

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... *making a distinction* ...”**  
*Jude 22*

At first glance, this phrase seems to be directed to the action of the believers who are told to keep themselves in the love of God (v.21). However, it is actually a description of those to whom the ones keeping themselves in the love of God are to share His love with, that is, on whom they are to “have compassion.” “Making a distinction” is better understood as “doubting.” In other words, what Jude is saying is that the spiritual believers (Galatians 6:1) are to have compassion on those who are in doubt.

The context of Jude leads the reader to conclude that those doubting are doing so of the truth of the gospel and because of the influence of false teachers (v.4-19). Doubting one’s salvation is a common occurrence. The doubt most often arises when one tries to apply tangible, physical evidence to a faith based proposition (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 11:1); when someone tries to substantiate the spiritual exclusively by the physical, or exclude the spiritual by physical substantiation.

For instance, someone will claim that, “If you have enough faith, you will be healed.” But you do get sick, and don’t get healed. Those making the claim will say, “You didn’t have enough faith.” I say that those making such claims don’t understand the doctrine of God’s Sovereign will. You might say, “You don’t believe that God can heal you?” I believe that God can do anything He wants to according to His will and good pleasure. As a matter of fact, Scripture says that God has done, is doing, and will do far more than we can ask, and even before we ask Him. In my view of God’s Sovereignty, I not only believe that He can physically heal me, I believe He has physically healed me at the time I asked, sometimes after, and even more, I believe He has physically healed me before I knew I was physically sick. To be sure, if anyone at anytime has ever truly experienced physical healing, God healed them. “By His stripes we are healed,” exactly, but that refers to Christ’s making a way for our salvation spiritually. As long as there is sin there will be death, disease, disorder, and destruction.

This illustration is based on literal experience by me and others. It has led many people into great confusion and frustration with God, themselves, and others. Why? The reason why is very simple, doubt and confusion arises in our faith when we try to substantiate its validity exclusively by tangible, physical evidence. The believer is saved by grace through faith.

Let me encourage you with 1 John 5:13 where it says that the believer can “know” that he or she has eternal life. No guessing, no wondering, no doubt, eternal life is yours through faith. Are you in doubt of your salvation? Do you know others who are in doubt of their salvation? Do you feel spiritually insecure because there are some who challenge your faith in Christ with false teachings? There is a difference between wise discernment of God’s truth, and of God’s truth being in doubt, that is, making a distinction.