

Bad practice leads to bad habits. Bad habits lead to bad character.

The mature Christians have practiced making good decisions; they have established a pattern of personal self-discipline.

Every day they work with the Word, every day they function in the energy of the Spirit. Every day they strive for higher achievement in the spiritual realm.

So, they have the ability to judge between good and evil.

Real knowledge is to have *epignosis*, experiential knowledge. "Discernment" is from *aesthesis*, a word that means "insight, perception, skillful application." It was originally used of common sense and the ability to make distinctions.

The beginning of discernment, is the practical application of the Word of God to life and the ability to make common-sense distinctions in life.

## **#6 A PERSONAL SENSE OF DESTINY**

Do you recognize your personal potential in the plan of God? Do you have a sense of your spiritual destiny? With confidence born from a ripening spiritual maturity you can learn to live in the light of an eternally secure future. Adversity fades, and personal self-esteem blooms from a limitless relationship with the Lord.

In Hebrews 12, he compares the Christian life to a race and Christians to athletes who, if they want to experience the ecstasy of victory, will have to endure the agony of training for and running the race.

**God has set before every Christian a race to run, a personal destiny in His plan.**

No one fulfills his destiny accidentally; it takes discipline, endurance, and focus on the goal to win the race.

The author of Hebrews exhorts each of us to lay aside the sin that entangles us—literally, the sin that so easily ensnares us.