

God's Wisdom

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Most of us, as believers, would be quick to say, "I need wisdom." Wisdom is an area in which we all need to grow. Furthermore, it is clear from the Scriptures that wisdom is something God wants all Christians to have.

Wisdom cries out, seeking to get our attention (Proverbs 8:1). She puts forth her voice, she stands in high places, and she sits in heavenly places. Wisdom is seated together with Christ, and by wisdom, we too are seated in heavenly places. According to Proverbs 8:8, everything spoken from a mouth of wisdom is righteousness.

In this booklet, we will examine God's wisdom and how a Christian can learn to function in it by applying what he has learned, what he has heard, what he has been taught, and what has been implanted in him through the Holy Spirit in the details of life.

Chapter One

LIVING THE LIFE FROM ABOVE

“The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

“The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

“The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words” (Proverbs 15:24-26).

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:13-18).

Seeing different situations, counseling different relationships, so many individuals today live in self-inflicted wounds. Where is the wisdom in that?

It is possible that someone could mention the name of a person who fell into sin years ago, and you could show a sign of disgust just at the mention of that name. Where is the wisdom in that? Perhaps you have found yourself in relationships with people whom you do not trust. As a result, you never get close enough to ever really know them in Christ. Maybe you have given up on a person, and you have written them off instead of trusting God and believing that He makes all things new. Where is the wisdom in that? Having an unforgiving spirit, holding a grudge against someone for years—there is no wisdom in that.

I think of what anger does to people. We can all get angry very quickly about any number of things. But if we are objective, how can there be wisdom in being angry at anyone? Where is the wisdom in being angry at anyone?

A person who is angry is submitting to a negative spirit that will eventually control his soul. The problem festers in his wounded soul, revealing that his life is incomplete in some way. If he is complete in Christ, needing nothing, he would have nothing to be angry about. So where what is the wisdom in getting angry and saying that you do not love someone? Or perhaps you have a poor self-image, and you build walls that cause you to be isolated. Where is the wisdom in that?

Wisdom is what keeps our lives together; it keeps our relationships together. Wisdom will always bring us to the provision of Christ so that we can abide victoriously, needing nothing. God's wisdom will do that for us.

The Pure and the Earthly

“For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil” (Romans 16:19).

Two different kinds of wisdom are referred to in James 3: that which is earthly and that which is from heaven. Wisdom from above is first pure. It is expressed in good conversation with meekness, as mentioned in Proverbs 15. On

the other hand, to speak evil about any situation or any individual is never wise. It magnifies what Satan is doing and all that he is attempting to do, to destroy and to divide.

Wisdom is expressed in good conversation with meekness. Wisdom does not ever express itself in bad conversation. It is first *pure*. In other words, it is first innocent and modest. This kind of wisdom is from above, because the only place where we are ever found innocent is in our heavenly position in Christ.

When Christ came as a perfect Man to die for us, He was innocent. That is why He could die for us. If He were guilty, He would not have been the perfect sacrifice. Wisdom is innocent.

And because of God's love, every born-again believer has the right to take his position in Christ, to realize who he is and to say, "I am a citizen of heaven; therefore, I am innocent." This is the first step to being wise. To say anything out of guilt is not wise. To produce guilt in somebody else's life is not wise. In God's wisdom, the Blood of Jesus Christ took care of every trace of sin and guilt, and God's work in us is perfect.

If we are wise, we derive our conversation from heaven so that we have the speech of inno-

cence. Sadly, so many Christians have earthly attachments that constantly attack their own character and the character of those around them. That is not wise. But those who will get up and say words derived from the innocence of truth and the purity of God—that is wisdom from above.

If you love innocence, you will never want to fellowship with anything that is guilty. So if a person brings something up to you about another individual who is your friend, you say, “I am innocent.” In other words, “I am ignorant of evil. I don’t even know why you would bring that up to me. I cannot do anything about it. I like my friendship with them. I do not want to lose my friendship with that individual. I am innocent. Do you understand that? I am pure toward that person, so don’t defile my relationship with them. I am pure toward them, and I like my innocence.”

