THE 'FEAR OF THE LORD' EQUALS LOVE FOR JESUS – 'WITH ALL OUR HEARTS' EQUALS BEING FILLED <u>WITH</u>... AND WALKING <u>IN</u> THE SPIRIT

- 1. Walking with Jesus...WILL RESULT IN...
- 2. Our Changed THOUGHTS/WORDS/ACTIONS= <u>W-I-S-D-O-M</u>
- 3. Resulting in unity and peace in the Body of Christ

**JAMES 3

[SWEET/BITTER] 'WHO IS WISE?'

Gal 5.13-26 - ¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to <u>LIBERTY</u>; only do not use <u>LIBERTY</u> as an opportunity for the <u>FLESH</u>, but through <u>LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER</u>.

OPPORTUNITY:

An excuse.

A launching pad.

MILITARY TERMS:

A base of operations from which an attack

or movement is made.

¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "You shall <u>LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR</u> as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you **BITE AND DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER**, beware lest you be <u>CONSUMED</u> by one another!

"YES. BUT HOW??!!"

¹⁶ I say then: <u>WALK IN THE SPIRIT</u>, and you shall <u>NOT</u> fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are <u>LED BY THE</u> <u>SPIRIT</u>, you are not under the law.

1. Walking with Jesus...WILL RESULT IN...

2. Our Changed THOUGHTS/WORDS/ACTIONS=

<u>W-I-S-D-O-M</u>

3. Resulting in unity and peace in the Body of Christ

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, **hatred**, **contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies**, ²¹ **envy**, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But <u>THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT</u> is *LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, ²³ GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL.* Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's **HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND** DESIRES. ²⁵ IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, let us also <u>WALK IN THE SPIRIT.</u> ²⁶ Let us not become **CONCEITED, PROVOKING ONE ANOTHER,** ENVYING ONE ANOTHER.

PROVOKING:

To challenge. Or irritate. ENVYING: When another person's success sours us or we become glad

when they experience misfortune or pain.

Pro 2.1-6 - My son, if you **receive** my words, And **treasure** my commands within you, ²So that you **incline** your ear to wisdom, *And* **apply** your heart to understanding; ³Yes, if you **cry out** for discernment, *And* **lift up** your voice for understanding, ⁴If you **seek** her as silver, And **search** for her as *for* hidden treasures;

⁵ <u>THEN</u> you will understand
[1] <u>THE FEAR OF THE LORD</u>,
And find
[2] <u>THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD</u>.
⁶ FOR <u>THE LORD</u>
GIVES WISDOM;
<u>FROM HIS MOUTH</u>
COME KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING;

HOW DO WE GAIN WISDOM? WE MAKE GOD... <u>EVERYTHING</u>!

WHERE DO WE FIND IT? WE KNOW...AND FOLLOW... JESUS!

AND WHEN WE DO

WISDOM ...BUILDS! <u>** THINK 'HGTV'!</u>

Ecc 10.8-11 [NASB] - ⁸One who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite one who breaks through a wall. ⁹One who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and one who splits logs may be endangered by them. ¹⁰ If the ax is dull and he does not sharpen *its* edge, then he must exert *more* strength.

This world is full of limitations ENFORCED BY NATURAL LAWS.

Boxes we live in. Frustration may plunge us ahead As we try to push through these limitations... to our own harm.

OUR CHOICE?

Accept the status-quo and quit trying to overcome limitations. [Go passive. Stay depressed.]

<u>OR...</u>

<u>GAIN WISDOM!</u> HOW DO WE GAIN WISDOM? WHERE DO WE FIND IT?

WISDOM HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BRINGING SUCCESS!

Wisdom allows us to go from A to C without hurting ourselves

or dying in B.

It gets us where we

hope to go

in the shortest amount of time...

and in the easiest

and safest way possible.

¹¹ If the serpent bites before being charmed, there is no benefit for the charmer.

What brings the profit?

WISDOM!

1Cor 13.3 - ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it **profits** <u>me</u> nothing.

NO REWARD!

