



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 8D: Wisdom

In our last issue I described how Lucifer's goal is to allure man into his deceptive trap of bondage with his tantalizing promise of supernatural enlightenment and the ability to become like a god (Gen. 3:4-5). In reality, any supernatural knowledge he enables falls far short of the true wisdom, discernment, understanding, and revelation that our Creator wants to give us as He willingly shares the fullness of Himself with us (Dan. 2:21-22; Eph. 1:17; 3:19; Col. 1:9; James 1:4-5; 2 Peter 1:4). God deliberately chose not to share the vastness of His wisdom with even the highest of the angelic realm, who can only learn of it secondhand as it is revealed to us, His redeemed children in the Church (Eph. 3:10).

What is similar about both the enlightenment that Satan promises and the true wisdom that God offers is that obtaining either is reserved for those who diligently seek for it and prove themselves worthy to obtain it (Ps. 25:14; Prov. 2:1-12; 1 Cor. 2:6). Satan's followers have to work their way through an ascending system of levels to be able to reach the goal of union with Lucifer and the realm of illumination associated with him. While God does not have specifically delineated levels of advancement in the course of Christian discipleship, He does not impart His wisdom indiscriminately. The degree of wisdom received often corresponds to the degree of spiritual maturity the person has attained.

Attaining the wisdom of God begins with "the fear of the Lord" (Ps. 25:14; Prov. 1:7; 9:10), which I believe means recognizing with full awe and respect just who He is as the divine Creator, Sustainer, Provider, and Ruler of all and submitting to the righteous demands of His will. While God's wisdom was bestowed on certain Old Testament saints who exhibited this state of reverence and faith (Ex. 31:3; 2 Sam. 14:20; 2 Chron. 1:7-12; Ezra 7:25; Dan. 5:11), accepting Jesus' payment for one's sins on the Cross of Calvary is another prerequisite for receiving God's wisdom in the New Testament era. This simple act of faith marvelously unites us with the Godhead in a way that was impossible in Old Testament times (John 17:20-23; 1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 3:19), giving us the ability to access the mind of Christ and the wisdom and revelation that comes from the Holy Spirit, who knows the deep things of the heart and mind of God (1 Cor. 2:14-16; 6:17; Eph. 1:17; 3:19). The potential for receiving God's wisdom thus becomes an immediate part of the heritage of all believers (1 Cor. 1:30).

Fully realizing this potential requires significant spiritual growth, however. While we have the privilege of asking for wisdom whenever we need it in our life's journey (Prov. 3:5-6; James 1:5-6), understanding the depths of God's wisdom is reserved for those who have learned the secret of deep communion with Him (Eph. 3:14-21).

We cannot enjoy intimate fellowship with God or receive His wisdom if we are walking in sin or in the flesh (Eccles. 2:26; Prov. 2:7). Once our spirits are awakened to God at salvation, we have the opportunity to live a new kind of life—in the spirit rather than the flesh (Rom. 6:11-14; 8:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:16). Our skill in doing this will increase as we learn to focus our awareness more and more on heavenly, rather than earthly, realities (Rom. 8:4-8; Gal. 5:16-17; Col. 3:1-5). We must also develop and practice intimacy with God on a daily basis, connecting with His heart through His Word and prayer and worship and increasingly yielding ourselves to Him and His will. Our goal is to reach the point that worshipping and honoring and loving God becomes our highest priority and our greatest delight in life (Ps. 37:4; Mark 12:28-30; cf. Mat. 6:33).

When we learn to commune with God at this deep level, the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds with new truths and understandings of Scripture, of God and the way that He operates, of the enemy's tactics, and of the dynamics of the unseen spiritual realm (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; Eph. 1:17). Usually what He chooses to share with us is in alignment with our own search for intimacy with Him and with the fulfillment of His destiny for our lives (Phil. 2:13).