



In the Company of Wisdom

~ Accessible and Attractive ~

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Introduction to series



- This is the first of a series on the subject of wisdom.
- The Bible has got a lot to say on the subject of wisdom and we will be well advised to take heed.
- There are several facets to the subject of wisdom. To mention a few:
 - There is the manifestation of the gift of wisdom. This is imparted wisdom.
 - Then there is the wisdom that is taught as one listens and pays attention to the Word of God.
 - There is the wisdom that comes by observation and learning.
 - There is also the wisdom that comes from listening to the Holy Spirit who dwells within.

Introduction to series ~ *continued*



- However, we must not forget that there are two sources of wisdom.
- Let us not forget that the devil can and does counterfeit almost all of the spiritual gifts.
- The Apostle James gives us a brutal contradistinction between the two types of wisdom.
- He tells us the sources of the two and their effects.
- At this point, lest I forget, may I say that if everyone who professes to know Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour followed what James says, we will have no problems whatsoever in Christendom.
- But we blatantly refuse to adhere to this because our importance comes when we cause trouble.

Objectives



- **My main aim in this introduction to the series is to put forward:**
 - **The attractiveness and**
 - **accessibility of wisdom**
- **Please consider Wisdom in the context of:**
 - **Daily living.**
 - **Interpersonal relationships.**
- **Wisdom that flows as one dwells and draws from the throne of grace.**
- **Nothing dramatic. Yet so powerful.**



**I will not attempt to
define Wisdom.
I will allow Wisdom to
speak for herself and
then you can attempt
to define Wisdom for
yourself.
However, I might
describe how she
works.**



- **Proverbs 4:1 - 14**

1 ¶ Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;

2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.

3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Sermon text ~ *continued*



- **Proverbs 4:1 - 14**

**6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you.**

**7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get
wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.**

**8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring
you honor, when you embrace her.**

**9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace;
A crown of glory she will deliver to you."**

**10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the
years of your life will be many.**



- **Proverbs 4:1 - 14**

11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.

**12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered,
And when you run, you will not stumble.**

13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.

14 ¶ Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

James on the two sources of Wisdom



- **James 3:13 - 18**

13 ¶ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.



James on the two sources of Wisdom



- **James 3:13 - 18**

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Demonic Wisdom



1. The advice of Ahitophel to Absalom.
2. The advice of Jonadab to Amnon
 - 2 Samuel 13:3 Contemporary English Version
Amnon had a friend named Jonadab, who was the son of David's brother Shimeah. Jonadab always knew how to get what he wanted,
3. The advice of Balaam to Balak.
 - Revelations 2: 14 New King James Version
But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

The accessibility of Wisdom ~ 1



- **Proverbs 8:1 - 4**

1 ¶ Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice?

2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet.

3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors:

4 "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.

The accessibility of Wisdom ~ 2



- **Psalm 51:6**

Surely You desire truth in the inmost being; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- **James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

The accessibility of Wisdom ~ 3



- If you read Job 28 from verses 1 to 27 you will be forgiven in thinking that wisdom is so far away from human beings.
- That is until you get to verse 28 then you will take a deep breath and say wow! Alleluia or praise the Lord
- Job 28:28
And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.'"

The simple wisdom of the lepers



- **2 Kings 7:3 - 4**

3 ¶ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die?"

4 "If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die."

- 1. They were pragmatic**
- 2. They played the percentages**
- 3. They choose the only way that offered possibilities.**



Other examples of simple wisdom



- **Genesis 13:8 New King James Version**

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.

9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

- **1 Corinthians 13:11 New King James Version**

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.



**Anyone in the kingdom
of God who seeks to
divide in order to
achieve their personal
ambitions are not
operating in godly
wisdom.**

**Unity is strength.
Division is weakness.**

The attractiveness of Wisdom ~ 1



- **What makes something attractive?**
 - It is the quality
 - It is the function
 - It is the attributes
 - It is what it produces
 - It is the company it keeps
 - It is its source
- **For what it is worth wisdom is almost always referred to in the feminine gender.**
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The attractiveness of Wisdom ~ 2



- **Proverbs 8:12 - 21**

12 ¶ "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.

15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.

16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth.

The attractiveness of Wisdom ~ 3



- **Proverbs 8:12 - 21**

17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.

20 I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice,

21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

Try this kind of Wisdom in 2022



- **Philippians 4:6 – 7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.