

THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE

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Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord!

“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.” (James 1:17) Heavenly wisdom the wisdom that is from above, is much to be desired. In Psalm 111:10 the Psalmist wrote “The fear [i.e. reverence] of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” How important it is for one to reverence the Creator if he desires wisdom! For one to reverence the heavenly Father is an indication that he is wise.

No man hath seen the heavenly Father. It takes faith to believe that God is from everlasting to everlasting. In Heb. 11:6 we read: “But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” One who is wise realizes there is an intelligent Creator. He realizes this vast universe and all within it, did not just happen by chance. Everything around us proves there is a wise and intelligent Creator.

A wise man with a measure of faith will seek after the Lord. He will seek to know and do God’s will. One, who has repented of sin and accepted Jesus as his Saviour has Christ as his wise guide to show him the way. If this one is called in the hope of his calling (Eph. 4:4) and if he accepts the privilege of walking in the footsteps of the Saviour, Christ continues to be unto him wisdom. In 1 Cor. 1:30 Paul reminds us that Christ of God is made unto us wisdom, justification, sanctification and deliverance.

At the moment one makes a full, unreserved consecration to do God’s will, he is justified to life by faith, and the work of sanctification or setting apart for God’s service begins. This one is now at peace with God and begins to have the peace of God which passeth all human understanding. If this one is more than an overcomer, he will be delivered in the first resurrection.

Throughout one’s walk in the narrow way, it is necessary to have Christ as our wisdom, our wise counselor. Wisdom is the principal thing. All through the life of consecration, at every step of the journey to the heavenly city, we need the wisdom which cometh from above. As we have already noted this wisdom is “first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Earthly wisdom operates along the lines of selfishness, self-will, self-esteem, self-righteousness, self-sufficiency. James points out that these things lead to bitter envying and strife. Why is this? It is because this wisdom, instead of being from above, is “earthly, sensual, devilish.” The heavenly wisdom, on the contrary, is in harmony with the divine character of love, which “vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, behaveth not itself unseemly, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.” 1 Cor. 13:4 to 6.

There is order in the operation of this heavenly wisdom. While it takes hold upon all the conditions just mentioned, there is a difference in the rank it assigns to each. While the spirit of wisdom from above is peaceable desires peace, and seeks to promote it nevertheless it does not put peace first, but purity “FIRST PURE, then peaceable.”

Friends, do you know that it is earthly wisdom which suggests peace at any price, and commands the conscience to be still, that selfish peace may be promoted? The wisdom that is pure is simple, is guileless, honorable, open. It loves the light. It is not of darkness, or sin, nor favorable to anything that needs to be hidden. It recognizes the hidden works as usually works of darkness and the secret things as usually evil things. It is peaceable so far as would be consistent with honesty and purity. It desires PEACE, harmony, unity. However, since peace is not first, it can only be morally at peace, and fully in harmony with those things which are honest, pure and good.

This heavenly wisdom is gentle, not coarse, rough, either in plans or methods. Its gentleness, nevertheless, follows its purity and peaceableness. Those who possess it are not primarily gentle and then pure and peaceable, but first, or primarily pure, sanctified with the TRUTH. They are desirous of peace and disposed to promote it; therefore they are gentle and easy to be entreated. However, they can only be easily entreated in harmony with purity, peace and gentleness. They can not be easily entreated to assist in any evil work, for the spirit of heavenly wisdom forbids such a course.

Heavenly wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits. It rejoices in mercy. Mercy and all good fruits of the Holy Spirit of the Lord are sure to proceed from, and be thoroughly ripened and developed in the heart which is fully illuminated with the wisdom from above.

The heavenly wisdom is declared to be “without partiality.” Partiality would imply injustice. The purity and peace and gentleness and mercy and the good fruits of the Spirit of wisdom from above lead us to be no longer respecters of persons, except as character demonstrates their real value. The outward features of the natural man, the color of the skin, etc., are ignored by the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom which cometh from above. It is impartial and desires that which is pure, peaceable, gentle, true, wherever found and under whatever circumstances exhibited.

This wisdom from above is furthermore “without hypocrisy.” It is so pure, so peaceable, so gentle, so merciful toward all that there is no necessity for hypocrisy where it is in control. It is out of harmony with all that is sinful, because it is in sympathy with all that is pure or that is making for purity, peace and gentleness. Under such conditions there is no room for hypocrisy.

One who is walking in the Narrow Way has the privilege of asking for wisdom. In James 1:5, 6 we read: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed.”

How may we receive more of this heavenly wisdom? We may receive more of this heavenly wisdom through Bible study, through the study of the words of our Lord, the prophets, the apostles all writers of the Bible. We may receive more of this heavenly wisdom in meetings with those who are endeavoring to know and do God’s will. Heavenly wisdom is received as we share the truth with others.

The Psalmist wrote (90:12) “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” The wise man wrote (Prov. 4:5) “Get wisdom, get understanding.” There are not many who get wisdom and understanding, not many who desire this heavenly wisdom. It is our desire to encourage as many as possible to seek to know and do God’s will. One who is desirous of doing God’s will is indeed blessed, not only at the present, but also will be further advanced when the highway of holiness is opened, if he has not been invited to walk in the narrow way. What a privilege it is to be invited to walk in the narrow way! What a privilege it is to have Christ as our wise guide and counselor! Especially is this so when we view world conditions and problems strife, hatred, envy, war, revolution, and the beginning states of anarchy. Friends, get wisdom, get understanding! Seek righteousness; seek meekness.

How thankful we are to be assured that in due time divine intervention will stop the great time of trouble! Man is unable to bring about peace in the earth. The prophet Isaiah (29:14) wrote that “the wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.”

Jeremiah wrote (9:23, 24): “Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches. But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.”

Friends, for a better understanding of the plan of God we recommend *The Divine Plan of the Ages*. As we see all human plans out of harmony with God’s plan, failing receive

new courage and wisdom from this Bible study book *The Divine Plan of the Ages*. Those who have carefully read its pages testify that it is the best book available for a correct understanding of God's plan. Just ask for the PLAN book. The announcer will give you the mailing address. And now goodbye until next week, and remember to seek heavenly wisdom and understanding.