

Sunday, February 1, 2026 - **Wisdom in the Light of Christ – Pastor John Henry Raskin**

Today we explore the difference between knowledge and wisdom, emphasizing how true wisdom is found in Christ and revealed by the Holy Spirit. Drawing from Proverbs 8, it encourages us to seek wisdom intentionally and walk in God's truth.

Wisdom vs. Knowledge

- **Knowledge** is knowing what is true; **wisdom** is letting that truth guide your actions.
- Two stories illustrate this: one traveler ignores a proven map and gets lost; another trusts wise counsel and finds a beautiful valley. Wisdom is not just knowing the right path to take, but choosing to follow it.

The Roadmap and the Guide

- The Bible is our roadmap, but we often rely on our own instincts.
- Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, meets us at life's crossroads, offering guidance if we ask.

Wisdom in Proverbs 8

- Wisdom is personified as "Lady Wisdom," calling out to all at the crossroads of life.
- Wisdom was present before creation, closely linked to the Holy Spirit ("Ruach" in Hebrew).
- Wisdom is not hidden; she is a herald, inviting us to listen and obey.

Key Qualities of Wisdom

- **Prudence:** Wisdom "dwells with prudence"—careful judgment and practical righteousness. The Holy Spirit helps us discern and avoid traps, responding thoughtfully rather than reactively with the Mind of Christ.
- **The Mind of Christ:** We must intentionally allow the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions, moving from reaction to discernment.
- **Moral Compass:** Wisdom hates pride, arrogance, and evil ways. The Spirit convicts us and helps us align our hearts with Christ.
- **Counsel, Understanding, Strength:** The Spirit provides wise counsel, reveals purpose, and supplies strength to act.

Practical Application

- If you lack wisdom, ask God—He gives generously to all who seek.
- Be intentional in listening to the Spirit, submitting your faults, and seeking a clean heart as David did in the Psalms.
- Wisdom empowers us to move from "knowing" to "doing," making the Mind of Christ a tangible reality in our lives.

Call to Action

- This week, when facing decisions, don't just ask "What would Jesus do?"—ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ's wisdom through His Word.
- Spend quiet time with God daily, seeking wisdom for creativity, purpose, and guidance.

Wisdom is calling, will you listen?

WISDOM IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week we discovered the amazing creativity of God and in particular the incredible diversity and intentionality within the Mind of Christ through which all things were created.

We took away from that teaching that each of us has the image of God's creativity within us and by seeking His Will in our everyday lives with intentionality we can bring that creative spark into the reality of our present world.

Today we're going to talk about wisdom.

Wisdom is different from knowledge in that you can know something is true and yet not allow it to affect your actions.

Let me tell you two related stories that illustrate what I mean.

In the first one, a young man was hiking in the mountains.

He had a roadmap, but he decided to trust his instincts instead of following the trail delineated on the map.

Hours later, he was lost, exhausted, and in danger.

When rescuers finally found him, they asked, "Why didn't you follow the map?" He replied, "I thought I knew better."

Now imagine another young man standing at a crossroads in a dense forest.

Two paths stretch before him—one looks smooth and easy, the other rugged and difficult.

He hesitates, unsure which way to go.

Suddenly, an old traveler appears and says, “The easy path will lead you to a dead end son. The rugged path will take you to a beautiful valley.”

The young man chooses the rugged path, guided by wisdom—not by what looks good, but by what is true.

In both of these stories, wisdom is offered.

In the first, it is a proven map that speaks truth which the traveler rejects.

In the second the truth is offered by a source that the traveler chooses to trust.

Today, we will illuminate God’s timeless truth in the Book of Proverbs.

In the light of Christ, we will see how to avoid the pitfall of the first traveler and make good choices like the second traveler.

Like the first traveler, we have our roadmap, the Bible. If we are honest, often we think we know better and go with our own fleshly instincts.

Fortunately, we also have the trusted One who meets us on the path of life, Jesus Himself, through His Spirit, who tells us clearly which way to go if we only ask.

Life is full of crossroads.

Remember what we said a moment ago about wisdom and how it differs from knowledge.

Wisdom is different from knowledge in that you can know something is true and yet not allow it to affect your actions.

This statement is also true about spiritual wisdom.

Like the first traveler with a roadmap, it is possible to know what the Bible says and yet be unwilling to do it.

Knowledge of the Bible only becomes wisdom when it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and in agreement, we walk in it.

The Spirit of God that inspired the writers of the Bible to write the unerring truth of the Word is the same Spirit that lives in every believer and will reveal that truth when the believer asks.

It is also that same Spirit that empowers us to walk in it, living a life of transformation.

Today, let's discover what it means to walk the rugged but rewarding path of wisdom in Christ.

Today we are going to explore the timeless truths of Proverbs Chapter 8.

Proverbs is part of the section of the Bible that is known as wisdom literature and the chapter that we are going to read is the specific chapter about wisdom.

