



 **ANNANAGAR METHODIST
CHURCH**

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Coming up

Thanksgiving Fest

14th Sep 4pm

Annual Thanksgiving Sunday

15th Sep 9am

INTOUCH

SEPTEMBER 2024

Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Natarajan

Senior Pastor

Ph: 9443586008

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Associate Pastor

Ph: 8608952359

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GOD shall supply



Dearly beloved in Christ!

From the Senior
PASTOR'S Desk

I want to begin by thanking God for this Thanksgiving feast. God is indeed good, and His love endures forever! It is important to reflect on God's blessings and express gratitude by offering our time, talents, and resources. This month, I encourage you to think about the significance of stewardship and financial responsibility. We will examine these important principles together and put them into practice. We will explore topics such as labour, hard work, wages, savings, spending, sharing, and giving.

Modern society, especially the younger generation, often prioritises earning, spending, and having fun. In contrast, the older generation valued earning, saving, investing, spending wisely, and building wealth for future generations. Neither of these approaches is explicitly outlined in the Bible. However, the Bible does provide specific financial principles that we should follow.

First and foremost, we acknowledge that God, the Creator, is the Proprietor of the entire universe. Therefore, God is the true owner of everything we possess (**Psalm 24:1**). We are merely stewards of His resources (**Matthew 25:14-30**). **Our mission is to Work and Earn**. The Bible makes it clear in **Proverbs 14:23**: "There is profit in all labour, but talk of the lips leads only

to poverty." Similarly, **Proverbs 28:19** emphasizes, "He that tills his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that follows after vain persons shall have poverty enough" (emphasis added).

"Through wisdom, a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge shall the rooms be filled with all precious and pleasant riches" (**Proverbs 24:3-4**). Therefore, creating a budget is essential. Budgeting allows us to assess the strength of our income and spending. It is important to ensure that our spending aligns with God's will. Spending should begin with giving to God. One purpose of tithing, as stated in **Deuteronomy 14:23**, was to teach the Israelites the importance of placing God first in their lives. In the Old Testament, giving a tenth to God was required, but Christ and Paul have taught us to give even more.

The debate now focuses on whether to donate to missions, the church, or humanitarian causes rather than simply making charitable contributions. Para-church organizations often position themselves as the true representatives of God's Kingdom, claiming to carry out the ministry. Some even argue that the Church is corrupt, disloyal, dishonest, and uninterested in missions, suggesting that you should not support your local church. On the other hand, NGOs argue that since God is actively involved in humanitarian issues and social justice, it is better to support social causes than the Church and missions. However, the most important consideration is whether you are giving your tithe or more.

God has taught us to [share our resources](#) with the poor and needy. As stated in **Luke 6:38**, "Give, and it will be given to you...." People will give to you in good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running

over—expecting to receive back the same amount that they gave." However, there is also a time and place for resource conservation. Saving involves setting aside money for future needs. **Proverbs 21:20** reminds us, "The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down." According to **Proverbs 21:20**, "*There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up.*" In addition, **Proverbs 22:3** highlights that "*the simple pass on and are punished, but the prudent man foresees the evil and hides himself.*"

One of the greatest spiritual blessings is contentment (**1 Timothy 6:10**). "*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus,*" says **Philippians 4:19**. The verse translates as follows: "*Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"

We are cautioned against taking on and living in debt. **Psalms 37:21** warns that "the wicked borrows and does not repay." The moment a person incurs debt, they forfeit their independence. **Proverbs 22:7** reinforces this by stating, "The borrower is servant to the lender, and the rich rule over the poor." Another area of caution is with guarantees and security. Co-signing, which involves accepting responsibility for someone else's debt, is closely related to taking on debt. "*A man lacking in judgment strikes hands in pledge and puts up security for his neighbour,*" according to **Proverbs 17:18**.

I pray that those who participate in my congregation will live by these values and find joy in doing so.

