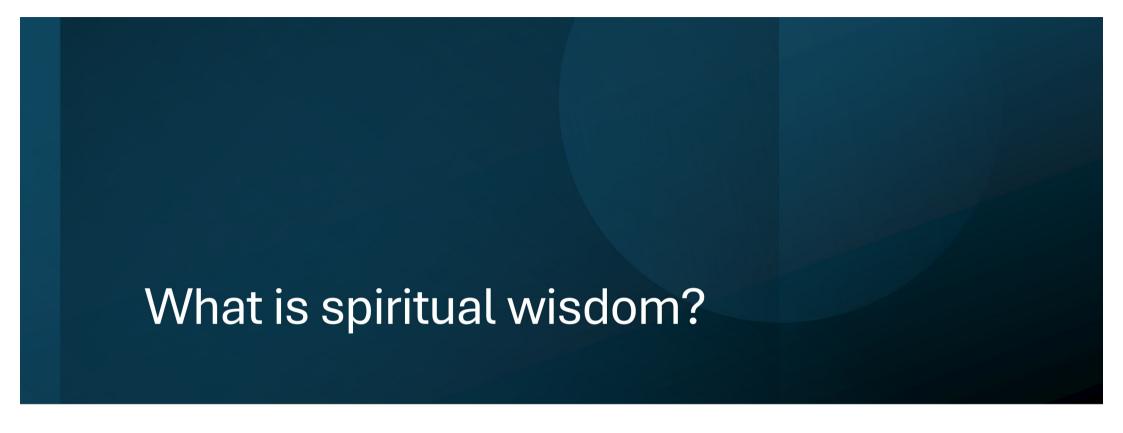
# Spiritual Wisdom and Wealth

What characterizes the one who is wise?



**Spiritual wisdom** is <u>understanding</u> and <u>applying</u> God's perspective to life's situations.

Prov 4:7 NIV

# Wisdom in handling money <u>or</u> material wealth?

- Wisdom is not about how much money you have <u>or</u> do not have because the rich <u>and</u> the poor alike can act very unwisely when money comes into their hands.
- 4 ways you can identify a wise person when it comes to money
  - By one's attitude (how they relate) toward money.
  - By their ability to **delay gratification**.
  - By the way money is acquired.
  - And by the way money is used.

### Our attitude towards money

• Jesus gave a parable of the unjust servant in Luke 16:1-15

#### Lessons:

- Money and fame don't last forever...
- Remember we are stewards of whatever we have...
- Use what you have now to make room for yourself here on earth and make friends with God (Luke 10:21).
- Don't let money become a god in your life...
- 1 Tim 6:17-19 NIV

# We all need self-control when handling money

- One of the chief qualities of a person who has **self-control** is **delayed gratification**.
- **Delayed gratification** is the ability to wait in order to obtain something that one wants.
- God wants us to be in control of our lives:
  - Control over our appetites.
  - Control over our spirits.
  - Control over our financial decisions.
- Prov 25:28; James 1:13-15; Prov 13:17

# God is intimately concerned with the way we earn a living or obtain money.

- **Prov. 10:2** "Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death."
- Prov 20:17 NLT "Stolen bread tastes sweet, but it turns to gravel in the mouth."
- **Prov 21:27** "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; How much more when he brings it with wicked intent!"
- **Prov 11:1** says, "Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but an accurate weight is His delight."
- Amos 8:5... "You say, 'When will the New Moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may market wheat? We can reduce the ephah, increase the shekel, and cheat with dishonest scales."

# How we spend money matters to God

- We need to be wise on how we spend money because when God <u>blesses</u> us, he also gives us the <u>responsibility</u> of managing the resources well. Prov 19:17
- When it comes to how we spend money, we have an obligation:
  - To give to God. **Prov 3:9-10; 2 Cor 9:7**
  - To provide for the needs of our own household. 1 Tim 5:8
  - To provide for the needs of the poor and needy around us.
    1 John 3:17-18; Prov 3:27-28; 11:24-26