

Monday, July 17, 2017 - Day 197 – Proverbs 4-6, Psalm 11, Ephesians 1

Growing in wisdom is about cultivating a character that is Christ like. If we want that wisdom, then the words of Ephesians 1 are a great discovery and encouragement. What is striking about these verses is how they tell us we don't have to figure this all out on our own. It's not a project for which God gives us a textbook and tests us with a final exam at the end of life. God is not a "hands off" teacher.

In Ephesians 1 Paul explains that he prays for people to have wisdom, and he asks God to be involved in the process—because that is what God promises. Paul goes on to mention "the Spirit of wisdom," and he isn't asking only for the Spirit to help us; Paul asks that the Spirit of wisdom be given to us. Why? So that we may know God better.

Suddenly this matter of gaining wisdom is not just about learning some Christian way of living. It is about an interactive God who wants to live in us and be part of our faith journey by becoming part of us.

Poet, Mary Oliver says this: "God, rest in my heart and fortify me, take away my hunger for answers..." Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus, and perhaps you and me, is less about finding answers and more about finding a faith and hope which is empowering and enlightening, not only to the wise...but to the world.

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