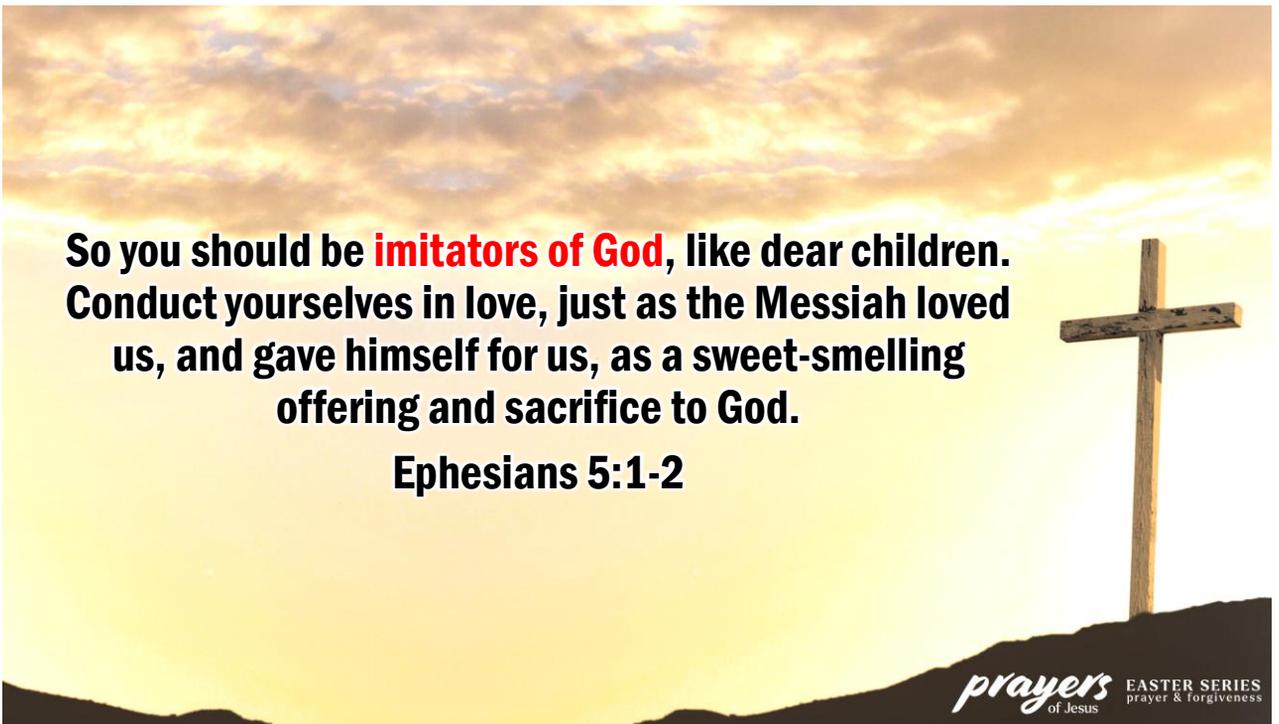




prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

So you should be *imitators of God*, like dear children. Conduct yourselves in love, just as the Messiah loved us, and gave himself for us, as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2



prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness



So you should be **imitators of God**, like dear children.



Make use of **any opportunity** you have

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness



So you should be **imitators of God**, like dear children.