We're going to read the entire chapter 8 of the book of proverbs.

Proverbs 8:1-36

**Does not wisdom cry out,
And understanding lift up her voice?**

**²She takes her stand on the top of the high hill,
Beside the way, where the paths meet.**

³ She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city,
At the entrance of the doors:

⁴ “To you, O men, I call,
And my voice *is* to the sons of men.

⁵ O you simple ones, understand prudence,
And you fools, be of an understanding heart.

⁶ Listen, for I will speak of excellent things,
And from the opening of my lips *will come* right things;

⁷ For my mouth *will speak* truth;
Wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

⁸ All the words of my mouth *are* with righteousness;
Nothing crooked or perverse *is* in them.

⁹ They *are* all plain to him who understands,
And right to those who find knowledge.

¹⁰ Receive my instruction, and not silver,
And knowledge rather than choice gold;

¹¹ For wisdom *is* better than rubies,
And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

¹² “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And find out knowledge *and* discretion.

¹³ The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverse mouth I hate.

¹⁴ Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom;
I *am* understanding, I have strength.

¹⁵ By me kings reign,
And rulers decree justice.

¹⁶ By me princes rule, and nobles,
All the judges of ^[c]the earth.

¹⁷ I love those who love me,
And those who seek me diligently will find me.

¹⁸ Riches and honor *are* with me,

Enduring riches and righteousness.

¹⁹ **My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold,
And my revenue than choice silver.**

²⁰ **I ^[d]traverse the way of righteousness,
In the midst of the paths of justice,**

²¹ **That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth,
That I may fill their treasuries.**

²² **“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way,
Before His works of old.**

²³ **I have been established from everlasting,
From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.**

²⁴ **When *there were* no depths I was brought forth,
When *there were* no fountains abounding with water.**

²⁵ **Before the mountains were settled,
Before the hills, I was brought forth;**

²⁶ **While as yet He had not made the earth or the ^[e]fields,
Or the ^[f]primal dust of the world.**

²⁷ **When He prepared the heavens, I was there,
When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,**

²⁸ **When He established the clouds above,
When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,**

²⁹ **When He assigned to the sea its limit,
So that the waters would not transgress His command,**

When He marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰ **Then I was beside Him as ^[g]a master craftsman;
And I was daily *His* delight,**

Rejoicing always before Him,

³¹ **Rejoicing in His inhabited world,**

And my delight was with the sons of men.

³² **“Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children,**

For blessed are *those who* keep my ways.

³³ **Hear instruction and be wise,**

And do not disdain it.

³⁴ Blessed is the man who listens to me,

Watching daily at my gates,

Waiting at the posts of my doors.

³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life,

And obtains favor from the LORD;

³⁶ But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul;

All those who hate me love death.”

Wisdom clearly has a lot to say.

If we're really paying attention this scripture clearly tells us that wisdom was with God before the beginning of the foundations of the world.

Since we know that the only One that pre-existed creation is God in Three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I maintain that wisdom as delineated here is the Holy Spirit that hovered over the face of the deep in Genesis.

In Hebrew, the word for the Holy Spirit is Ruach, which is grammatically feminine.

Likewise, the word for Wisdom in Hebrew is the feminine word “Hokhmah”.

Lady Wisdom stands on the heights, and at the crossroads.

She is not a secret to be discovered, but a herald to be heard.

The Holy Spirit is the One who reveals the truth of who Christ is to the believer, provides wisdom to understand His Word and also gives us the strength to obey His Word.

The Holy Spirit that filled Jesus Christ during his sojourn on earth is what gave Him the ability to overcome sin and to obey our Father in all things.

For the believer, through the Holy Spirit, having the "Mind of Christ" isn't just a theological concept.

It is tuning in to the active frequency of Lady Wisdom speaking into our modern chaos and giving us the means to overcome it.

That said, let's look at 3 of the verses from this scripture to illuminate the rugged path.

Proverbs 8:12

**12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And find out knowledge and discretion.**

It says that wisdom dwells with prudence.

Prudence means careful judgment—practical righteousness.

To "dwell with" prudence means Wisdom isn't a visitor; she lives there.

The Hebrew word for prudence is "ormah" which implies "shrewdness", in this case the ability to see a trap before it's sprung.

We know through scripture that we have an enemy who is always trying to trap us or as Peter said, "he is roaring around like a lion to see whom he can devour".

Having the Mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit means we can stop reacting to the world and start discerning it.

Just think how much more effective you would be in your everyday life if you could stop living in a worldly reactionary way and begin using

prudence to see what the enemy is really trying to do, which is to get your eyes off Jesus.

Let me give you an example.

How many times have you reacted to a perceived insult or a group e-mail and fired off a rapid and angry reply and then wished when it was too late that you had not?

