



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 8A: Wisdom

Last year we examined the resource of God's love and how it informs His plans for us from eternity past to eternity future and how we enter most fully into it through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. As we surrender all of our heart, our soul, our mind, and our spirit to the Holy Spirit, He is able to transform us into Christ's own likeness, demonstrating His character and love in and through our own lives (2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 3:14-19). Through this same deep surrender of ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we are also able to tap into the fathomless resource of the wisdom of God and the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 1:24; 2:16). This will be our focus for the next editions of this study.

Most of us readily grasp the need for wisdom when we face major decisions in life. On a larger scale many of us also recognize the need for wisdom in setting the goals and priorities in our lives that will bring the most productive and satisfying results both to ourselves and to God and His kingdom. Mature disciples of the Lord who desire to walk closely with God through each moment of their days will eventually come to realize the need for wisdom in even the mundane things of life that we consider irrelevant to spirituality, such as the food we put in our bodies and the way that we spend our leisure time.

Because we live in a world of humanity and physical realities, our natural tendency may be to rely on human intelligence and human sources of wisdom to guide us. Solomon, to whom God granted great wisdom and intelligence, set his gifted mind to observe and to consider man's strivings on earth, and in the end he concluded that all that man, in his own wisdom and efforts, seeks after is completely futile. It is essentially all busywork that accomplishes little of eternal value. It will amount to wood, hay, and stubble that is quickly burned up when we stand before God to give an account of our lives (Eccles. 1:13-14; 1 Cor. 1:20; 3:10-15; 19-20).

God wants us to stop relying upon our own understanding and that which is derived from man's wisdom and to seek the wisdom that is available to us from Him. He encompasses all wisdom, knowledge, insight, and understanding in a manner that surpasses that of any other being of His creation, whether visible or invisible. This omniscience is inherent to His very nature. Absolutely nothing is unknown to Him or lies outside of the scope of His knowledge and understanding (Job 12:13; Ps. 139:1-16; Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor. 1:25; Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 4:13).

He is able to manage all things with the epitome of skill, using His knowledge and insight to bring about the best results in any situation we commit to Him. He understands the intimate inner workings of each of us and how to produce through us our best achievements if we give Him full rein in our lives. He is also the ultimate source for advice and the One who provides insight into the hidden meanings of that which He reveals through dreams and visions. This is the wisdom He wants us to use to direct our lives and in which He wants us to find our confidence (Dan. 1:17; 5:11-12, 14; Ps. 37:5; 139:1-16; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 1:12; Phil. 2:13).

This means shifting the operation of our minds from the flesh to the spirit and, in this divine state of connection to the Godhead, prayerfully searching Scripture for the guidance and insight we need. It means spending time in prayer before His throne, laying our requests before Him and *listening* for His answers. It means carefully discerning whether the spiritual leaders that we follow are doing the same or are merely teaching from their own understanding, their private interpretations of Scripture, or even from the counterfeit holy spirit or the imaginations of their own minds (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 3:5-6; Jer. 23:16; Mat. 7:22-23; John 10:27; Rom. 8:5-6; Gal. 5:16-17; Phil. 4:6-7; 2 Tim. 3:16; 4:3-4; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Wisdom is part of our spiritual heritage that God desires to pour out on us liberally, but we must diligently seek for it. It is hidden from the world at large and even from the angelic realm. It belongs to those who have devoted themselves to God with all of their hearts, souls, and minds and have proven themselves mature in Christ. These are the ones to whom God will give ears to hear and eyes to see the divine enlightenment He desires to impart to us (1 Cor. 1:30; 2:6-16; Eph. 3:10; 4:11-6:18; James 1:5).