



3 – 9 Feb, 2019

Wisdom, part 2

**'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,
Who gives to all liberally and without reproach,
and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith,
with no doubting, for he who doubts
is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind**

James 1:5-6

Discernment does not stop at knowing right from wrong, it is perceiving God's will

- † Whatever you do, however you live, let it be in accordance with the will of God**
- † The first step to discerning whether something is in accordance with God's will is our own conscience: Let our God-directed conscience be our aim and rule in everything**
- † Saint John Climacus uses the term 'God-directed conscience'. Even our conscience may not be in accordance with God's will, and so the conscience must be purified if it is to be a true guide for our spiritual life**

Those who wish to discover the will of God must begin by mortifying their own will

- † The will of God is not dependent on human impulses. The more detached we are from the things which feed the flesh and its desires, and the more attached we are to the things that feed our soul such as prayer and fasting, the more we are able to discern the will of God in our lives**
- † 'In Gethsemane the holiest of all petitioners prayed three times that a certain cup might pass from Him. It did not' C S Lewis (*Mat 26:36-46*)**
- † 'Good is not always God's will, but God's will is always good' Watchman Nee**

The Creator knows my needs more than I do

- † *'Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, 'He did not make me? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, He has no understanding?' Isaiah 29:16***

Wisdom is seeking God's calling for me in my life (*Mar 10:17-31; Jer 29:11*)

- † The rich man could not accept God's great and unique plan for him**
- † He saw it as a threat and refused it**

- † His discernment in living the ten commandments lacked wisdom and was not enough for him to reach salvation

King Solomon

- † King Solomon asks God for wisdom solely. God gave it to him abundantly and gave him wealth, what he did not ask for (*1Kin 3:1-15; 2 Chr 1:10-12*)
 - Not just wisdom for the sake of being wise; wisdom to do what God had called him to do
- † Solomon was already wise enough to realize he was nowhere near wise enough. He had watched his father struggle in many ways and had come to the conclusion that the job was too much for a man; it required the power, might, and wisdom of God
- † Solomon did not ask to be great or powerful; he just knew he needed God's equipping to serve. And we see plainly the result of God's blessing in *1 Kings 3:13*, '*And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor*' and *1 Kings 4:29*: '*And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore*'
- † King Solomon's strength was his discernment (*1Kin 3:16-28*)
- † But King Solomon did not hold on to the end (*Mat 24:13*)
 - He built the Temple to God and he compromised by building temples to false gods
 - He married many wives

How to receive wisdom

- † God gave Solomon the opportunity to request wisdom when He said, 'Ask!'
- † Jesus tells believers today to ask God for good gifts: '*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened*' (*Mat 7:7, 8*)

There is a difference between having wisdom and acting upon it

- † Solomon received a wise and understanding heart from God, but it was up to Solomon to apply that wisdom to all areas of his life
- † Solomon was obviously wise in governing the nation, but he was foolish in running his household
- † Wisdom is both the ability to discern what is best and the strength to act upon that knowledge. As we see in *1 Kings 11:6*: '*Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David*'

Basic teachings

The Ten Commandments of love are:

1. You shall not worship any god other than Me
2. You shall not make any idols of any type
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain

4. Remember to keep the Sabbath Holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
10. You shall not covet

Verse to memorize

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' Jeremiah 29:11

Legend

 refers to mandatory readings

References

1. *Ascending the Heights: A Layman's Guide to the Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by Father John Mack, (California: Conciliar Press, 1999)
2. *Life Application Study Bible KJV* (Tyndale House Publishers, Illinois, 2007), Kindle Edition
3. *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by John Climacus, (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)
4. *The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World*, (For the Old Testament text copyright of St Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology, 2008 and for the New Testament text the NKJV, copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982), Kindle Edition, 2008
5. *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for all Walks of Life*, by Vassilios Papavassiliou, (Indiana, Ancient Faith Publishing, 2013), Kindle Edition

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 Maronite Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد
آب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الآب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور،
إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للآب 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
وصار إنساناً
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث
كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الله الآب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لمملكه
ونؤمن بالروح القدس،
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الآب والابن،
الذي هو مع الآب والابن
يُسجد له ويُمجّد،
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدّسة، رسولية
ونعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة في الدهر الآتي
أمين