



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 8H: Wisdom

In our last issue I finished looking at some of the types of wisdom that God imparts to man. In this issue I will look further at how God chooses to whom He will reveal the various depths of His wisdom.

First of all, God's creative wisdom is clearly manifested to all mankind through the incomprehensible magnitude and splendor of the universe He created and the vast variety of life forms that He masterfully designed in every ecosystem of the earth (Ps. 19:1-4; Rom. 1:20). The natural man, or unbeliever, is unable, however, to understand the deeper and more personal levels of God's wisdom because he lacks the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:11, 14). Even in reading the Scriptures, he is limited to a more superficial, and often misinterpreted, understanding unless the Lord in mercy opens his eyes and heart to receive true insight and faith to believe or brings someone who has the Holy Spirit to explain the meaning to him (Luke 24:45; Acts 8:30-36; 16:14; 26:18).

Only as an individual receives Christ as His Savior does the Holy Spirit come to unite with his own spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). This provides the vital link to obtaining the deeper wisdom and revelation of God, which is a part of every believer's inheritance (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:9-12; Eph. 1:17). This is when the Holy Spirit is able to become our internal Teacher as we read the Word, and this is what gives us the potential to connect with the very mind of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:16; Col. 2:1-3).

In order to unwrap the awesome potential of what the Holy Spirit brings, however, we need to learn to live more and more consistently "in the spirit" rather than "in the flesh" (Rom. 8:5-6; Gal. 5:16-26). This requires being consciously aware not only of the physical world in which we live but also of the unseen spiritual realm and our vital connection with God, whose resources are able to enrich our lives far beyond what the unbeliever can experience (John 10:10b; Rom. 8:5; Col. 3:1-3). The more we keep this spiritual awareness in our moment-by-moment living, the better we will maintain our connection with the Holy Spirit and His resources.

Since living in the spirit takes a deliberate effort on our part, it also demonstrates the value we place on intimacy with God and the extent to which we are willing to apply ourselves to obtain it. It also reflects our desire to follow the direction and enablement of the Holy Spirit to live righteously and pleasing to God in every area of our lives, as this is also an essential part of living in the spirit (Gal. 5:22-26; Phil. 1:9-11).

I believe that this kind of lifestyle is crucial to receiving God's deeper levels of wisdom. His desire is to fill us with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding and to impart to us a spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9-10), but He does not dispense these precious pearls indiscriminately. His innermost secrets belong to those who fear Him, honor Him, obey Him, and seek to develop an intimate, day-by-day relationship with Him (Ps. 25:14; Prov. 1:7; Eccles. 2:26).

Actively pursuing God's wisdom and living by the wisdom already given in Scripture also seem to be important to receiving more wisdom (Prov. 2:1-17; Jer. 33:3; Dan. 2:21; Mat. 7:7-11; James 1:5). How we handle the deeper levels of wisdom, insight, and revelation that we receive may also be critical. If God entrusts such nuggets to us, we must not disseminate His secrets without careful thought as to who is qualified to receive them and will handle them in an equally discreet manner. We must also never share His deeper insights with a prideful or any other kind of fleshly motive. The deeper levels of God's wisdom and revelation are reserved for those who are spiritually mature and able to handle them (Mat. 7:6; 1 Cor. 2:6-13).

While some people seem to be particularly gifted spiritually to tap into God's supernatural revelation of otherwise hidden things (1 Cor. 12:8) or are called to fill a critical role in ministry where this is needed, they still need to implement the above principles to be able to use their gifting to its fullest. I believe that any believer can grow in this area, however, by nurturing a pure, humble, and worshipful relationship to God and a life lived as much as possible "in the spirit." Then, when a particular piece of wisdom is needed, I have found that we can maximize our connection to the Holy Spirit by consciously blocking out the physical realm and prayerfully focusing in on God and the issue for which we desire wisdom. God will generally provide His answer by implanting distinct thoughts, words, or visions in our mind.