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Wisdom Pt 4 Wisdom from above– Fear God!

This is our fourth and final study on wisdom. In our previous teaching we established three points– (i) wisdom from above is full of mercy and good fruits, (ii) wisdom from above is without partiality, and (iii) wisdom from above is without hypocrisy. In this study we cover three points –(i) The beginning of wisdom [from above] – fear the LORD, (ii) the instruction of wisdom [from above] – fear God, and (iii) the understanding of wisdom [from above] is to depart from evil.

More detail from the scriptures on our three points –

1. The **beginning of wisdom** [from above]– Fear the LORD

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (Prov 9:10). See also Ps.111:10

Therefore, the starting point to know wisdom [from above]– is to fear the LORD!

The fear of the LORD is also the beginning of knowledge– Prov.1: 7– “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”.

The lost cannot know God by their own wisdom, but by the foolishness of preaching “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor.1: 21).

2. The **instruction of wisdom** [from above]– Fear God

“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom...” (Prov.15: 33).

Hence, when you are instructed in wisdom from above– you will learn to fear God!

A wise man will hear, increase in learning and attain to wise counsels when he knows wisdom and instruction, and receives the instruction of wisdom

[2] To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

[3] To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

[5] A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels (Prov.1: 2, 3, 5).

Whereas a fool will despise wisdom and instruction– Prov.1: 7–“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction”.

3. The **understanding of wisdom** [from above] is to depart from evil

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

Therefore, when you understand wisdom you will depart from evil. Which is logical– because it is– “by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil” (Prov 16:6).

They that have good understanding are those that DO His commandments

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever” (Ps.111: 10).

Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ– Isaiah said– the spirit of the LORD will rest upon Him, as will, the spirit of wisdom and understanding & of **the FEAR of the LORD**–

[1] And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

[2] And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding...the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (Is. 11: 1, 2).

And the Lord Jesus was without sin (Heb.4: 15) so it should not surprise to us that He had a spirit- of the fear of the Lord, resting upon Him.

Illustration

Usually applied to those who refuse to give up smoking- the phrase- "Yeh, but I only have one vice left"- carries with it the sentiment of absolute refusal to give up what we lust after! With that picture in our mind I suggest that the problem with a minister of God who purposes in his heart to- NOT depart from his sin, or accept his sin as good, or Justify his sin to himself, and others, and revel in his iniquity: they have NO wisdom from above. Therefore, they have NO ability to discern the LORD's will (instruction in their daily walk).

Questions of the scriptures

- i) Why would a person who refuses to admit their sin as wickedness, or refuses to repent from their iniquity- be **unable** to discern wisdom from above?
- ii) Is not fearing God only an OT doctrine that does not apply to the church age?
- iii) What are the consequences of NOT fearing God?

Answers from the scriptures

i) We are unable to discern wisdom from above when we refuse to turn from our sin- because the beginning, the starting point of wisdom is to FEAR GOD!

ii) The commandment to fear God is also taught in the NT. Both Peter and Paul.

a) In the early church- Peter encountered Cornelius- who feared God
"And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God..."
(Acts 10: 22). See also Acts 10: 2, 9: 31).

b) In the early church- Paul spoke to his Jewish audience and **those that fear God**

[16] Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

[26] Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. (Acts 13: 16, 26).

c) In Paul's letters to the body of Christ - he encouraged us to fear God

"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God" (Col.3: 22).

d) In Peter's first letter he spoke about- love the brethren, and fear God

"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Pet.2: 17).

iii) The consequences of NOT fearing God in your heart-

a) You will have NO wisdom from above. And if you turn to- 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". And then you ask God for wisdom, there will be a deafening silence.

b) You will NOT be a vessel unto honour - meet for the master's use.

If you discern the LORD calling you to participate in the ministry- the voice will either be the work of Satan or your own fleshly lusts which have been heightened as a result of the fall-out of the devil's attacks (see teaching Part 1 of this topic).

If you truly desire, in your heart to hear and discern the will of the Lord, receive wisdom from above in your daily walk, then begin by fearing God, and you will understand wisdom. You will know when you do: it will be outworked when you depart from iniquity. That is wisdom from above- fear God!