With blessings
Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

14th
September
(2nd Saturday)
4 pm

Amc
Thanksgiving 2024
Fest

A very warm welcome to
you, your family and friends

Venue:

**Grace Matriculation
Higher Secondary School,
12th Main Road, Chennai 600040.**

Enjoy the evening with

- ★ **FUN & FELLOWSHIP**
- ★ **MOUTH-WATERING FOOD**
- ★ **EXCITING GAMES**
- ★ **LUCKY DIP**

Join the Competition

- ★ **COOKING WITHOUT FIRE**



Annanagar Methodist Church

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September- 2024

Annual Theme

Remember, Consider, Imitate Leaders. (Heb 13:7)



Monthly Theme : **God shall supply**

(Phil 4:19)

1 Sep 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

7.00 AM

Theme: Universal Proprietor

Text: Psalm 24:1-10

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. K.T. Kuruvilla

9.00 AM

Theme: Universal Proprietor

Text: Psalm 24:1-10

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. Jaikar Jesudos

6.00 PM

Theme: Saving for Future

Text: Proverbs 6:6-11

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Ms. C.A. Helen

8 Sep 2024

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

7.00 AM

Theme: Signing for Security

Text: Proverbs 6:1-5

Preacher:

Dr. Prince Samuel

Bible Reading :

Mr. Samuel Jebakumar

9.00 AM

Theme: Contentment

Text: 1Timothy 6:6-10

Preacher:

Dr. Philip Anbarasan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Anirutha Irene Francis

6.00 PM

Theme: Dept free life

Text: Romans 22:1-8

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Joanita Simon

15 Sep 2024

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Annual
Thanksgiving Sunday**

9.00 AM

Theme: Give and be given

Text: Luke 6:37,38

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

6.00 PM

Youth Service

Leading & Worship: MYAF

Preacher:

Mr. Neil Vimalkumar

22 Sep 2024

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

7.00 AM

Theme: Labour to prosper

Text: Proverbs 14:23-27

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mr. Harris E.S.A

9.00 AM

Theme: Labour to prosper

Text: Proverbs 14:23-27

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Ms. M. Larya Visnitha

6.00 PM

Theme: Stewardship

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Preacher:

Mr. Vijayakumar

Bible Reading :

Ms. Deepti Dinakaran

29 Sep 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

7.00 AM

Theme: Give God first

Text: Deut 14:22-29

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. T. Amal Chitra

9.00 AM

Theme: Give God first

Text: Deut 14:22-29

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Sujatha Joseph

6.00 PM

Sing Song Service

Preacher: Mrs. Pearl Vincent

September 1st - 7th

PROMISE

Delight yourself
also in the Lord,
And He shall give
you the desires of
your heart.
Psalms 37:4

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES

September 22th - 28th

COMMAND

... that your
charitable deed
may be in secret;
and your father
who sees in secret
will Himself
reward you
openly.
Matthew 6:4

September 8th - 14th

COMMAND

Every man shall
give as he is able,
according to the
blessings of the
Lord your God
which he has given
you.
Deut 16:17

September 15th - 21st

COMMAND

But when you do a
charitable deed, do
not let your left hand
know what your
right hand is doing.
Matthew 6:3

September 29th - Oct 5th

COMMAND

Therefore, as we
have opportunity,
let us do good to
all, especially to
those who are of
the household of
faith.
Galatians 6:10

NKJV



THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF **DISCERNMENT**

Introduction

In the simplest terms, discernment is wisdom. The dictionary defines discernment as, "the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure; skill in discerning; an act of perceiving or discerning something."

One of the harder elements of defining discernment, and finding information about it in the Bible, is that discernment is not always the word used in any given English translation. Often the version will use another word. Synonyms include wisdom, understanding, discretion, prudence, testing, and sense. Any time a reader sees these words, that is a signal the subject is discernment.

The meaning of the spiritual gift of discernment is not about a spooky sixth sense as some would understand. Rather it is a spiritual gift that God gives to believers in order to recognize lying spirits and to identify deceptive and erroneous doctrines, and comes solely from time spent in the deep study of the Word of God and in His presence. Discernment is also

the Spirit's special defense against the lies that come from lying Spirits.

1 Corinthians 2:14 says "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit".



The following article is from the message shared by **Mrs. Kanchana Jeyathilagar** on "The Spiritual Gift of Discernment" on 6th July'24, with the women of our Church.

'We are not called to understand but to obey"-A quote on simple and sound faith. Yet we need to appreciate our bible studies which bring God's word to a better and brighter focus. I thank the women's fellowship of AMC for this diligent endeavour.

Holy spirit is first mentioned right in Genesis chapter 1 verse 2 when the world was a formless void. Father, Son and Holy Spirit were perfectly unified before creation of the world, loving, serving and glorying one another. We in turn were created to be united with our creator and His creation - to love and serve one another.

