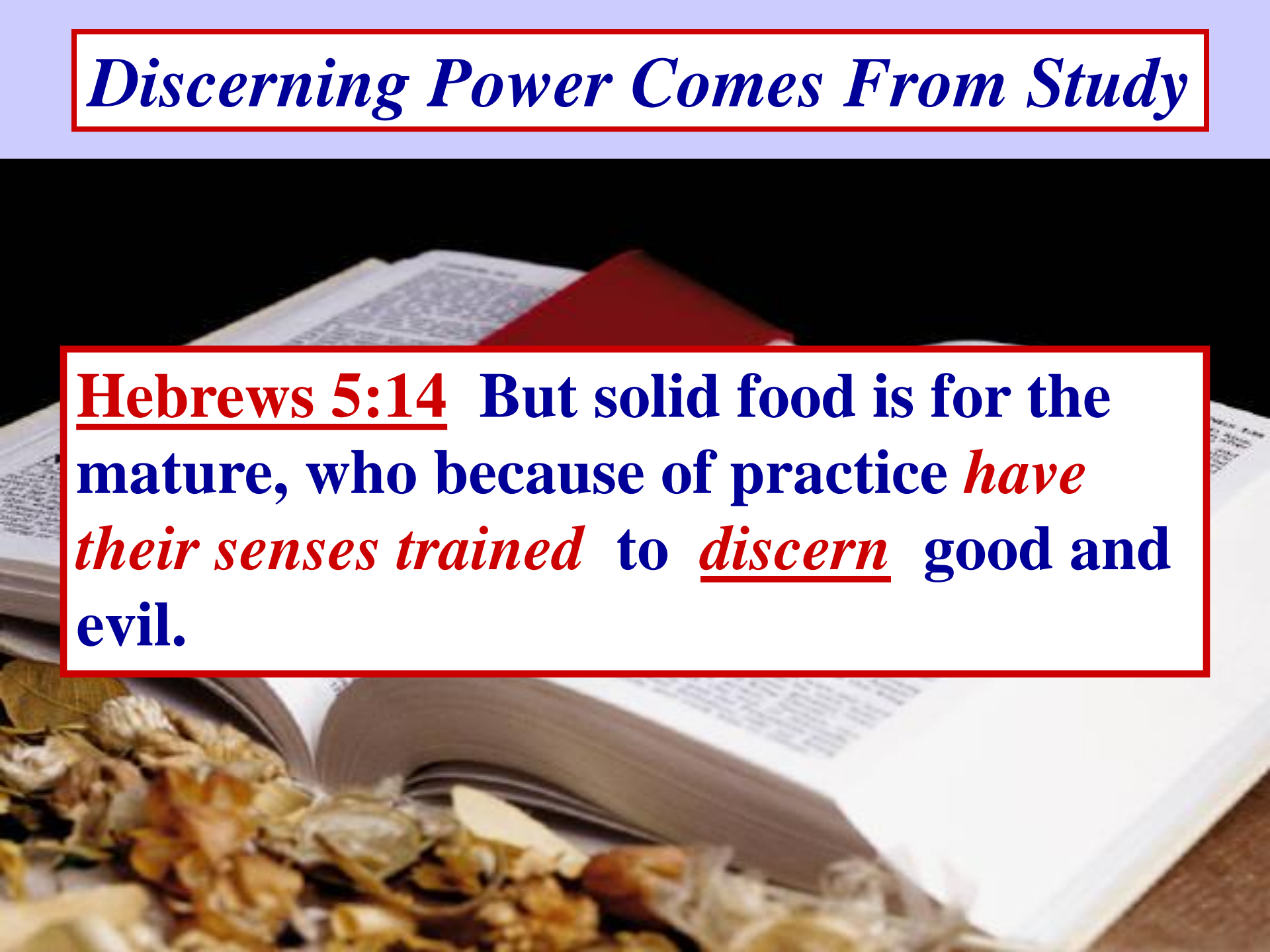
*“**Discernment**”* (*aisthesis*) – Suggests a keen discernment of sensitive moral perceptions and ethical matters – **2 Timothy 3:15**

Discerning Power Comes From Study

An open book with autumn leaves scattered on top of it. The book is open to a page with text, and the leaves are in various shades of yellow and orange. The background is dark.

Acts 24:16 Herein I also exercise myself to have a conscience void of offense toward God and men always. - ASV

Discerning Power Comes From Study



Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice *have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

“So that you may...” Do What?

*“approve the
things that are
excellent,” or*

*“distinguish
between the
things which
differ”*

**(Cf. Marginal
note in ASV &
NASU)**

“So that you may...” Do What?

*What Man
Says*

**Doctrines
Commandments
Traditions
of Men**

**Vain Worship
Matt. 15:9;
Mark 7:7-8**

*“approve the
things that are
excellent,” or*

*“distinguish
between the
things which
differ”*

between

*What God
Says*



**True Worship
John 4:24**

“...*In Order To Be...*” What?

**“...sincere and
blameless until
the day of
Christ;...”**

***Sincere* (Eili-krines) – “judged by the heat of the sun” – The idea of “*purity*” is inherent in the term.**

***Blameless* (a-pro-skopos) – “*not stumbling oneself or causing someone else to stumble because of you.*”**

How Important Is This Principle?

It was the final straw that resulted in Judah being taken away into Babylonian Captivity!

Leviticus 10:10 “...and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean...” NASU

Jeremiah 5:30-31 "An appalling and horrible thing Has happened in the land: **31** The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

How Important Is This Principle?

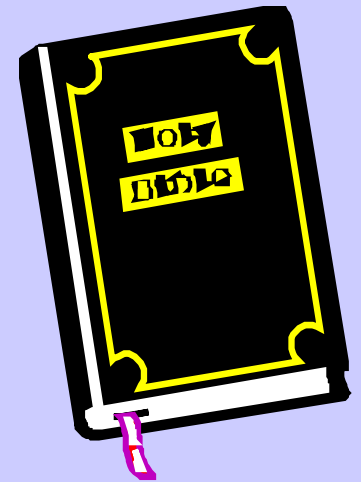
Ezekiel 22:26-27 "Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. NASU

Ezekiel 44:23-24 "Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean." NASU

“And This I Pray That Your...

Doctrines
Commandments
Traditions
of Men

Love may abound
still more and more
in *real knowledge*
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What is the End Result of All of This?

Philippians 1:11 “...having been *filled with the fruit of righteousness* which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

John 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you *bear much fruit*, and so prove to be *My disciples*."

