



## Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, November 29, 2020

Acts 5:12-42 – If it is From God

### We Learn:

The religious leaders tried to stop the apostles from teaching the people about Jesus. But their threats, beatings, and imprisonment had no effect. As they tried to figure out how they could put the apostles to death, Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, said, “Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But *if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men*; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” The question for the early Church and for us today remains the same: how do you know if something is from God or not?

- According to Jonathan Edwards, what are the “negative signs” of the move of the Holy Spirit? How should you understand these signs?
- What are the “positive signs”? Why are they important?
- What is the difference between knowledge, understanding, and wisdom? How do they cause us to sharpen our discernment?
- How does the filling and anointing of the Holy Spirit enable us to grow in discernment?

### We Respond:

- Why does growth in discernment need to be accompanied with growth in love for God and people?
- How will love affect our interactions with people even when we discern that what they are doing is not from God?
- Why is humility vitally important in the exercise of discretion and discernment?

### We Apply:

- Based on Hebrews 5:14 how can we train our spiritual senses by constant practice to increase our powers of discernment to distinguish good from evil?
- What does it mean to “fight against God”? How can we yield to God? What happens when we do?