

=BIBLE PROMISES=

Lesson 6

Bible Promises About Wisdom

AIM: to teach my pupils about God's wisdom and to teach them that they need His wisdom.

POINT OF CONTACT: Discuss this with the class: Each one of you picture in your mind an ordinary day of your life. Start with the moment you awaken and end with the moment you climb back into bed. How many decisions do you make in the course of any day? We could go through the entire schedule of each person's day and see that during practically every hour there are many, many decisions to be made. What if one decision is a wrong decision? Think of the consequences.

INTRODUCTION: Young people need to know what to do with their lives. Parents need to know how to rear their children properly. People have to fulfill responsibilities, or they have to advise someone on the proper course of action or lead others on a work project. People need help in doing right, speaking right, and thinking right. Wisdom is needed. The wonderful promise which we will study this week is: "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. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord," James 1:5-7.

I. WHAT IS WISDOM?

1. The definition of wisdom. Wisdom is having knowledge and being able to use that knowledge properly. Wisdom is knowing how to act and what to say in any situation.
2. The value of wisdom, Proverbs 3:14-18.
 - 1) It is riches. The substance of it is better than silver. The profits of it are better than fine gold. It is more precious than rubies. It is worth more than all the things that anyone can want.
 - 2) It is longevity. A wise person has a longer life.
 - 3) It is honor as well as riches. Honor comes to a person as an accompaniment to wisdom.
 - 4) It is pleasant living. A wise person enjoys life. Wisdom brings along life eternal; she is a tree of life. Wisdom is happiness. It is like honey, Proverbs 24:13, 14.
 - 5) It is peace. Wisdom brings about a tranquil atmosphere.
 - 6) It is all-important. Proverbs 4:7 says that wisdom is the "principal thing."

II. WHO IS THE PROVIDER OR THE SOURCE OF WISDOM?

1. Jesus is. He is made wisdom to us, I Corinthians 1:30. He existed before anything was created; He is from the beginning. (Read Proverbs 8:22 through Proverbs 19; John 1:1-14.) He knows everything.
2. Jesus is a liberal giver. He is the only source of good and perfect gifts, James 1:17.
3. Jesus never changes, James 1:17c. The promise of James 1:5, therefore, will never be withdrawn.

III. HOW IS WISDOM OBTAINED?

1. By trusting Jesus as Saviour. Proverbs 9:10 and 15:33 instruct us that wisdom begins with the person who fears the Lord. Also, we know that this promise is written to those who are saved, for they are called "brethren" in James 1:1-3.
2. By asking for it.
 - 1) Every Christian has only the beginning of wisdom. He has understanding because he has realized his need of the Saviour and has accepted Him as his own personal Saviour, Proverbs 10:13; 17:24.
 - 2) The lack of wisdom must be recognized. James says, "If any of you lack wisdom..." James 1:5.
 - 3) The Christian must ask for it. "...Let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not..." James 1:6, 7. Ask, believing God's promise.
 - 4) God will give wisdom to him who asks for it. "...It shall be given him." It cannot be bought, Proverbs 17:16. It is a matter of the heart and not of business. On the other hand, do not "sell out" to anyone or anything which would deprive you of wisdom, Proverbs 23:23. (For a

perfect example of someone asking for wisdom, receiving wisdom, and then becoming most unwise, read these Scriptures about Solomon: I Kings 2:3; 3:1-28; 4:29-34; 10:23; 11:1-13.)

3. By obeying those who have wisdom. Children receive wisdom from parents who set rules that would keep their children from wrong and who punish them for wrong which they have done, Proverbs 29:15, 17.

IV. WHAT IS THE BEHAVIOUR OF A WISE PERSON?

1. A wise person will love the person who rebukes him, Proverbs 9:8. (On the other hand, a scorner will hate the person who reproves him.)
2. A wise person will become even more wise after being given instruction. A wise person will listen to instruction and follow it, Proverbs 9:9.
3. A wise person is not proud; a lowly man possesses wisdom, Proverbs 11:2.
4. A wise person seeks to be well-advised, Proverbs 13:10. He seeks counsel of many, Proverbs 1:5; 11:14; 12:15. He yields to the Lord's leadership, Isaiah 11:2; Jeremiah 32:19.
5. A wise person learns what he should know, Proverbs 1:5, 7; 14:6.
6. A wise person does not take part in strife and contention and bitter envy, James 3:13-18.
7. A wise person is happy, Proverbs 3:13; 16:20.
8. A wise person is directed by the Lord, Proverbs 3:5, 6.
9. A wise person finds himself walking safely in the way which he travels, Proverbs 3:23. His safety is physical as well as spiritual and practical. God safely keeps the wise person within His will. The wise person is secure.
10. A wise person says and does the right things. He becomes prudent—his wisdom is transferred to his actions and the words which he speaks, Proverbs 14:8; 16:20, 21, 23.

V. HOW SHOULD THE WISE REACT TO THEIR GIFT OF WISDOM? Jeremiah 9:23, 24.

1. They should glory in the fact that they know God.
2. They should not glory in their wisdom.

VI. HOW DOES GOD DEAL WITH THE WORLDLY WISE? (There are those who say that they are wise and who are recognized by the world as being wise but who are not wise. They are only worldly wise. See I Corinthians 1:18-31.)

1. He mixes them up. They cannot think straight. The conclusions which they draw as a result of their thinking are wrong; therefore, the counsel of the unsaved person cannot be good counsel.
2. He puts them to shame.
3. He deprives them of all honor. They have no grounds for boasting.

CONCLUSION: In Psalm 90 the Psalmist considers God and the brevity of man's life. He then decides that it is important for us to apply our hearts unto wisdom. We need to be applying constantly this great promise of James 1:5 to our lives; we constantly need fresh supplies of wisdom. We need to remember: "To every practical problem of life, the answer is the wisdom of God." Read Psalm 90:12.