

Series: Wisdomology 101

Message Title: Spiritual Bandwidth (part 3)

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.

⁶ But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God's willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For such a person ought not to think or expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the Lord,

⁸ being a double-minded man, unstable and restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides].

Discussion Part 1:

Discuss with the group, how do you know if you need more wisdom? God is willing to help, bless, and answer, so the question is, how do you know if your spiritual bandwidth is 'steaming' at an acceptable capacity?

S.Marshall thoughts:

It's a painful thing to hear people put limits on God's love, grace, and ability to provide for His children, and instead, accept zero responsibility for their own ability to receive. James 1 clearly says that being "double minded" clearly disqualifies us from receiving "anything" from the Lord. Receiving requires a stable connection. Let faith set your wisdom streaming today, and then just keep growing your capacity.

Have someone read:

1 Kings 4:29

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow [spiritually mature] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 8:35-36

For whoever finds me [Wisdom] finds life and draws forth *and* obtains favor from the Lord.

³⁶ But he who misses me *or* sins against me wrongs *and* injures himself; all who hate me love *and* court death.

Discussion Part 2:

Notice the focus on “wisdom” in these verses. Not knowledge, but wisdom. Why does favor seem to grow with the increase of wisdom? In what areas of your life could you use more favor? Are you asking for wisdom in those specific areas?

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

It’s interesting to me that when I sit down and advise people one on one about things like relationships, family, finances, career, physical health, how little consideration they give to wisdom in those areas. Marriages and families don’t fail because of a lack of love. They fail because of a famine of wisdom. Yes love is the greatest grace (1 Corinthians 13:13), but wisdom is still the principal thing.

Life Application:

Get a cheap pack of colored straws. Pass them around the room one person after another. Let each one show what they feel like best represents their ‘streaming capacity’ for receiving from God the Father. Whether you take one straw, or 100 straws, talk about how you can add more wisdom to your streaming ability, and therefore, increase your favor-of-God level.

Remember, Jesus increased His quotient of straws (wisdom), and we need to increase our number of straws - daily - every week - every year.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

“Precious Father you supply us with as much wisdom as we are willing to ask for. Give us a hunger for more and more wisdom. When we discover Your wisdom we obtain favor. When we ignore wisdom we hurt and injure ourselves. Help us Holy Spirit to focus our faith and keep it set on downloading wisdom. Jesus had to increase in wisdom, so there’s no doubt, we need wisdom! ...” (Continue to pray specifically for one another’s needs ...)