I was a teenager when a renowned preacher came to preach to us in college to talk to us on trinity. This

profound truth was made so simple to us. The preacher explained_ "I am son to my parents, husband to my wife and Father to my children, Yet I'm one person with different roles." We then got a glimpse of God's dimensions. Later realising that the Holy Spirit came to dwell in each believer, Eph 4:13 cautioned me. "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom we were sealed for the day of redemption".

Holy Spirit - My Helper, Comforter, Teacher of spiritual truth, who convicts and intercedes for us is our guarantor for our eternal redemption.

I said to my children when they were occasionally naughty, "Amma is not pleased when you disobey, you sadden me", that immediately brought in required results. When our Holy Spirit convicts us we need to immediately set our paths right and fulfil the purpose of His will in our lives. Our life needs to be holy, emphasizes Joshua 3:5

"Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow;-The Lord will do wonders among you"

Holy in Hebrew is Kadosh - To be set apart for God.

Knowing that we cannot do this on our own, GOD endows us with gifts. To simplify, gifts are spiritual qualities or characteristics under spiritual control. These gifts are not natural talents or skills. These are super naturally bestowed by Holy Spirit on all believers, enabling us to effectively honour our Lord.

The varieties of gifts fall into two general types: Speaking and Serving.

Speaking/ Verbal = Prophecy, knowledge, Wisdom and exhortation.

Serving/ Non verbal gifts = Leadership, Giving, Mercy, Faith and Discernment which are all permanent gifts and their purpose is to edify the church and to glorify God.

Some are a combination, yet personally unique to suit each individual and God's purpose for Him.

Miracles, Healing, Languages and their interpretation were gifts given during the apostolic age with a purpose to authenticate the apostles and their message as God's word, until God's written word was completed and with you now as the Bible.

Charismata is a greek word that says gifts are granted by God. Romans 12:3-8 clearly warns us that we need not take pride of these favours from God. Gifts are not something to seek but to be received from the Spirit, "as He wills" - All gifts are given as He chooses. *Gifts are worthless without love*.

"Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." Therefore there need not be competition, comparison or discrimination. Diversity is His choice, Be faithful. (James 3:13-18) There is no room for jealousy and selfish ambition. Wisdom needs to be pure, peaceful, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, impartial and sincere. Wisdom in James is not merely intellectual but behavioural.

Discernment requires diligent study of the Word to exercise gifts of knowledge, wisdom and teaching. "Test all things and hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." 1 Thes 5:20-22.

Satan is a great deceiver, John 8:44 and his demons counterfeit God's message and work.,

Christians with the gift of discernment must have the God given ability, to recognising lying spirits and to identify deceptive doctrines. In Acts 17:11 The people of Berea are mentioned here as "fair minded and they received the word with all readiness and searched the scriptures daily to find out if these were so".

When discernment was not exercised in the Corinthian church (Acts 16: 16-18) grave distortion of the truth occurred. [Acts 5:3 Then Peter said,"Ananias how is it that Satan has filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"]

Thus, it is essential to have people in the church who are discerning and they are the guardians, the watchmen who protect the church from demonic lies, false doctrines, perverted cults and fleshy elements.

Resisting the Worlds pressure is not simple. Rom 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

After listening to our speaker, I pondered over Some examples of Discernment in the Bible

1. King Solomon -When God offered him anything in the world, his request was simple, "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9a).

God granted him this wisdom, and much more. He became famous for his wisdom, and solving problems and addressing disputes became a part of his job. (When two women came to him claiming to

be the mother of one baby, it seemed to be a difficult dilemma. Without modern genetic testing, God gave Solomon the understanding of human nature to discern which woman had love in her heart, which had malice, and how to extract the truth. The baby was given back to his rightful mother. (Read 1 Kings 3:16-28)

2. The Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:9:) discerns Elisha is a holy prophet of God.

3. The woman of Samaria (John 4:19, 42) perceives that Jesus Christ is more than a mere man.

4. Micaiah (1 Kings 22:19-23 and 2 Chronicles 18:18-22) discerns that a lying spirit is responsible for false prophecy.

5. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 23:16-22:) perceives that the false prophets' message is not from God.

