

USING WISDOM AS GOD INTENDED

29/8/23

The best way to get the best results is to get the best advice. One of the greatest gifts of the Spirit is wisdom. It teaches us the things we could never learn without a lot of heartache and trouble. God's wisdom empowers us to know things that are often impossible to learn and to look longer term for a better life. Today we will be looking at the efficient use of wisdom and one of its greatest revelations.

Wisdom is the key to stability, growth and contentment.

Luck and chance are the only other options. JAM 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. *Once we are committed to serving God... there is no successful way of turning back. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Lack of focus leads to confusion and failures. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. Growth is limited. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Purposes are easily lost. 9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: Wisdom leads to power as opposed to what wealth offers. 10 But the rich (and those who would be rich), in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. The focus of all Christians should be towards spiritual wealth, not natural. 11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. God's wisdom reveals natural wealth leads to frustration and failure.*

God's wisdom reveals the cause of all sin.

Pure wisdom. 1TIM 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil (poor performance, failure, sin): which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. *Many failures in people's lives are not caused by lack of prayer or fellowship, study, etc... but they are through the lack of financial disciplines. Seeking gain rather than sharing gain, is the root of all known failures. Growth and blessing comes from giving, not from taking... thus the principles of the tithe and offering are essential disciplines to keep us focused, to minimise sin and to care for the church.*

God reinforces his wisdom because it is what works best.

Very valuable advice. 1TIM 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour (respect and income), especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. *What are effective leaders worth to you?*

MAL 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. *This principle is still effective and works well.*

Jesus explains why these principles are worth understanding and worth obeying.

MAT 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *People also demonstrate their love with their wallet, not just with their mouth. Faith is a practice, not an agreement. 22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. God's wisdom and blessing multiply when faith is exercised... isn't that how you received the Spirit?*

23 But if thine eye be evil (lacking wisdom), thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! *The test of a true Christian can be painful. James identifies the problems of doublemindedness. 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Ananias and Saphira got caught out because they lacked this wisdom to maintain their growth through obeying God. They stopped giving and started taking, they lied about it and lost their lives.*

James summarises the problem and offers the solution.

JAM 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Remember what the root/cause of all evil is? **2** Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. *These are spiritual metaphors (v2). When priorities get confused, disagreements and disappointments follow quickly. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses (spiritually unfaithful), know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Those who are willing to seek wisdom and exercise its powers and directions. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. By seeking wisdom!! 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Directing our priorities towards God's wisdom and exercising it is all the Lord wants from us.*