Make use of **any opportunity** you have

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness



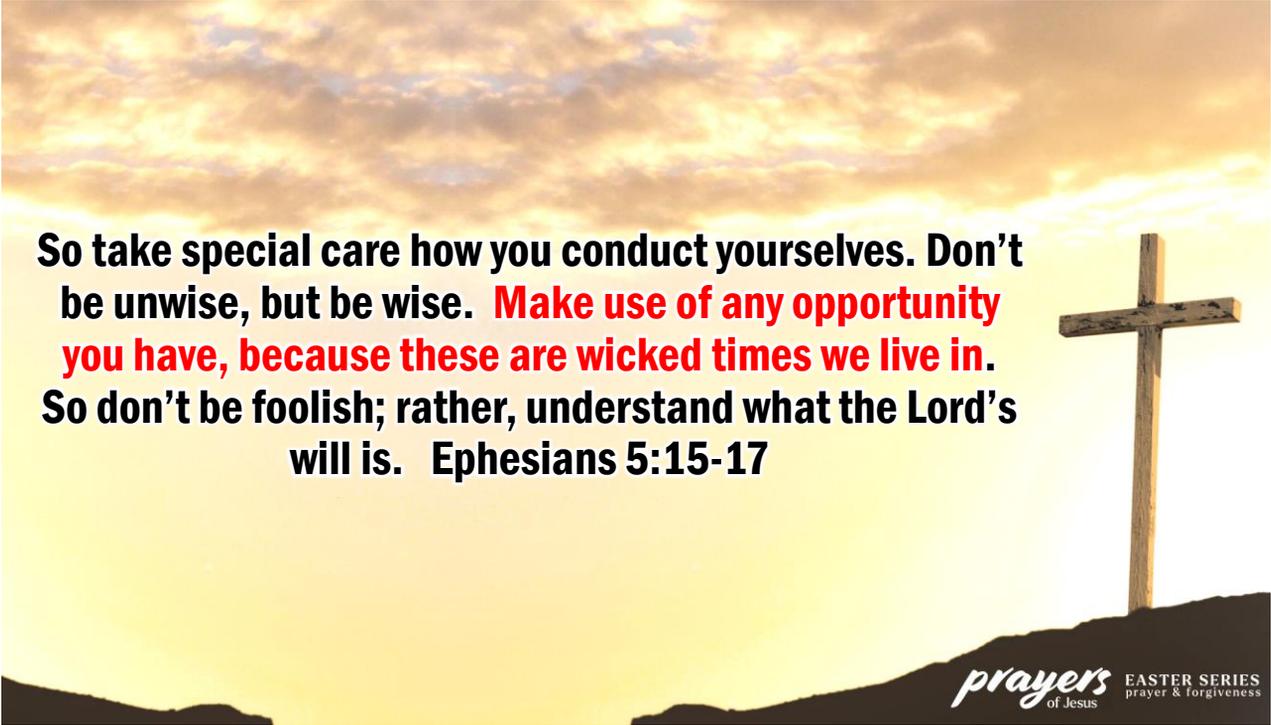
So you should be **imitators of God**, like dear children. Make use of **any opportunity** you have

So you should be **imitators of God**, like dear children. Conduct yourselves in love, just as the Messiah loved us, and gave himself for us, as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

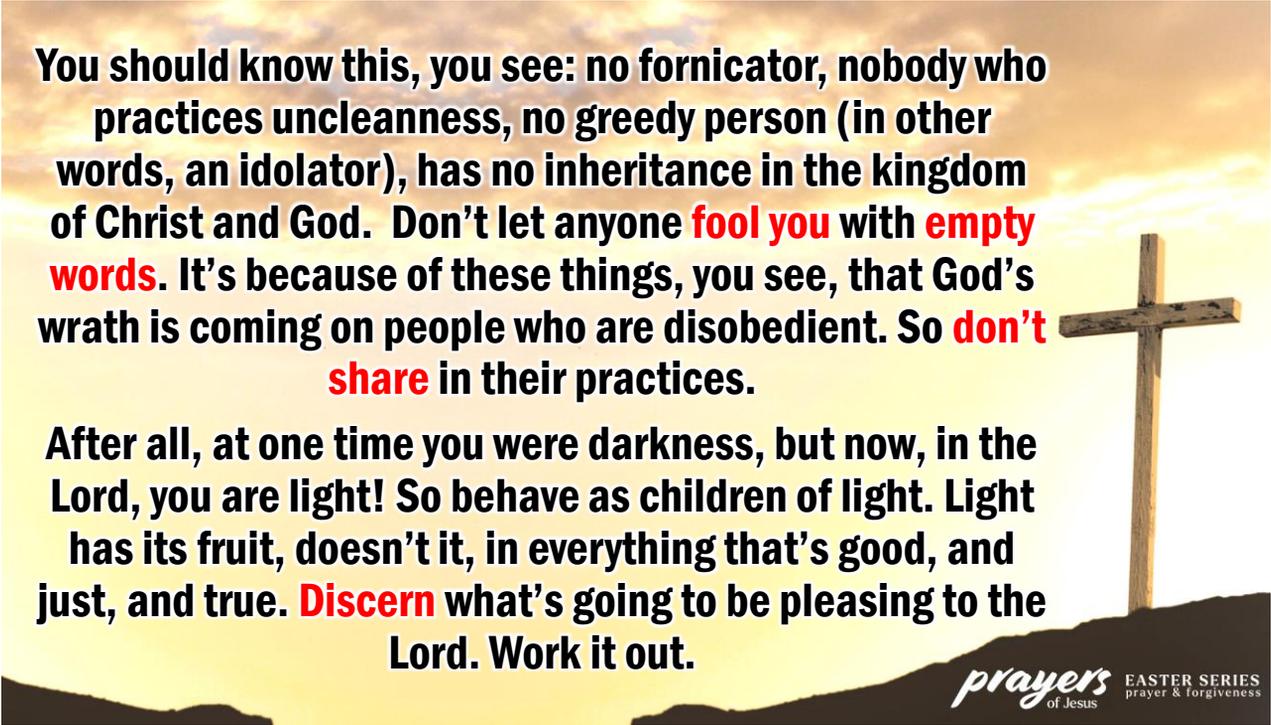
Make use of **any opportunity** you have, because these are wicked times we live in.

