

THURSDAY AUGUST 5

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

James 3:17

Wisdom and understanding are needed in every aspect of our lives. The dictionary defines wisdom as the right use or exercise of knowledge. When we lack wisdom or don't use good wisdom, we will reap the consequences. The Bible refers to such individuals as foolish.

The book of Proverbs is full of godly wisdom and encourages us to seek it for it is life and will bring success. In every area of our daily lives we should desire and apply godly wisdom. "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6)

I'm sure I'm not alone in the fact that there have been instances in my life when decisions were needing to be made and the feeling of not knowing what would be the best and wisest...the choice of godly wisdom. For the follower of Christ, it can bring peace to know we serve a God Who is all wisdom and delights to give what we need...Who gives to all generously and without criticizing (James 1:5). By seeking God's wisdom and applying it to our daily lives, the fruit of His wisdom will be evident.

James tells us the characteristics of God's wisdom so we can use these qualities to test and see if the fruit coming from us is of His nature and character. There are 8 characteristics of God's wisdom which James speaks of which will be evident in our choices.

1. It is pure because it comes from a holy God. It will not be half-good and half bad. It is not mixed with anything else.
2. God's wisdom is peaceable. It will be non-violent rather than lashing out in anyway. "Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness - without it no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14 HCSB)
3. God's wisdom will be gentle. The word gentle (epieikes) comes from eikos which means reasonable, fair, equitable. It will be open to reason.
4. Godly wisdom will not be stubborn or obstinate (easy to be entreated).
5. Godly wisdom will be full of mercy...always forgiving and performing acts of kindness.
6. The wisdom from God will be full of good fruits...the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23
7. There will be no hint of partiality in godly wisdom. There is no distinction in the treatment of others (see James 2:1-10).
8. Godly wisdom will be open, honest, genuine, and true (without hypocrisy). It will be genuine in every respect. "Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good." (Romans 12:9 HCSB)

There is no part of our life which should fall short of revealing God's nature and His wisdom operating in our lives. It should always be near the top in pursuing that. Once again, His promise is when we see there is lack and need, He is generous to give when we seek and ask. We read throughout His Word from beginning to end He did just that and He is the same now as then to do that for each of us today. Our encouragement to you today is to be a seeker of His wisdom.