6. Peter (Acts 8:23) discerns the actual condition of Simon the Magician's heart.

7. Paul (Acts 16:18:) distinguishes the spiritual source of a girl's fortune-telling gift.

8. The wise Pharisees and Sadducees - the religious leaders of the day - were unable to identify Jesus Christ as the Messiah because they were too wrapped up in their own knowledge. However, those the culture would have viewed as uneducated, simple, or foolish saw the truth. Jesus even said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children." (Matthew 11:25b)

9. The apostle Paul prayed for the believers in Philippi to have discernment so they could judge the right way to go in life:

Philippians 1:9–10—"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ". (NIV)

10. King Solomon advised his son to hang on to discernment so that he would stay safe and secure on life's course.

Proverbs 3:5–6—"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; lean not on your own understanding. in all your ways acknowledge him , and he will make your path straight".

Conclusion

True discernment starts with prayer. Just like Solomon requested wisdom, the believer should ask the Spirit for guidance and discernment. God smiles on those who ask for it. "The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God" (Psalm 14:2). Seeking God and His kingdom would be always be the priority of a discerning heart.(Matthew 6:33)

The more discernment a Christian exercises, the stronger his or her faith, and the better that person will be able determine what is right, good, and perfect will of God', manifesting in love for God and others just like Jesus had. Yes, Christ is our role model for a living a life with true discernment.

(Article compiled by **Mrs. Daisy Pradeep**)



Annanagar
Methodist
Church

The
Spiritual
GIFT of
service

Message by:

Dr. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad

On 7th September at 5pm

Welcome to WSCS

Come and be blessed 🙏 ✨







A Spiritual Retreat

to remember in

Tranquebar

The recent three-day retreat organized by the AMC in the historic town of Tranquebar was a truly transformative experience, celebrating us women in Christ by offering a time of refreshing, renewal, and empowerment through the Holy Spirit.

From start to finish, the retreat was meticulously planned. Our journey was smooth, our stay comfortable, and the nourishing meals at Gnanapoo Illam ensured we were well-fed. The Friday evening heritage walk through the scenic coastal town was a particular highlight—an invigorating experience that allowed us to soak in the beauty and history of Tranquebar.

The prayer hall at the museum offered a tranquil and serene atmosphere, perfect for reflecting on the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was a place where the rich spiritual ambience of the town truly came alive, enhancing our personal meditations.

Mrs. Lynette Johnson led short but impactful sessions that were both interesting and engaging. Through meaningful group discussions and lively activities, she helped us deepen our understanding

of the Holy Spirit's role in our lives and recognize the unique gifts that have been bestowed upon us by the Spirit.

The retreat culminated in a beautiful Sunday morning service at Vaitheeswaran Koil. Our hearts were warmed by the heavenly music and the profound message delivered by Mrs. Sarah Paul Singh, leaving us all feeling uplifted and inspired.

As we return to our daily lives, we carry with us the lessons learned, the bonds strengthened, and the deep sense of gratitude for God's guidance and protection throughout this enlightening retreat. We praise and thank Him for this blessed time together.

Written by Mrs.Pramila Sriram,
participant at the WSCS ANNUAL RETREAT'24
held from 9th-11th August'24

Prayer Pointers



- ❖ The Episcopal Leaders - Bishop Dr. E.D. Yesurathnam and Mrs. Evangeline Yesurathnam.
- ❖ The Pastors and Office Staff.
- ❖ The growth of Christ Methodist Church, Vaitheeswaran Koil and Living Word Methodist Church, Chidambaram in all the aspects.
- ❖ General Conference Episcopal Elections.
- ❖ Those who are sick and in pain, especially Ms. Constance Samuel, Mrs. Jebathai Chellaiah, Mrs. Sunija Christilda, Mrs Priya David and Mrs. Janette Michael.
- ❖ Those seeking job and life partner.
- ❖ The Sunday School, MYF, WSCS, Methodist Men, Elders Fellowship, Cell groups, Bible Study, Young Adults, AMC choirs and other activities of the Church to function effectively for the constant spiritual growth.
- ❖ All the elders and single parents.
- ❖ The Nation and the Governments at the Center and the States.
- ❖ The Global affairs - economy, ecology, peaceful atmosphere.
- ❖ The Pastorate Conference and the Pastorate Committee members to contribute constructively for the expansion of God's kingdom through Annanagar Methodist Church.