

What's Under the Tree? Week 2

Pastor Peter Smith

'Wisdom' 12-4-16

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." -James 1:5, NIV

As Christmas fast approaches, our expectation of a wonderful family time is in our thoughts and minds. Yet the trials that we face don't take a vacation, do they?! What does God say about His gift of wisdom? How does He want to give into our lives right now, this year, an ability to be blessed as we celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth? Let's look at God's gift of Wisdom today.

James 1:2-8

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

How does God give Wisdom?

1. **Generously** and
 - Cheese at Olive Garden
 - Not just quantity but the condition of it: as often as we need it, tailored to our situation (raising kids, developing a budget at work, which job offer to accept)
2. Without finding **fault** (**Notice God's character and love**)

("Sorry, God, I haven't prayed in awhile"...given...been nice...

God doesn't give wisdom based on merit / achievement / performance!

He gives according to His nature, His love)

No groveling, but confidently asking our Dad, our Papa, to help us.
His unconditional love shines through here.

"I know you messed up, but you are my son or daughter! I will help you out."

Difference between Wisdom and Knowledge

Knowledge is knowing the facts

Wisdom is knowing what to do (with that info)

Parents, you've seen your kids do really stupid stuff before, haven't you?! And you thought your kids *knew better!* They didn't have wisdom!

- Some people are 'booksmart but not street smart' or intellectual vs. practical
- Sometimes, not all the time, the older we get the wiser we become!
- It depends on our heart, our way of life

"The wisdom of a sensible person guides his way of life, but the stupidity of fools misleads them." -Proverbs 14:8, GW

"Correction and punishment make children wise, but those left alone will disgrace their mother." -Proverbs 29:15, NCV

"Wisdom begins with respect for the LORD, and understanding begins with knowing the Holy One." -Proverbs 9:10, NCV

- Real wisdom starts with faith in God. How is your relationship today? Do you have one?!

Finding God's Wisdom for our Trials

1. I need to ask Him for it
2. I need to expect it will come (without doubting)
How long are you willing to wait for God's answer? His solution?
3. I need to Act on what He gives me (faith in action)
 - At some point, we have to apply, decide, judge, accept an offer
 - Try a 'Pros vs. Cons' worksheet. If you have more Pros for your situation than cons, then you confidently step forth in that direction

Remember, Wisdom for today may not be what is needed tomorrow!

It's a matter of trust: God will never short change us, never run out of what we need

"My God shall supply *all* your need, according to His riches in Christ in glory!"

What is your trial today? Your need? Where do you need wisdom this week?

- Wisdom comes during our trials so we know how to respond, how to act
- Ask: God, do you want me to endure this trial to develop my faith? Or should I say to this mountain 'BE GONE!'?
- Ask God for wisdom...He will give it to you

(not on screen) What are you praying for?

God answers godly-centered prayers!

Solomon Prays for Wisdom

In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his

place... Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?" God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you." -2 Chronicles 1:7-13, ESV

- And the gift God gives to us is some of the wisdom that he imparted to Solomon, who asked with a pure heart, the Book of Proverbs.

This week:

I will pursue God's Wisdom for my life by reading Proverbs daily into the New Year.

There's a link in your sermon notes:

Home Computer reading plan or You Version App on your phone.