Wisdom does not agree with any successes Satan has had in your life. Wisdom does not magnify faults and failures. Wisdom does not have a poor self-image because of some painful event in life that produced tremendous negativity. Wisdom is first pure, and it is expressed in good conversation with meekness.

The word “meekness” reflects humility and mildness, but it also reveals an inwrought gentleness and tenderness of the heart. So wisdom, when it is spoken forth in good conversation, is tender. That is why we are to forgive one another, to be tenderhearted one to another (Ephesians 4:32). It is wise to be tenderhearted. The first step to reconciliation is tenderness, knowing how to be tender toward people.

Detached from the Sensual

For the wise, their way of life is from above (Proverbs 15:24). It is a way of life that is not attached to the earth, which is sensual. This word “sensual,” from the Greek word *psuchikos*, is interesting. Although it is often used to describe things of a sexual nature, in this context it actually refers to that which is produced by nature, springing forth from corrupt desires and affections as it pertains primarily to man (James 3:15). That which is sensual, then, is anything produced by the natural man to fulfill his own desires.

Wisdom is above that. God’s wisdom is not sensual. It is not attached to getting things that just pertain to me. It is not devilish (*diabolos*), pertaining to false accusers and slanderers who

produce confusion, disorder, and every evil work (1 Timothy 3:11, 2 Timothy 3:3, Titus 2:3).

The essence of evil originated from Satan's slanderous heart. When Satan turned against God, the first thing Satan did was to slander the Lord. Then he expressed to the other angels how unfair God's plan was. Out of his conspiracy came every evil work. That is why he got the name *diabolos*—slanderer, accuser. God's wisdom is not attached to that spirit in any way, because it produces confusion and disorder.

Do you ever have those times in your life when you say, "I am just confused"? At that moment, you were not living in wisdom, because wisdom is not attached to confusion. Wisdom originates from your citizenship in heaven. It is always from above, and it is first of all pure, innocent.

"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words" (Proverbs 15:26).

The words of the wise are "pleasant" (*noam* in the Hebrew). They are delightful, suitable, serviceable, and graced with beauty. The wise speak words that are profitable, words spoken at the right time and having the proper motivation. They are not words spoken out of empti-

ness and vanity. The words of the wise are pure, and they truly edify. The words spoken with God's wisdom will reveal the undeserved mercy and grace of God.

First It Is Pure

God's wisdom is a way of life from above (Colossians 3:2). That is why we set our affections on things above. It is a way of life. First, we find the innocence of our position in Christ. This makes us pure in our thought life. Wisdom, then, is first pure. It allows us to have a thought life with no earthly attachments so that we will think no evil. We will know how to abide in a love that thinks no evil, because love in its very essence is innocent.

Chapter Two

PEACEABLE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

James 3 tells us that wisdom is “peaceable.” It is peaceable because it is a fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11). It is produced in communion with God, through the humility of the Cross, reconciling us with things above. By God’s wisdom, we are reconciled to our original design to be sons and daughters of God the Father.

Think about that! God’s wisdom is peaceable. Instead of reacting and saying something you will regret, you commune with God before you say a thing. You know how to commune with God first. You are quiet and you are confident. You are built up; therefore, you are silent, knowing He is God. You simply commune with Him before you ever say a word.

Arguments do not need to happen because of something unwise that someone else has said. Instead of reacting in your primary emotional

response, which is natural and sensual, think it through with the mind of Christ. Instead of doing that which pertains to self, when we commune with God, we realize that self was crucified at the Cross. That is wisdom, and it brings forth peaceable fruits of righteousness. Christ's righteousness has been imputed to our account. And because God hath declared us righteous, we have the right to be righteous, to be right with God.

Gentleness

Also, wisdom is "gentle" (*epieikes*). The English word "gentle" does not completely reflect the meaning of the original Greek text. That is why we need to study the Scriptures thoroughly, categorically, and in the original language. In the Greek, "It is gentle" is to say it is fair, it is fitting, it is equitable and forbearing, not insisting on the letter of the law. It expresses considerateness that looks at people and circumstances with insight based upon the truth of the *whole* thought of God. The whole thought of God is always associated with that which is good and gentle.