Ephesians 5:16



So take special care how you conduct yourselves. Don't be unwise, but be wise. **Make use of any opportunity you have, because these are wicked times we live in.** So don't be foolish; rather, understand what the Lord's will is. Ephesians 5:15-17

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness



You should know this, you see: no fornicator, nobody who practices uncleanness, no greedy person (in other words, an idolator), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Don't let anyone **fool you with empty words.** It's because of these things, you see, that God's wrath is coming on people who are disobedient. So **don't share** in their practices.

After all, at one time you were darkness, but now, in the Lord, you are light! So behave as children of light. Light has its fruit, doesn't it, in everything that's good, and just, and true. **Discern** what's going to be pleasing to the Lord. Work it out.

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

Don't **waste your time** on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. **Expose** these things for the sham they are. The things they do in secret, you see, are shameful even to talk about. Rip the cover off those **frauds** and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. **Wake up** from your sleep, and arise from the dead; **Christ will show you the light!**

So take **special care** how you conduct yourselves. Don't be unwise, but **be wise**. Make use of **any opportunity** you have, because these are **wicked times** we live in. So don't be **foolish**; rather, **understand** what the Lord's will is.

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

And don't get drunk with wine; that cheapens your life.
Rather, **be filled with the Spirit!**

Speak to each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting **in your heart** to the Lord, **always giving thanks** for everything to God the father in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. **Be subject to one another out of reverence for the Messiah.**

Ephesians 5:5-21

WE NEED DISCERNMENT - IT'S TIME TO PRAY!



PRAYERS OF JESUS

EASTER SERIES - PRAYER & FORGIVENESS



Last week > “It’s time to pray...”
This week > Why “it’s time to pray”

3. **AS A SERVANT OF GOD, I NEED MORE DISCERNMENT, AND THAT STARTS WITH PRAYER**
2. **Three observations of discernment practiced by Jesus, empowered by His prayer life**
1. **What is discernment and why it matters**

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness

INFODEMIC OF DEEPPAKES, AI CONTENT & PROPAGANDA

- **The coming of age for Wikipedia – apprehension to acceptance**
- **Web searches are now quotable AI concise summaries**
- **Spoon fed algorithmic feedback and digital monetised loops**
- **Information tribes displacing facts with conjecture**
- **30 second video feeds over personal study and reflection**
- **Reduction in attention spans and cognitive resilience**

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness

INFODEMIC OF DEEPPAKES, AI CONTENT & PROPAGANDA

- Loudest, celebrity inspired, trendiest idea...rules for a few days
- Environmental crisis or political incorrectness...rules for a week
- Fear, hope, peace, you deserve, you must have...is always
- Matt 24:37 - *“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day!”*
- What were those days like? Gen 6:5 - *“The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness...everything thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.”*

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

THE NEED IS NOT TO DISCERN NOAH-DAY EVIL TODAY...

“Discernment is NOT knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between **right and almost right.**” Charles Spurgeon

THE NEED IS TO **DISCERN** GODLY LIVING FROM ALMOST GODLY LIVING...AS WE APPROACH THAT DAY OF THE LORD!

WHAT IS DISCERNMENT?

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

DICTIONARY FOR DISCERNMENT

Definition: the quality of being able to grasp and **comprehend** what is **obscure**, an act of **perceiving**.

