

The Wisdom of the Spirit

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In the last couple of weeks Pastor Gilbert has been talking about the power or influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the power source or the one who gives us the ability to live according to God's will in our everyday life.

Most people when you talk about the power of the Holy Spirit immediately think of the power to heal, the power to cast out devils, the power to prophecy. Although all of these things are indeed the result of the power of the Holy Spirit today, I want to focus on one aspect of the power of the Holy Spirit that we need every single day. The power of the Spirit to make wise decisions. That is to live with wisdom.

We make decisions every single day. Some of those decisions are the right one and some turn out to be not so good. Some are wise and some are unwise.

Main point: The wisdom that the Holy spirit gives helps us walk in spiritual maturity seen in the way we love God, serve people, and reach our world.

Wisdom is the Holy Spirit-given ability to discern between good and evil.

The power or influence of the of the Holy Spirit graces us with wisdom so that we can live spiritually mature lives that brings glory to God.

1 Kings 3:3-14 (GNT) Solomon loved the Lord and followed the instructions of his father David, but he also slaughtered animals and offered them as sacrifices on various altars.⁴ On one occasion he went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices because that was where the most famous altar was. He had offered hundreds of burnt offerings there in the past. ⁵That night the Lord appeared to him in a dream and asked him, "What would you like me to give you?"⁶ Solomon answered, "You always showed great love for my father David, your servant, and he was good, loyal, and honest in his relation with you. And you have continued to show him your great and constant love by giving him a son who today rules in his place. ⁷ O Lord God, you have let me succeed my father as king, even though I am very young and don't know how to rule. ⁸ Here I am among the people you have chosen to be your own, a people who are so many that they cannot be counted. ⁹ So give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this, ¹¹ and so he said to him, "Because you have asked for the wisdom to rule justly, instead of long life for yourself or riches or the death of your enemies, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you more wisdom and understanding than anyone has ever had before or will ever have again. ¹³ I will also give you what you have not asked for: all your life you will have wealth and honor, more

than that of any other king. ¹⁴ And if you obey me and keep my laws and commands, as your father David did, I will give you a long life.”

One of the things that impacted my life in this story was that Solomon could have asked for anything but the only thing he asks for is the wisdom to lead God’s people.

The second thing that stood out to me was that God was so moved by King Solomon’s selfless request that He gave him over and above what he asked for. He also gave him wealth and honor, more than that of any other king.

The main point in this story, for me, was that of all the things I ask for wisdom is actually one of the most important things we can ask for! To be truly blessed we need to learn to live by wisdom. Wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit who is the source of all godly wisdom.

Proverbs 3:13-18 (ESV) Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, ¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. ¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Our prayer in every life situation should be to ask for wisdom! This is the foundation of doing what God is calling us to do. With wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit we can understand God and his will for our lives. This was part of Paul’s prayer for the church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 1:17 (ESV) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.

Paul prayed that the Lord would give the church the Spirit of wisdom and revelation of who God is. Not only the person of God but the will of God in their everyday lives. He was praying that the Lord would give the wisdom from the Holy Spirit to live in a way that brought Him glory.

We need wisdom from the Holy Spirit especially when it comes to loving God, serving people, and reaching your world.

How do I get this wisdom? Well, we do what Solomon and Paul and others in the scriptures did. We ask for it!

James tells us this in James 1:5 (ESV) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

We received the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God at salvation, so all we need to do is to ask for what’s already available to us. We can simply pray “Holy Spirit I ask for the ability to discern between what is right and wrong. The ability to live according to God’s word and will”.

The more we know God and His word the more we discern and do what He desires for our life.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV) The fear (deep respect) of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 1:7 (NASB) The fear (deep respect) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Okay so now we know how important that wisdom is to us, and how we gain wisdom... Let's talk about how it impacts our mission as believers.

Love God

Proverbs 2:6 (ESV) For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

The easiest way to love God is to spend time with him. That's how we hear what's coming from his mouth.

I say this a lot and anyone who has spent more than 10 minutes talking to me about God/Scripture has heard me say this. We ask what God wants us to do in our lives. What decisions to make, what paths to go down, etc.

But there are 66 books found right here in the bible that teach us what God's will is for our lives and gives us the wisdom to live for him! They teach us about God so that we can fall in love with him.

Falling in Love with God is the way to gain more and more wisdom, and wisdom leads us to loving God more. It's a cycle that brings us closer and closer to God.

So, gaining wisdom helps you love God more, which helps you make wise decisions. Ask God for wisdom, and read your bibles. Don't overcomplicate this!

Serve People

Remember Solomon's story? The one thing that moved God was his selfless request.

1 Kings 3:9 (GNT) "...give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?"

Serving people with a pure heart is a wise thing to do.

James 3:17 (ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Pure here means clean, or innocent. God's wisdom has no set agenda other than to make you think, talk, and act like Jesus. It's holy wisdom that teaches us to put others before ourselves which is exactly what Jesus did!

Mark 10:45 (ESV) For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus who sits at the right hand of God, who was there when the world was created, the Son of God himself thought about others, above himself... So why should we?

Whenever you're offended by someone... Pray for wisdom to handle the situation! There you will find peace, love, and unity.

Whenever you need to forgive someone, pray for wisdom to forgive! Also pray for wisdom to apologize and mend the relationship if you are the offender!

Wondering where or how you can serve in the church? Pray for wisdom to guide you to where the Lord is calling you!

All of these things will help you serve others and put them before yourself.

Reach your World

Colossians 4:5-6 (ESV) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Wisdom can guide the conversations that we have with the people in our lives.

Seeking wisdom will help us say the right words to share the gospel, to pray for people, to encourage and lift people up. The right actions to help your friends, family, and coworkers.

Conclusion: Because of what Jesus did on the cross we now have access to this wisdom!

How awesome is that? The king and creator of the universe came down and gave his life for you and me who are made from dust. Restored us to right standing with the Father, blessed us, gave us an inheritance and also gives us his wisdom?!?! I mean... WHO does that?!?!

By the way the bible said he did that for us "while we were still sinners"

So, if you've accepted Christ as your savior you can have wisdom from God to deal with every situation in your life. Loving God, serving people, reaching your world. All of it. Just pray for it. Ask for it. That's all you have to do.