

Spiritual Growth Lessons from Christian Ambassadors

Lesson 38

Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?

By Sharon K. Griffiee

Job 28:12-20 (KJV) - *But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?*

Job 28:23, 28 (KJV) - *God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

There is useful insight to be gained from these few verses of scripture from the 28th chapter of the Book of Job. The question, “*Where shall wisdom be found?*” is a good springboard for our lesson. Though man knows many things for example, that precious metals and stones are rare and costly; he has trouble putting a price on the value of *wisdom*. He will go to great lengths to find the riches of the earth, no matter how difficult they are to attain. Through human intelligence and sheer determination people can accomplish amazing feats. But, left to themselves, they cannot find wisdom.

Why not? Wisdom is not mental. Try as we may, we can't read enough books to get wisdom. We can't attend enough classes, nor earn enough degrees to get wisdom. Just having a lot of knowledge doesn't mean we are wise. We still need to know *how* to use knowledge in every day life situations. Wisdom is a divine skill. It comes

from above as a gift from God and it is separate and apart from worldly learning. We can receive wisdom through our personal relationship and experiences with God. As we learn to depend on God's grace, His divine wisdom is available to help us in any situation we may encounter. A wise person knows what to do and when to do it; when to talk and when not to talk; when to act and when to wait.

Discovering Divine Wisdom

Job 28:28 (KJV) - *And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

If divine wisdom is *fear of the Lord*, it is to our benefit to find out what that means. To fear the Lord is to reverence, to respect, to honor the Lord and His people and all His workings among the children of men. The Psalmist shares more,

Psalm 111:10 (KJV) - *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever.*

We can't even *begin* living in divine wisdom until we first learn to respect God. If we don't respect God for *who He is*, the only true God, we will be lacking in the understanding needed to follow His commandments. Looking to Isaiah we see how the wise carry out His commandments.

Isaiah 43:10-11 (Amplified Bible) - *You are My witnesses, says the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know Me, believe Me and remain steadfast to Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no Savior.*

These verses of scripture speak of His *witnesses* and *servants* as having the same divine purpose. They believed in, obeyed, and worshiped the one true God. Because of this, they could personally

declare before the surrounding nations of idol worshipers, what God *alone* had done in their lives. The pertinent message? Only the Lord can forgive sins and restore lives. Besides Him there is no Savior. This is *wisdom!* The Lord existed before any god was made with human hands and He will continue to exist long after the last idol perishes. Respecting God by departing from idols [evil] is *understanding*.

Many of the problems we encounter in life are self-inflicted (**Proverbs 19:3**). They are brought on by our lack of understanding of God's ways and failure to remain steadfast in accomplishing His purposes. It is common to hear people say with a hint of resentment, "*I'm just waiting on God to move in my life, but I've been told over and over again that God has His own timing.*"

If we take into consideration God's ways, more often than not, God is the one who is waiting on us to act on [obey] what He has already told us. While we wait for God to give us step two or step three, God is still waiting on us to take step one. Consequently, the more we resist divine wisdom, the longer the process will take. If we are to face reality, God is not the one messing up the timing – we are!

Hebrews 10:36 (KJV) - *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

Our impatience, wanting to make things happen in our own timing, actually drives us further away from doing God's will. And so we try one thing after another to speed things up, to no avail. Someone may have prophesied a word over us years ago, and the desire to re-capture that *feeling* is strong. The problem is, we can't live off of our feelings. Feelings are unreliable. Emotional highs soon fade in the heat of the battle. Just *hearing* an uplifting prophecy doesn't accomplish God's purpose in our life. The prophetic message needs to be lived, beginning with **step one**, if it is truly a prophecy from God. If it is a word sent from God, it will only *confirm* what God has already said to us through His Spirit.

John 16:13 (KJV) – "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...*"

What has God's Spirit told you to do that you have been putting off? Forgive someone you've been holding a grudge against? Pray for your enemies? Break silence by telling the truth?