God's wisdom does not insist on applying the letter of the law. It forbears. It is not conditional, saying, "When you do this, then I will do

this.” Instead of revenging disobedience with the letter of the law, wisdom from above is gentle. It sees the need of another individual based upon the whole truth, the whole thought of God, which is always associated with divine goodness.

So when you are entering a situation that is beyond your realm of experience, a situation that may in fact be energized with the reactions of the wisdom that is from below, remember that God’s wisdom is gentle, and His wisdom is fair. Thoroughly think the situation through with God. Remember that God’s thoughts are always good thoughts, redemptive thoughts, filled with reconciliation. So if you want to be wise, be gentle.

Entreatable

Here is another characteristic of godly wisdom that is not so easy for the natural mind to accept: It is “easy to be entreated.” *Eupeithes* is the Greek word for “entreated” here. It means to be compliant to the Holy Spirit, easily obeying His leading (Galatians 5:18, Romans 8:14) as a child of God.

So when you get into a situation, if you are wise you will always be listening to God, and you will be compliant to hear His voice through

the leading of the Holy Spirit. When you hear from God, you will agree with Him quickly, saying, “Is that what I need to do? Then that is what I will do. I am a child of God and I will apply His truth in this circumstance. My Father is speaking, and I will listen.”

It is wise to hear the truth for yourself. It is wise to take the Word of God and soak it up, to bathe in it and to wash ourselves with the Word and then to realize that we are children of God. We have the right to hear His voice, to be compliant to His Spirit, and to obey immediately what He says.

Next we realize that wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits. Wisdom is inwardly disposed to everything that is kind and good. It always has a prepared heart. So, to be “full of mercy” means that inwardly, you are waiting to be kind and good whenever the opportunity arises. You have determined that whenever there is an opportunity, you will be kind.

James 3:17 describes wisdom as “full of mercy and good fruits.” The Greek word *mestos* means “having a full measure,” as a full vessel. In Romans 9:23, we are vessels of mercy—full vessels, complete in mercy. We are complete, and we do not need another thing.

Wisdom from above is also full of good fruits. Good fruit speaks of the inherent energy of a living organism. It is a visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly. Good fruit is revealed when God is doing a work inside of us, producing it through us, and then it comes out of us, becoming visible to others. That is good fruit.

That is the power that God wants: the character of the fruit being evidence of the character of the power that is producing it (Matthew 7:1). You will know them by their fruit (Matthew 7:16)—that is, the fruit of the Holy Spirit revealed through their lives (Galatians 5:22). These people are brought into a living union with Christ (John 15:2-8, 16) as they produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

There is nothing more rewarding than to see this kind of fruit come forth in your life, because it reveals that you are being led inwardly by the Holy Spirit. You are being transformed, you actually believe it, and you step out in faith and say, "Here it goes! This will bring forth good fruit."

I am beginning to realize who I really am in Christ. I am not an individual who always has to do what the world dictates. My identity is not

my weakness. By manifesting God's mercy to others, I reveal that I am filled with good fruit. And when I let it flow through me and go out to others, I am expressing God's heart, revealing a living organism founded in Christ. Now, that is good fruit!

Chapter Three

A CERTAINTY THAT BRING HARVESTS OF JOY

Wisdom is “without partiality.” The Greek term for this is *adiakritos*. It means that God’s wisdom is without uncertainty. It is without indecisiveness, doubts, or suspicion, as we are not to let any corrupt or suspicious communication come out of our mouths (Ephesians 4:29). It is without censure, based on God’s preference and not my own.

We do what the Word of God says to do simply because God said it, and there is no doubt about it. My Lord said to do it. It is for my sake, and it will deliver me, for He will always cause me to triumph.

Next, we see that wisdom is “without hypocrisy” (*anupokritos*). This means that God’s wisdom has no disguises or deceitfulness. Have you ever seen people who use the Word of God and rationalize what God has said to do by doing

what they want to do? “Well, it is not *really* sin, is it?” It might look good, but sin is still sin. If it is not of faith, it is sin (Romans 14:23).

Wisdom does not play deceitful games, saying what somebody wants to hear in order to gain favor. Wisdom has no masks or disguises. Wisdom is what it is. It is very open, very transparent.

