



27 Jan – 2 Feb, 2019

Wisdom

**‘Test all things; hold fast to what is good.
Abstain from every form of evil’ 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**

Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Pro 8:11-16)

- † Wisdom is to live God’s Word
- † Wisdom is to depart from evil
- † Wisdom is greater than rubies which is money
- † Fear of the Lord is foundational to Wisdom (Pro 9:10)

Discernment is Wisdom in action

- † Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about the Truth
- † The ability to think with discernment is synonymous with the ability to think biblically
- † It is seeing and evaluating all things from Christ’s perspective
- † Discernment is required for the believer. *‘Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world’ 1 Joh 4:1*

Discernment intersects the Christian life at every point

- † *‘For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them’ Eph 5:8-11*

Discernment is the key to living an uncompromising life (2 Chr 17)

- † The opposite of discernment is compromise and an ‘open-mindedness’ that tolerates everything -- including today’s popular blends of good and evil (Luk 12:54-57)
- † Compromise leads to own destruction just like a guy who could not decide what side he wanted to fight for during the Civil War. He put on the coat of the South and the trousers of the North. He got shot at from both sides!
- † In *Revelation 2: 12-17*, the sin of the church of Pergamos was its toleration of evil

Only by the Holy Spirit can we discern right from wrong (1 Cor 2:9-13)

- † The first step in discernment is knowing Who Christ is as a person
- † The second step is living Christ, the Way, by living WWJD
- † To do that, we need to deny ourselves and let the Holy Spirit work through us
- † The gift of discernment is to acquire the eyes of God and see the unseen
 - *'The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart' (1 Sam 16: 7)*
 - *'So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see' (2Kin 6:16,17a)*

Discernment leads to strength, success and freedom (Luk 24:13-35)

- † Our own plans, if not hand in hand with the Lord, are a hindrance to discernment (v 21)
- † When the disciples met Christ in person, they could discern
- † Their spiritual eyes were opened
- † They saw the Joy that was already residing in their heart (v 31,32)
- † They became ambassadors of Christ and went directly to work

Verse to memorize

'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding' Proverbs 9:10

Legend

 refers to mandatory readings

References

1. *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for all Walks of Life*, by Vassilios Papavassiliou, (Indiana, Ancient Faith Publishing, 2013), Kindle Edition
2. *Ascending the Heights: A Layman's Guide to the Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by Father John Mack, (California: Conciliar Press, 1999)
3. *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by John Climacus, (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians

12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Orthodox Church in prayer

<p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس إسمك ليأت ملكوتك ليتك مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض خبزنا الجوهري أعطنا اليوم وأترك لنا ما علينا كما نترك نحن لمن لنا عليه ولا ندخلنا في تجربة لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان أؤمن بإله واحد أب ضابط الكل خالق السماء والأرض كل ما يرى وما لا يرى ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق مساو للأب في الجوهر الذي به كان كل شيء الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء وتأس وصليب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي وتألم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث على ما في الكتب وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب وأيضاً يأتي بمجد ليدين الأحياء والأموات الذي لا فناء لمملكه وبالروح القدس الرب المحيي المُنْتَبِق من الأب الذي هو مع الأب والابن مسجود له ومُجَد النَّاطِق بالأنبياء وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية وأعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
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