- She had amazing discernment in:
 - choosing her friends
 - articulating the different ingredients in the hot cross bun
 - knowing fake news from real news
 - recognising curated part-truth as not the whole truth
 - taking a person at their word, or holding them at arms length
 - things that 'seems good', and things that 'are good'

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

DICTIONARY FOR DISCERNMENT

Definition: the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure, an act of perceiving.

WHAT ABOUT THE BIBLE ON DISCERNMENT?

'Discernment' is first mentioned in Genesis 31

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

Genesis 31

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

Genesis 31:32 Anyone you find your gods with shall not live. Before our relatives, **discern** what is yours with me, and take it." For Jacob didn't know that Rachel had stolen them. (WEB)

ESV - point out

CJB - spot

GW - search

NIV - see

LSB - recognise

NLT - identify

MSG - find

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

SCRIPTURAL IDEAS ON DISCERNMENT

- Gen 31:32 - To **separate** by the eye, to **distinguish** between things
- 2 Sam 14:17 - So is my lord the king to discern **good and bad**.
- Prov 7:7 - I discerned among the youths, a young man void of **understanding**.
- Ecc 8:5 - ...the **wise** in heart will discern both the appropriate **time and response**.
- BUT - Gen 31:32 - Jacob/Laban visually discerning for the hidden
- Jeremiah 17:9 - of the heart... 'who can **understand** it'
- Heb 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, (1) piercing to the division of **soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow**, and (2) discerning the **thoughts and intentions of the heart**.

DISCERNMENT (2) HERE IS SIGNIFICANT

prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

DISCERNMENT, ASK FOR IT BECAUSE YOU ARE CALLED TO!

Psalm 119:125 - I am Your servant; give me understanding (discernment and comprehension), that I may know (discern and be familiar with **the character of) Your testimonies (statutes)**.

Why discernment to understand testimonies / statutes?

(Qu - without discerning His statutes, can we be His servant?)

- Enactment from a governor who cuts out and engraves
- Hebrew letters - first for a new beginning, a gate.
- Twice - a boundary to be set apart, chosen, end of cycle, complete
- How can we have **discernment to know His testimony?**

קקק

prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

DISCERNMENT – ASK, GIVEN & GIFT TO DESIRE

Psalm 119:125 - **I am** your servant; **give me** discernment that I may understand your statutes (expect, desire, pray)(identity factor)

Rom 12 – motivational gift of prophecy (**perceive**)(**image/born**) (insight, foresight, watchers on the wall)(natural factor)

1 Cor 12 – spiritual gift of **discernment** (**eagerly desire** 14:1) (gifts distinct from Baptism in the Holy Spirit)(**supernatural factor**)

prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

WHY WE NEED DISCERNMENT

1 Corinthians 12:20: ...to another **discerning** of spirits...

“Evil rarely arrives with sulphur and pitchforks, Evil prefers the subtle language of the gentle. The serpent in Genesis never threatened, he reasoned, he did not curse God, he simply reframed God. Evil came well dressed, spoke plainly, reasoned well, then manipulated the outcome.”

- Preferring anything more than God, at its core, is evil!
- This is the failure to value and come under the ultimate valuable above all things. (nbMatt22:37)

prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

WHY WE NEED DISCERNMENT

1 Corinthians 12:20: ...to another **discerning** of spirits...

- Matt 10:16 - Jesus continued, "I'm sending you out like sheep surrounded by wolves. **So be as shrewd as snakes, and as innocent as doves**
- Heb 4:12 - ...discerning the **thoughts/intentions of the heart**

Therefore we need the Holy Spirit gift of discernment:
distinguishing, ability to judge, to recognise,
evaluating, to know the difference between:
- Godly living, and almost godly living

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

WHY WE NEED DISCERNMENT

1 Corinthians 12:20: ...to another **discerning** of spirits...

*Discernment - the ability to distinguish sound, godly beliefs from the **deceptive** well looking frameworks/understanding... (AMPC)*

Three categories for the need for Discernment, discerning of spirits:

1. Jn 3:19 – our 'pride', desire, power and control
2. Eph 2:2 – 'the powers of the air'
3. **Gal 5:20** – 'evil inspired witchcraft' (neopaganism)

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

THE NEED TO DISCERN: GALATIANS 5:19-21

I deserve this...pleasure, fleeting satisfaction

- sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures

My deficit posture creates confliction

- hatred, discord, jealousy

My need for meaning, pride divides

- selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

My need to escape, self medicate...

- drunkenness, wild partying, and similar things.

