

## Wisdom from Above

Since there is such a thing as wisdom from above (God), then there is such a thing as wisdom from men or the world (1 Corinthians 2:6; 3:19). If we want to get godly results not just good results, we need to seek and exercise wisdom from above. We should not expect godly results through the wisdom of this world. We need to take heed to the wisdom of God because it brings forth godly results.

Wisdom from above is simply God-inspired wisdom. It has God as its origin and author. It will always lead men into godly ways and counsel.

1. Before wisdom, is knowledge and understanding.
  - a) Knowledge is having facts and information.
  - b) Understanding is taking that knowledge and facts to connect the dots and be able to explain and articulate that knowledge in a way that can be understood by another.
  - c) Wisdom is the level of getting that understanding and applying it to day to day life and solve problems. Someone can be knowledgeable but not wise.
2. When Solomon was asked to ask for what he desired, he did not just ask for wisdom.
  - a) He asked for wisdom and understanding (1 Kings 3:7-12 and 2 Chronicles 1:6-12).
  - b) Wisdom must have understanding precede it to make a difference in people's lives. People can be taught, and they can be blessed by that wisdom. We cannot effectively apply what we do not understand to solve any problems.

### 3. Beginning of Wisdom

Any desire and search for wisdom must begin with seeking the Lord, the source of true wisdom (Proverbs 9:10 and Psalms 111:10).

- a) 1 Corinthians 1:30 says that Jesus is our wisdom.
  - i) No Jesus, no true wisdom. Those who reject pursuing the Lord will be found wanting in the department of wisdom.
- b) Rehoboam was found wanting yet his father was a man of wisdom.
  - i) Wisdom and relationship with God do not run through blood. We need to apply our hearts to these things.
  - ii) Wisdom and relationship with God aren't genetic.

#### 4. Wealth and wisdom

- a) There is a common myth about wisdom. Most people think, wisdom is a byproduct of wealth, but the truth is that wealth is the result of wisdom.
  - i) Many also believe that old age is wisdom. Nothing can be further from the truth.
  - ii) Only those who apply their hearts to learn from life's experiences will have a wealth of wisdom—young or old.
- b) One can be up in age yet be heavily lacking in wisdom.
  - i) It is ignorance if not madness to believe that all old men are wise.
  - ii) Any wisdom from any old person must be judged and tested by the Word.
  - iii) Any system of thought (philosophy) or wisdom that is against the Word of God is wrong—PERIOD.

#### 5. Wisdom is the principal thing (Proverbs 4:7).

Text: James 3:15-18 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

A. These verse list how the wisdom of the world looks like:

- a) Earthly (worldly). In other words, it is of the world, not of the Word.
- b) Sensual. The wisdom of the world is “sensitive” and “animate” (Strong’s Concordance). This wisdom of the world is fleshy and carnal. It is based on the five senses, not the Word of God. It promotes and magnifies the flesh.
- c) Devilish
  - i) This is refereeing to “daemon like” (Strong’s Concordance)
- d) The wisdom of men produces envying, strife, confusion, and every evil work. We ought to cease from that wisdom (Proverbs 23:4).

B. The Wisdom from above and of God

Who is a wise man, and endued with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom, James 3:13.

Wisdom from above has fruits. It has a good conversation (behavior).

Anyone who professes to have the wisdom from above and does not bear the following fruits ought to ignored.

As James 3:13 says, a wise man ought to be endued with knowledge and a good conversation and wisdom that is meek. Those who claim to be wise and are not having a good conversation and meekness are not truly full of wisdom. True wisdom will bring forth meekness and good conduct.

The wisdom of God is readily available to those who want it. Wisdom is crying out loud to every one that passed by (Proverbs 1:20-21 and 8:2-3).

We need to follow some of the following examples of the wisdom that is from above and be able to recognize it.

- a) Pure

- i) This is saying that the wisdom of God is clean and undefiled. Godly wisdom will purify and clean our hearts and the heart of the people who possess it. It is pure. This is the very first quality of divine wisdom.
  - ii) Any wisdom that is promoting iniquity and ungodliness, is not one from above because wisdom from above will never do such.
- b) Peaceable
  - i) God's wisdom promotes peace in us and with others. It loves peace. This wisdom desires to get along. It follows purity. The wisdom that lacks purity cannot be peaceful.
  - ii) Any wisdom that is not promoting peace, is not one from above.
- c) Gentle
  - i) The word "Gentle" comes from a Greek word that means "appropriate."
  - ii) If something is inappropriate and unkind, it is not the wisdom of God. Any wisdom that is not kind is not appropriate because God's kind of wisdom is kind.
- d) Easy to be entreated
  - i) This is simply saying that God's kind of wisdom can be reasoned with or those who possess it. It is the wisdom that is good for persuasion. It is willing to yield hence teachable.
- e) Full of mercy
  - i) God's kind of wisdom will treat others with kindness and compassion. It treats others better than they deserve.
- f) Good fruits
  - i) The wisdom of God will produce good fruits such as Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

ii) Any wisdom that does not produce the above is not truly the wisdom of God.

g) Without partiality

i) In other words, it should be impartial. It does not take sides. It is without prejudice.

h) Without hypocrisy

i) The wisdom from above is unfeigned one. It's is sincere. It does not pretend to be what it is not. It is without dissimulation.

God's kind of wisdom as laid out in His word will produce the following in our lives.

a) Length of days and long life – Proverbs 3:2

b) Favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:4.

c) Length of days in her right hand and in her left hand, riches, and honor. Proverbs 3:16

d) Peace. Proverbs 3:17, 3:2

e) Happy. Proverbs 3:18

f) Life to thy soul. Proverbs 3:22