

# **AA41. Comparing That Which is Taught Us to What We Read in Scripture.**

*We are to compare that which is taught us to what we read in Scripture.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

## **Key New Testament Scriptures**

Acts 17:10-11

*But as soon as night fell, the brothers sent Sha'ul and Sila off to Berea. As soon as they arrived, they went to the synagogue. Now the people here were of nobler character than the ones in Thessalonica; they eagerly welcomed the message, checking the Tanakh every day to see if the things Sha'ul was saying were true.*

1 Thessalonians 5:21

*But do test everything- hold onto what is good,*

1 John 4:6

*We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God doesn't listen to us. This is how we distinguish the Spirit of truth from the spirit of error.*

## **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

1 John 4:1-3

## **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

AA54 Distinguishing between Good and Evil

EB05 Evaluating Prophecies

HB02 Seeking to Understand the Will of God

HB05 Not Going Beyond What Scripture Teaches

HB12 Not Neglecting the Torah (God's Teaching)

HB16 Knowing the Holy Scriptures

## **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

Genesis 3:8

*They heard the voice of ADONAI, God, walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, so the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of ADONAI, God, among the trees in the garden.*

Exodus 15:26

*He said, "If you will listen intently to the voice of ADONAI your God, do what he considers right, pay attention to his mitzvot and observe his laws, I will not afflict you with any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians; because I am ADONAI your healer."*

Deuteronomy 27:10

*Therefore you are to listen to what ADONAI your God says and obey his mitzvot and laws, which I am giving you today.*

**Comment**

We are to test everything we hear against Scripture. That means everything we hear from others and everything we think we are hearing from the Holy Spirit. This process of checking and comparing is what we call discernment, and it would be simple if the words of Scripture that were written centuries ago, and in contexts that no longer exist, were always easy to apply in today's world and in our immediate circumstances. The fact is that we cannot be sure that we understand the Scriptures unless we seek and are sure that we are hearing the Holy Spirit's interpretation. This puts us in a bind when what we are checking is whether we have heard the Holy Spirit correctly in the first place. The solution for this is not procedural – it is relational. We can only know that we are hearing the Holy Spirit correctly if we know the voice of the Holy Spirit (meaning God's voice) well. If we do, then when we seek confirmation of something from the Scriptures, WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE KNOW THAT WE KNOW.

**Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

R01 Listening to and Heeding God's Voice

R04 Testing the Spirits

W04 Testing Everything that is Spoken in God's Name