

5. Understanding the Source of Godly Wisdom

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our children learn how to help others so that the faith of others will stand in the power of God and not be based on human wisdom. In order to equip our physical and spiritual children to help the faith of others stand in the power of God, we have to help them learn to minister to others using the Word of God instead of sharing their own opinions. Today, we are going to build on that topic to help our children grow in their understanding of the source of godly wisdom. This will help them learn to work in the power of the Holy Spirit as they share the Word of God with others.

Paul quotes from Isaiah 64:4 to help us understand the source of godly wisdom. That quotation in 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” We finished our last topic by seeing that we are to share the wisdom of God with others instead of our own opinions. In this verse, we see that we cannot receive godly wisdom through an earthly method. We cannot learn the wisdom of God by what we see. We cannot learn the wisdom of God by what we hear. In fact, we cannot even learn the wisdom of God by meditating in our heart on the things that we see and hear in the world around us.

In order for us to receive the wisdom of God that He has prepared for us, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 says, “But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” Here, we see that God reveals the wisdom of God to us through His Spirit. That is why it is only possible for Christians to receive the wisdom of God.

We see why God chooses to reveal His wisdom through the Holy Spirit. We see that the Holy Spirit searches all things including the deep things of God. The word that is translated “revealed” means “*to make known something that was previously unknown*.” God chose to reveal His truth to us through the Holy Spirit. Christ said in John 14:26, “‘But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.’” Here, we see that the Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us all things including the wisdom of God. Christ also promised that the Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance the things that Christ taught.

No other person can know what we are thinking in our human spirit. In the same way, no one can know and understand the things of God except the Spirit of God. That is why the teaching of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential both for us and for our physical and spiritual children. Without the Holy Spirit to teach our human spirit, we will never understand the wisdom of God. Some Christians have been taught very little about the Holy Spirit. As a result, they depend on themselves to try to understand and teach spiritual truth. John 15:26-27 says, “‘But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me

from the beginning.” Only as we depend on the Holy Spirit will we be effective in sharing the wisdom of God with others.

That is why we were given the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. 1 Corinthians 2:13-14 says, “These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” Just as Paul said about himself, we want to help our children learn to speak what the Holy Spirit teaches and not depend on their own wisdom. In order to teach our children how to speak what the Holy Spirit teaches, we also have to depend on the Holy Spirit so that we provide an example by speaking what the Holy Spirit speaks.

We see that the Holy Spirit teaches us by comparing spiritual things with spiritual. We need to pray both for ourselves and for our physical and spiritual children the same prayer that Paul prayed in Colossians 1:9-12 where we read, “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” We see that we can only be filled with the knowledge of the will of God as He gives us spiritual wisdom and understanding. Spiritual wisdom helps us to understand the principles of the Word of God. Understanding helps us to apply those principles to our daily lives.

As we learn to understand the principles of the Word of God and learn to apply them to our daily lives, we learn to live a life that is worthy of the Lord. As we ask the Lord for strength, He gives us the strength to please Him in every way. The result is that the Lord will cause our lives to bear fruit in every good work. He will cause us to grow in our knowledge of God. This will happen because the Lord will strengthen us with His power. The Lord will also give us great patience and longsuffering as we grow in our obedience to His principles. As a result, we are able to give thanks with joy to the Father and look forward to our eternal inheritance. Our own growth also gives our children an example to follow as they grow in their lives. This shows us why it is so important to let the Holy Spirit help us learn to compare spiritual things with spiritual.

We also see that the natural man or person that is not a Christian does not receive the things of the Spirit of God. Ephesians 2:1 says, “And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Before we placed our faith in Christ, we were spiritually dead. That is why we could not understand spiritual truth. However, at the moment of salvation we received spiritual life and the Holy Spirit immediately began to help us understand spiritual truth. Since the person that is not a Christian has no spiritual life, it is impossible for that person to receive spiritual truth. That is why the things of the Spirit of God are foolishness to the person that is not a Christian. That is why a person that is not a Christian cannot understand spiritual truth. Spiritual truth can only be examined and understood with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In contrast, 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 says, “But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.” A person that is spiritual is a person that is yielding his or her human spirit to the Holy Spirit. That is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:1, “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.” Here, we see that these verses tell us that people have one of three different levels of spiritual life or lack of it. The natural person has no spiritual life and is spiritually dead. The carnal person has spiritual life but acts like a person that is not even a Christian because that person is very immature spiritually. The spiritual person is the person that is yielding his or her spirit to the Holy Spirit and is developing spiritual wisdom and understanding.

The person that is spiritual judges or examines all things. We help our children learn to examine all things by helping them learn to examine each thing that they think, hear or see by the Word of God. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” In these verses, we see how to help our children become spiritual people. We help them learn to examine each of their thoughts by the Word of God so that their thoughts more and more become the thoughts of God instead of human opinions. People who are not believers and lack spiritual life will not be able to examine and understand the nature of those who are spiritual people.

In contrast, as we help our children learn to become spiritual people, they are able to understand the mind of the Lord. The word that is translated “the mind” twice in verse 16 is used four times in 1 Corinthians 14 where it is translated “understanding”. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 says, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.” Then, 1 Corinthians 14:19 adds, “Yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.” We see that the reason spiritual people are able to understand the mind of the Lord is because the Lord gives spiritual understanding.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children develop spiritual understanding. These verses show us that then they will be able to pray with understanding, sing with understanding and teach with understanding. That spiritual understanding will help our children to serve the Lord with godly wisdom. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to develop godly wisdom as they yield to the Holy Spirit.