If we want God's wisdom on a daily basis, our goal should never be to wait for some future prophecy. Our goal should be to *live daily by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*. This is the crucial lesson Jesus taught us in **Matthew 4:4**, when he was tempted by Satan to turn the stones into bread. We can't live off of what *feels* good today or else we will miss the blessing of tomorrow. Whether God's wisdom feels good or bad is not the issue. We can't ignore God's wisdom and expect to receive His best in the end.

There is a condition placed on the promises of God. That condition, from Hebrews, is - "*after you have done the will of God.*" We can waste a lot of time and energy fighting God, trying to convince Him to do *our* will. And we'll wind up out in the cold. Why? God's wisdom is reserved for those who *fear the Lord*. **Psalms 111:10**.

How many are willing to pay the price of a disciplined life, in order to receive the wisdom from above? If our impatience persists, we need to get real with ourselves; *is it really God's will that I want to accomplish, or is it my own?* If it is my own purpose I want to accomplish, I will quickly tire of listening to God. I will push Him and everyone else He sends away. On the other hand, if it is God's purpose I want for my life, I *will* listen to His wisdom, endure any hardship and obtain the promised blessing.

There will be times in everyone's life, when surrounding circumstances seem impossible to overcome. It is only natural during those times to overestimate the severity of our trials. That is because we are looking at things from our own perspective. However, when we trust God to show us how things really are, suddenly things are not as bad as they first seemed.

I've been ministering to prison inmates for fifteen years and I still remember the first time an inmate threatened me. Why did he threaten me? The Word of God by its very nature exposes sin. When I obeyed God and confronted him with the Word (**Hebrews 4:12-13**), he got angry and threatened me. He wanted to hang onto the sin that I exposed to him. Of course, his threat didn't *feel* good, so I went to the Lord and asked for His wisdom on how to handle the situation. While my flesh was saying, *who needs this?* God was saying, *there are souls to be reached!*

God did not want me to stop ministering to those inmates who were sincerely seeking the Lord. In His Fatherly compassion and concern for prison inmates who were responding, He spoke the following scripture into my spirit as counsel,

Galatians 6:9 (KJV) - *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

I got the message loud and clear - thank you Father! I continued praying about the matter over the next few days, and God generously shared the exact details on what to do next, as well as what not to do. The last thing God wanted me to do was to grow weary, faint, and get out of prison ministry. *There were souls to be reached!* He didn't need me bailing out on Him. If I was to follow God's plan for my life, it was absolutely necessary that I follow step one, then step two, etc. exactly as God laid them out. With God's wisdom and strength backing me, everything worked out according to God's plan. The inmate's threats stopped, God saw to it that they did. I have continued ministering as an ambassador for Christ, in spite of occasional threats from other inmates over the years.

Proverbs 11:30 (Amplified Bible) - *The fruit of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise captures human lives [for God, as a fisher of men—he gathers and receives them for eternity]*

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Questions for personal or group study:

1) Though man knows the value of precious metals and stones, why does he have such a hard time putting a price on the value of wisdom?

See: Job 28:18-19

2) In the lesson, the statement is made, "*Just having a lot of knowledge doesn't mean we are wise.*" What more is needed to be wise?

3) If divine wisdom does not come from reading books, attending classes, or earning degrees, where does divine wisdom come from? **See:**

James 3:17

4) What must we do before we can even *begin* to live in divine wisdom? **See: Psalm 111:10**

5) In **Isaiah 43:10-11**, we learn that the Lord's witnesses and servants have the same divine purpose. Describe their common purpose and how they were able to carry that purpose out before the nations.

6) So many of the problems we encounter in life are self-inflicted. How do we bring these problems on ourselves? **See: Proverbs 19:3**

7) Do you find yourself waiting for God to give you the 2nd and 3rd steps *before* you will begin to act on the 1st step that He has already given you? What are you going to do about it?

8) Why is it important to God that you respond to the *first* instruction He gives you, before He gives you more? **See: Proverbs 3:5-7; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 10:36**

9) When an inmate threatened me, God counseled me through scripture, not to become weary in well doing. Describe the depth of our Heavenly Father's compassion and concern for the souls of prison inmates.