How often have you read a headline or seen a Facebook post that enraged you to the point of distraction making it so you were not able to function or sleep well for a whole day or more after reading it?

When you actively seek out the Holy Spirit that lives in you when your emotions begin to seethe, you will get the answer from the Holy Spirit which will lead you to have the Mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

The word let that is in Paul's exhortation means that it takes your intentional permission for the Holy Spirit to override your carnal mind so that you can have the Mind of Christ to give you wisdom in any given situation.

Let's go back to Proverbs 8:12.

Notice that it says that Wisdom "finds out" knowledge and discretion.

The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, using knowledge and discretion to handle our emotional reactions to complex 2026 problems.

Paul declares in Colossians 2:3: that "In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Jesus didn't just teach wisdom—He lived it.

Every decision He made was in submission to the Holy Spirit and reflected our Father's will.

Now let's look at verse 13

Proverbs 8:13

**13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverse mouth I hate.**

This small piece of scripture provides a complete and non-negotiable Moral Compass for all of us who truly follow Christ.

You cannot have the Mind of Christ while harboring the heart of the world.

Wisdom identifies her "deal-breakers" here as Pride, Arrogance and the "evil way".

Pride is defined from the Biblical standpoint as excessive self-esteem that exalts itself above others and most specifically above God.

Pride manifests itself as self-reliance to the point of taking credit for what God has accomplished.

Arrogance is defined as the quality of having an exaggerated sense of one's own importance resulting in a demeaning and condescending treatment of others.

If a relationship in Christ is demonstrated by a sincere love of God and loving one's neighbor as oneself, here we see Lady Wisdom declaring that pride and arrogance is the exact opposite of that.

"The evil way" refers to a continuous path or walk of life that disregards God's commands and acts in opposition to His holiness.

As for a perverse mouth, that is lying and consistently using words that cause hurt and destruction to others, which is in direct opposition to humility, which God loves.

For believers who may struggle with these things, fortunately, this is where the Holy Spirit comes in.

It is one of the Spirit's jobs to convict us of sin. In this case, to make us uncomfortable with our own "perverse mouth."

If we claim to be led by the Spirit but our speech is toxic, there is a disconnect and the Spirit of God yearns to re-connect us.

To hate what Wisdom hates is the first step to thinking how Christ thinks.

Now let's look at Verse 14 of Proverbs 8.

Proverbs 8:14

**14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom;
I am understanding, I have strength.**

Here we see the Trinity of Action: Counsel, Understanding, and Strength all of which Lady Wisdom reveals and the Holy Spirit supplies.

The Spirit gives Counsel providing a wise course of action.

The Spirit gives Understanding, revealing the purpose and giving confidence that the plan is good.

Then the Spirit supplies the Strength, the resolve and the power to do it.

In Proverbs, Lady Wisdom calls to anyone who will listen to forsake their evil ways and offers herself as the solution.

In the Gospels and the letters of the New Testament, we see that Jesus sent His Spirit, the Ruach of God to be the wisdom and power of God to those who would receive Him.

Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as Guide, Counselor and Helper.

Let's step back a minute and look at this scripture from James the brother of Jesus...

James 15:6

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

It's clear that whenever we are walking outside of God's will for our lives, it is because we have been ignoring His Spirit that is trying to speak quietly amidst all the noise of the world. Simply put, we lack wisdom.

It is in those times of our walk with Jesus that we need His wisdom more than anything else.

James makes it clear that if we want wisdom we need to ask and it will be given freely and as needed.

Here again is where I feel the need to use the word intentional.

We need to be intentional about the way we desire to hear from the Holy Spirit to point out our faults both obvious and hidden.

We also need to be intentional about our willingness to yield to the Spirit's call to submit these things to God.

When we studied a couple of weeks ago how to have a heart like David's one of the key scriptures that set David apart as a man after God's own heart was Psalm 51:10.

Psalm 51:10

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

David also wrote...

Psalm 139:23-24

**23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
24 And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.**

When we ask for these things, the believer is now empowered by the Holy Spirit to execute the counsel they have received, moving from "knowing" to "doing" with divine authority.

The Result is "The Mind of Christ" is no longer just a theological concept; it becomes tangible power in the physical world that fuels prayers and makes miraculous activity possible.

We are no longer just thinking differently; we are empowered to act differently.

The Call to Action:

This week, when you face a decision, don't just ask "What would Jesus do?" Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what the Mind of Christ is already saying through His Word.

This is again the reason why we here at Abundant Life Church exhort you to spend a few moments of quiet time with the Lord and in His Word every morning.

If you ask God daily for wisdom to navigate the problems in your life

and to lead you into creativity and purpose that will benefit you and the people around you as well as glorify God,
it will be God's great pleasure to answer you with the wisdom you ask for.

Lady Wisdom is calling. She isn't whispering in a basement; she's shouting at the gates of your life.

Will you let the Spirit translate her voice today?

Let's pray