

## How to Prepare your Heart and Mind to Exercise Sound Judgment

When we consider the difficult decisions that individuals and organizations are having to make in the face of a microscopic enemy, there has never been a time more important to exercise sound judgment. We know that it is so easy to be blinded by our fears, pride, selfishness, emotions, and pressures. If we are going to face the challenges ahead with clarity and confidence, then we need to prepare our hearts and minds for sound judgment. So, how do we do that? To exercise sound judgment, we must first understand and embrace the foundation on which it is built. The scripture tells us in Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding." How do we fear the Lord? Proverbs 3:21 tells us that, "The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way..." II Timothy 1:7 tells us, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." These passages seem to contradict each other when it comes to fear. One tells us to fear the Lord, the other tells us that God has not given us a spirit of fear. Yet, if we take a closer look and consider the whole counsel of God, they are completely consistent and unified. If we are going to exercise sound judgment then we must be firmly rooted in fearing God. This does not mean to live in fear, but rather to live a holy life, hating those things that distract us from having a clear picture of the situations we encounter in our daily lives. Walking daily in His truth and making principled, value-based choices and decisions not only is honoring to God, but is good for others and ourselves.

Therefore, to exercise sound judgment we must first fear God. Then we must reject the fears that we encounter along the journey of life: the fear of the unknown, the fear of the untried, the fear of others and the fear of failure. Finally, embrace what God gave us when we trusted him for our salvation: love, power and a sound mind.