We all have a destiny... "works prepared beforehand for us to do..." But along the way... snakes bite us... stones fall on us... logs roll back on us... and swinging the ax is like swinging a sledge hammer... For all our desire and effort... We eventually approach THE BEMA SEAT... WITH NOTHING!! EMPTY HANDS!

WHAT DO WE NEED? <u>WISDOM!</u>

It has the advantage of Giving success!!

HOW DO WE GET WISDOM? WHERE DO WE FIND IT?

Pro 9.1 – Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars...

**HGTV: LAWS REGARDING SUPPORT STRUCTURE! WISDOM BUILDS ... WELL!! ANYTHING IT BUILDS HAS... 'GOOD BONES'! STRONG! ENDURING!

**PAUL: [WISE MASTER-BUILDER]: IT SURVIVES THE FIERY TESTS OF TIME!

**JESUS: ["I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"]

Builds HIS house on **THE ROCK...** THAT STANDS... **THE STORM!**

AND HE WANTS <u>US</u> TO BUILD <u>OUR</u> LIVES... *WITH... WISDOM!!*

SEVEN PILLARS = PERFECT STRENGTH... ALL THE STRENGTH **WE'LL EVER NEED!!**

Pro 14.1 - The wise woman ['wisdom from above'] builds her house, But the foolish [wisdom that is 'earthly and soulish'] pulls it down with her hands.

IS OUR WISDOM...

EARTHLY... OR HEAVENLY? SOULISH... OR FROM THE SPIRIT? ARE WE... BUILDING OUR LIVES? OR TEARING THEM DOWN?

SOULISH WISDOM?

PRODUCES A DECEPTIVE FACADE OF SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY!

Lose your health, wife And emotional stability... But became the head Of a Fortune 500 Company!

BUT WISDOM FROM ABOVE?

Even if you seem to lose <u>everything</u>... IS *RICH!*

MTT 16:26 - "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own **soul**? Or what will a man give in exchange for his **soul**?"

<u>'PROSPER': EUDO'O</u>

To have a good, happy Successful... journey! Help on the road To reach your goals!

1st Benefit of Wisdom? <u>YOUR SOUL PROSPERS</u>! **MONA: *"I want to* enjoy the journey!"

3 Jn 1.2 – "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper [1] in all things and [2] be in health, just as [3] your soul prospers."

There's a journey. A building project. It's progressive. Step-by-step. 2x4 by 2x4. Plank by plank!

FIRST... IN YOUR OWN SOUL!

THEN... IN YOUR HEALTH... FINANCES... AND QUALITY OF LIFE! WISDOM...

BRINGS...

<u>TRUE</u>

SUCCESS!!!!!

INSIDE-OUT SUCCESS!!!!!

Pro 24.3-4 - ³Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; ⁴ by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

OUR NATION?

WITH HEAVENLY WISDOM...

It builds. Becomes solid. And becomes rich!

<u>MARRIAGE</u>

AND FAMILY LIFE OUR WHOLE SOCIAL 'LANDSCAPE'? PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE GOD? WILL ALSO OPPOSE US!

BUT NOT OPPOSED TO GOD?

Wisdom CONSTRUCTS A NEW

SOCIAL LANDSCAPE

It becomes solid. And becomes rich!

OUR CHURCH?

It builds. Becomes solid. And becomes rich!

OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH!

It builds. Becomes solid. And becomes rich! SO...

HOW DO WE GET WISDOM? WHERE DO WE FIND IT?

Pro 8.22-31 - 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 fields,

Or the primal dust of the world.

WISDOM FROM ABOVE... PRECEDES GROWTH... STRENGTH... AND WEALTH! DON'T HAVE THOSE THINGS? START WITH... WISDOM!! HOW DO WE GET IT? WHERE DO WE FIND IT?

²⁷ When He prepared the heavens, I was there,

PREPARED:

Furnished. Arranged. Put in order. Set up. Fastened. Fixed. Established. Made secure. Made ready. Made right. Made firm.

When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,

Inscribed. Engraved. Cut it out.

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* a master craftsman;

**HGTV:

'HELP! I WRECKED MY HOUSE!'