I cannot celebrate others

- moods of envy

I lack self control

- fits of rage

I worship/trust to control

- idolatry and witchcraft

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness

'IDOLATRY & WITCHCRAFT' IN GALATIANS 5:19-21

Spirituality, knowledge, or power apart from God is idolatry.

Western versions, and Eastern versions of idolatry.

1 Samuel 15:23 - "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

Witchcraft is the desire to control what is not ours to control. This desire has its roots in Satan's first temptation to Eve: "You can be like God" (Gen 3:5).

Witchcraft is Satan's realm, counterfeiting what God does.

When Moses performed miracles before Pharaoh, the magicians did the same things (Exodus 7:11,22; 8:7). **By which power? We need discernment!**

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness

IDOLATRY & WITCHCRAFT

Modern entanglements like horoscopes, Ouija boards, Eastern meditation and practices, martial arts, mindfulness & relaxation practices.

A common creed for witchcraft is: Do what you will, so long as it harms none.

Some define their witchcraft as an application of energies of quantum science; and the art of invocations, movement, music, meditation; to cause transformation, creation, and manifestation to occur in; conformity with one's will.

Historian Prof Ronald Hutton said: "Gardner was a man of extraordinary charm and mischief, generous and with warmth of heart, but something of a trickster."

WE NEED DISCERNMENT

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

IDOLATRY & WITCHCRAFT IN GALATIANS 5:19-21

Isaiah 8:19 - "When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?"

Why seek any power apart from the Lord?

Why seek spirits who is not the Holy Spirit?

Why seek peace from anyone else other than the Prince of Peace?

Only Jesus has the words of life (John 6:68)

WE NEED DISCERNMENT FOR THE HEART AND SPIRITS

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

Romans 12:2 - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*

<that by TESTING you may DISCERN what is the will of God>

...that is good, and acceptable, and perfect.

DISCERNMENT IS PRACTICED BY TESTING

- 1. Testing is to declare: “I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.” (The Word)**
 - 2. Testing means eagerly desiring the gift of discernment (The Spirit)**
 - 3. Testing is our piercing our heart and thoughts with the good+acceptable+perfect of God in prayer (Presence)**
- (Ps26:2, Ps139:23-24, Jer 17:10, Job 31:6, 2Cor 13:5, Heb 4:12-13))**

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness

JESUS TESTED BY PRAYER, THEN DISCERNMENT

The prayers of Jesus in:

Luke 6:12-13 <> discerning choices

Luke 9:18,18-27 <> discerning questions

Luke 10:17-24 <> discerning joys

prayers of Jesus **EASTER SERIES**
prayer & forgiveness

“THE NEED FOR DISCERNMENT...IT’S TIME TO PRAY”

Luke 6:12-13 <> the apostles

**Prayers that develop biblical discernment
in our choices.**

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying to God**. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles...

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

“THE NEED FOR DISCERNMENT...IT’S TIME TO PRAY”

Luke 9:18,18-27 <> the questions

**Prayers that develop biblical discernment
in our witness.**

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

prayers of Jesus EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

“THE NEED FOR DISCERNMENT...IT’S TIME TO PRAY”

Luke 10:17-24<> the joys

**Prayers that develop biblical discernment
in our joys.**

The seventy-two returned **with joy** and said, “**Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.**” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. **However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**”



prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

“THE NEED FOR DISCERNMENT...IT’S TIME TO PRAY”

Luke 10:17-24<> the joys

**Prayers that develop biblical discernment
in our joys.**

At that time Jesus, **full of joy through the Holy Spirit**, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, **because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.** Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”



prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

Discernment is **learning** to think God's thoughts after Him, practically and spiritually; it means **having a sense** of how things look in God's eyes and **seeing them** in some measure "uncovered and laid bare." Sinclair Ferguson

Jn5:19 [The son] can do only what **he sees** his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

(see also Jn 8:28)

Jn14:10 The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, **but the Father** who dwells in me does his works.

Prayer is being with God...and being with God means we learn His Testimonies – we grow in Discernment!

prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart**. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Let us then **[PRAYERFULLY]** approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our...[discernment of godly, and almost godly matters]

Matt 26:41 Keep watch and **pray**, so that you will not give in to **temptation**. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

IT'S TIME TO PRAY, AND EXERCISE DISCERNMENT

prayers
of Jesus

EASTER SERIES
prayer & forgiveness

