

Wisdom

Review:

- Our goal is to be a community of believers who can thrive in our Babylon.
- Our goal is to raise up from *our* community those who can thrive in *theirs*.
- Hope, Humility, and Wisdom put you right where God can use you for His glory and our good.

This week: **Wisdom**

- Faith that leads to hope and humility (*before God and others*), leads to wisdom.
- Wisdom is seeing from God's perspective and acting as God would have you act.
- Wisdom is: "*The quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.*" (www.dictionary.com/browse/wisdom)

Daniel 1:8–9 (ESV) ⁸But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore, he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs...

Daniel 1:17 (ESV) As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Key truths about God's wisdom:

1. Notice where wisdom comes from—God's word and God's Spirit.

- A. Daniel responded to the wisdom given in God's word (*the Law*), and he was resolved to obey the Law.
- B. God responded by giving more wisdom and favor.

2. Notice wisdom is being able to see as God sees things.

- Hints about how God sees things:
 - A. **God worked through the Jews, who were not an important people in that time.**

1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (ESV) ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

B. God sees the whole picture—the whole story—of His chosen people.

- He is willing to allow Judah to fall for a time—"I know the plans I have for you." (**Jeremiah 29:11**)
- Down leads to up, and discipline leads to blessing. (**Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:11**)
- He is cleansing His people. Otherwise, I believe they would have disappeared and left the prophecy about the coming Messiah through Judah undone.

C. God does what He does because He loves even those who are far from Him.

Daniel 4:27–29 (ESV) ²⁷Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity." ²⁸All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon...

Ezekiel 18:23 (ESV) Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

D. God's perspective is eternal. His blessings are not always recognized in our lifetimes.

Daniel 3:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Hebrews 11:32–40 (ESV) ³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹**And all these, though commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised,** ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. *(emphasis added)*

1 Peter 5:6–7 (ESV) ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

What does wisdom look like?

James 3:13–18 (ESV) ¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? **By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.** ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷**But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.** ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. *(emphasis added)*

How do I acquire wisdom?

- 1. You must be Holy Spirit filled—you abide in Christ.**
- 2. You seek wisdom through the Word of God.**
- 3. You seek wisdom through wise Godly counsel.**
- 4. You do what you are told, and the Lord will give you more wisdom.**
 - **Proverbs 15:22** (ESV) Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Response Questions:

1. Read **James 3:13–18** two or three times this week. (Or choose another passage that stands out to you.)
2. What do you do when you need wisdom?
3. How do you recognize if a decision or action is wise?
 - A. How does that compare to what God's Word, or the sermon showed you?
4. What situation do you face that needs God's wisdom?
 - A. How will you seek out wisdom for it from God's word?
 - B. Who can give you wise biblical counsel for it? What trusted friend will you talk with for wise counsel?