

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

### WISDOM FROM GOD

James 3:13, 17-18 “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom . . . wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

A dictionary says that wisdom includes good judgement, soundness of actions and good decisions. St. Paul provides a good description of what wisdom looks like, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Solomon wrote, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7)

As you meditate upon what God’s word says about wisdom, think also on these words from 1 Corinthians 2:6-8, “Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” Wisdom is one of the gifts referred to by James in 1:7, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth. . .” It is God’s word of truth that enlightens you, makes you wise not only for your salvation (Romans 1:16) but also in regard to living your daily life journey in accord with God’s will and for your own good.

God reveals His specific will to you through His Word. God’s Word tells you what to do and what not to do. He exhorts you to consume (eat) His Word so that it actually becomes a part of your heart and soul. “Thy words were found and I ate

them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart..." (Jeremiah 15:16)

Prayer: O Lord, grant me Your wisdom that I not be wise in the ways of the world but in the knowledge of You and Your will even to life everlasting. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.  
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