[JASMINE ROTH] **[DIY CHRISTIANITY]

H.S. 'JASMINE': "Why don't we take this room out...

Eliminate this wall... Give you a clear visual shot from From the front door To the slider..." "And... OH! The cabinets should be off-white... But the island? BLUE! DEFINITELY BLUE!"

INTENSIVE FORM: ENJOYMENT AND PLEASURE!

Rejoicing always before Him, ³¹Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And <u>MY</u> delight *was* with the sons of men.

God... AND HIS GOOD PARTNER 'WISDOM'...

They LOOOOOVE... building together! It excites them. Makes them happy!!

Not only <u>NEW</u> builds.

But...

RENOVATIONS & <u>RESTORATIONS!</u>

<u>'What the HECK did I buy?!!'</u> OR... <u>'I ruined my house!!'</u>

Have you ruined your house? Are you the one who 'tore it down with your own hands?' IF SO... I HAVE TO GET

EXCITED AND ASK...

ARE WE LUCKY

...<u>OR WHAT</u>??!!

BECAUSE...

GOD...

<u>LOVES</u>...

RENOVATIONS & <u>RESTORATIONS!</u>

Ps 126.1-3 - When the Lord BROUGHT BACK THE CAPTIVITY OF ZION, [ASH HEAP]

> JEREMIAH ... CYRUS 5,400 ARTICLES 42,000 PEOPLE **OPPOSITION/PROPHETS** XERXES ... DARIUS ... ARTAXERXES 7 YEARS ... EZRA 900 MILES ... 4 MONTHS ...

We were like those <u>WHO DREAM.</u>² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." ³ The Lord <u>HAS</u> done great things for us, *And* we are glad.

RENOVATIONS & <u>RESTORATIONS??</u>

NOT ONLY AS GOOD AS NEW... <u>BUT BETTER THAN</u> <u>THEY EVER WERE... BEFORE!</u> Job 38.4-7 - ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its

cornerstone,

⁷ When the morning stars

SANG TOGETHER,

And all the sons of God

SHOUTED FOR JOY?

A RINGING, TRIUMPHANT CRY

AS IF INTOXICATED!

TO GIVE A TRUMPET BLAST! TO SPLIT THE EARS WITH SOUND!

FEIT THE LARS WITH SOUN

WHEN THE CHURCH

TRUSSES GO UP...

GOD

CELEBRATES!

WISDOM...

HIS BUILDING PARTNER...

SHRIEKS WITH SHEER DELIGHT.

OUR MOUTHS ARE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER...

AND

WE

TELL THE NATIONS HOW GLAD WE ARE!

BUT ALSO ...

AS THEY WATCH GOD BUILD UP

THE BODY OF CHRIST ON EARTH ...?

HEAVENLY

ANGELIC

BEINGS

LIKE THEIR DELIRIOUS AND INTOXICATED

BLOW THEIR TRUMPETS

ALONG WITH EAR-SPLITTING

SHOUTS OF TRIUMPH...

IN SPITE OF THE **'POLLS'....

<u>GOD'S CHURCH</u>

IS GONNA RISE, FOLKS!

If you think the angels 'rejoice' when somebody comes to the Lord...

<u>THAT'S NOTHING...</u>

COMPARED TO HOW THEY'LL REACT ...

AT THE BIG REVEAL!

FAMILY COMES OVER... KIDS RUN IN... EYES LIKE SAUCERS... FOOD & DRINKS COME OUT... AND IT'S TIME TO <u>PART...AAAY</u>!! WHAT WILL WE SAY?? "JUST LOOK AT WHAT GOD AND WISDOM HAVE DONE!!!" JUST LOOK AT THE WISDOM!! HOW DO WE GET IT? WHERE DO WE FIND IT?

> FOLKS!!! JESUS IS... RIGHT NOW... BUILDING HIS CHURCH... <u>WITH WISDOM!</u> AND I PROMISE YOU: [AS IT BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE]...

> > IT'S GOING TO TURN OUT... FLAT-OUT... SPECTACULAR