Joy in the Midst of Trials

“Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.” (Isaiah 9:3).

Godly wisdom will produce the fruits of righteousness and peace, which will result in a harvest of joy. Think about that! God is a Father who wants His children to be happy. He wants us to be wise because He wants us to experience a harvest of joys. He wants us to be happy in the midst of anything Satan ever tries. In the trials and tribulations, the joy of the Lord shall be our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

We can have joy in the midst of trials (James 1:2), because God wants us to be happy at all times. He wants us to experience who we are in Him. Let others reap the fruits of contentions

and all the advantages they can propose to themselves by them. But let us go on peaceably to sow the seeds of righteousness, because there is a promise in this. Our labors will not be lost.

If we can sow peaceable fruits of righteousness, our labor will not be lost. If we can be merciful, if we can listen as a child to the Father's voice, to whatever He has to say, if we can set our minds before Him to find purity—if we can do these things, we are wise, and we will reap a harvest of joy. We will buy back relationships that have suffered because of wounds, and we will remain true friends to those whom God has given us. We will not think evil of ourselves, because our self-image will be restored. We will have no self-inflicted wounds to deal with, no attachments to the world, making our lives revolve around ourselves.

Living with Purpose

It is wisdom when we decide to do whatever our hand finds to do with all of our might (Ecclesiastes 9:10). This level of commitment with such diversity of purpose is possible when we are operating in wisdom from above, having a continual harvest of joy. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, in wisdom we discover God's

purpose, and we do it with all of our strength.

Oh, the meekness of wisdom! Wisdom heals strife that comes when people start taking sides, quarreling, and holding grudges. But in humility and in meekness, wisdom obeys in love.

Wisdom that is not from above is earthly, sensual, and devilish. "Earthly" speaks of demons in the world that transfer projections to our souls and demonize our unconscious minds. Remember that Lucifer was cast down into the earth to eat dust (Genesis 3:14), and his goal is to bring others down to his level causing them to cling to the dust (Psalm 44:25).

Where there is bitterness and strife, there is confusion, and eventually it results in every evil work. But wisdom sown in peace makes peace.

Oh, to hear the Word of God and say, "I love it!" This book is God's Word, and I love every word of it. We need to learn to eat the Word as Jeremiah ate it and let it become a fire in our hearts (Jeremiah 15:16). The Word of God created the universe, and by it He holds everything together (Hebrews 11:3).

It is this Word that saves our souls and cleanses our unconscious and conscious minds. The Holy Spirit in a man brings the Word to life. When we were saved, we received the Holy

Spirit. Each and every Christian has God in him through the miracle of regeneration, the miracle of the new birth. On that basis alone, each one of us can live in God's wisdom.

CONCLUSION

A pastor was in a terrible situation. He had been a well-known Bible teacher who lived under legalism, having been taught that God was watching over him to punish him. In his old age, however, as he began to approach death, he began to worry that he either had not done enough or was not good enough for God's approval. His fears began to overwhelm him, affecting both his physical and mental health. Then, one day, a woman in her 90s set him straight, saying, "God doesn't want to punish you. He watches over you to see how He can love you and how best He can get that across to you."

God's wisdom is not given according to how good or how bad we are. It is based upon how good God is. God's wisdom is not based upon all the sins we have committed. It is based upon the Sin-Bearer who never sinned but instead paid the price for us.

Picture wisdom, in Proverbs 8:3, crying out at the gates of the entrance to the city. The “gates” speak of our human wills. It speaks of God’s Word crying out to our human will, to our human volition. What is wisdom saying? It is saying, “Be ye of an understanding heart.” Let righteousness be the thing that you allow to come out of your mouth. Speak righteousness, the free gift of God, all because you have wisdom.

Thank God for wisdom. It is always available to us. Thank God, His wisdom never changes. That is why we have eternal security. Wisdom hears the Great Commission and tells us to go out, to seek and to save the lost, bearing the precious seed of the Gospel. Jesus went into hell—not as a prisoner but as the Victor—and He is now in heaven. In His Word, He has told us what heaven and hell are like. Therefore, we must go forth, proclaiming the truth and making disciples. We *must* do it. That is what it means to operate in God’s wisdom.