

## GRACE & WISDOM FOR THE IN-BETWEEN LIFE

Most of our life is lived in the midst of the common, the plain, the ordinary, the average, the mundane rhythms of life. Though we live with deep longing for the mountain-top views and the full-color sights and sounds of the beautiful moments of life, most of our life is lived in the everyday activities of work, family, communities, etc. Life requires washing clothes and dirty dishes. Life requires changing baby diapers and grocery shopping. Life requires cutting your grass and washing your car. Life requires helping your children with homework, mealtimes, bath and bedtimes, early morning school and work routines. This is where and when 95% of our life is lived and where we make our greatest and most valuable investments in ourselves and others. If most of our life is lived in-betweens, how much should we seek God's wisdom to help instruct us?

**Acts 1:6-11** *So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"* <sup>7</sup> *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."* <sup>8</sup> ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*** <sup>9</sup> *And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.* <sup>10</sup> *And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,* <sup>11</sup> *and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

### I. THE PROMISE OF GOD'S POWER

- A. **Acts 1:8** *Jesus said...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
- B. The waiting ones will become the flaming ones. God always rewards the waiting ones.
- C. **John 16:7-8** *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.* <sup>8</sup> *And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.*
- D. **Convict** (Greek- *elegchō*)- *correct, rebuke, tell one's fault; to call to account; show one's fault*
- E. God has chosen to reveal Himself by His Holy Spirit often through the words, actions, and deeds of His children.
- F. Jesus promised that His Disciples would receive power from the indwelling and overflowing life in the Holy Spirit as He was to be poured out. What are some examples of the gift and purpose of Holy Spirit's power?
  - a. **Power** for being a witness of Jesus; who He is and how He interacts with His creation
    - i. **Acts 1:8** *"you will receive power...My witnesses"*
  - b. **Power** for preaching and telling of the Good News of God's Kingdom
    - i. **Rev. 19:10** *"...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*
  - c. **Power** and victory over sin
    - i. **Rm. 8:13-14** *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* <sup>14</sup> *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
  - d. **Power** and victory over Satan and demonic forces

- i. **2 Cor. 10:3-6** *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, <sup>6</sup> being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*
  - e. **Powerful** gifts distributed by Holy Spirit for the ministry to the Church
    - i. **1 Cor. 12:7** *A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. (NLT)*
    - ii. **1 Cor. 12:11** *All these (gifts) are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*
- G. This is a picture of a community who is walking in the intimacy, power, and presence of Christ and His active Spirit:
  - **Acts 2:42-47** *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.***

## II. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS NEEDED

- A. **Proverbs 9:10** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*
- B. We need a return to the fear of the Lord. We need a return to the Lord's wisdom. What is the fear of the Lord? I thought that we are not to have fear?
- C. Two primary biblical examples of fear; One is beneficial and to be pursued. A second type of fear is to be rejected and overcome by the grace and power of God.
  - a. **Fear** (Hebrew- 'yir'â)- *respect, reverence, piety (Prov. 9:10)*
  - b. **Fear** (Greek- deilia)- *timidity, fearfulness, cowardice (2 Tim. 1:7)*
- D. The idea behind these uses of the words for fear is on what or whom we are setting our attention and value on. Are we setting our attention on the spiritual practices of a demonically inspired world or are we placing our attention on the Lord?
- E. A healthy form of fear brings freedom and restraint to our heart and life. If we fear the authority in our culture, we will be less likely to break the laws. A culture who has a healthy respect for law and order allows for a safe and free society to prosper and thrive.
- F. On the other hand, unhealthy fear causes us to doubt the authority structures and safety of our society. This actually erodes a culture. It restricts freedoms, expansion, and growth.
- G. **Psalm 56:11** *In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*
- H. **2 Timothy 1:7** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
- I. Solomon is calling us (**Prov. 9:10**) to set our attention and affections on the Lord as the starting point for receiving, understanding, and rightly walking in God's wisdom and ways.

- J. **The Fear of the Lord**- This is to be understood as a real sense of awe and reverence of who God is. It honors God as He really is as the Holy Creator of all. It is not a cowering and shrinking back from God kind of fear, but a reverential fear that allows us to approach Him appropriately as He deserves.

### III. GOD'S WISDOM FOR DAILY LIVING

- A. **Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
- B. What does a powerful witness of Christ look like? I think Holy Spirit enables us to walk with Him into every sphere and responsibility He has called us to with a boldness, wisdom, and confidence that He is with us and working through us as parents, workers, preachers, teachers, friends, neighbor, etc.
- C. **Proverbs 9:10** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*
- D. **The Beginning of Wisdom**- Wisdom starts with God because all true wisdom comes from God.
- E. **Ecclesiastes 7:12** *Wisdom and money can get you almost anything, but only wisdom can save your life.*
- F. Wisdom can only be applied by the one who discovers it for themselves. Wisdom cannot be received by the foolish.
- G. Let us ask God for a revival in the daily lives of His Disciples. There will be some things we must reorient our lives around to reflect a true New Covenant life of following Jesus.