

A Spirit Led Life

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons (and daughters) of God.” Romans 8: 14

October 21, 2024



by Sue Fuqua

This Bible study will explore “discernment” of earthly wisdom and the wisdom that comes from above; heavenly wisdom. This study is based on the word of God from James epistle, the brother of Jesus. We will also quote St. Paul in his letters to the Philippians, to the Galatians, and to the Ephesians.

Discernment:

Two Kinds of Wisdom

Earthly Wisdom

¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (James 4: 14 – 16)

Characteristics of Earthly Wisdom:

- 1) Envy, self-seeking, boastful thinking, lying, and sensual behavior all cause confusion.
- 2) What is earthly or human is demonically inspired.

Note: Envy, self-seeking, confusion, every type of evil find their root in selfishness. “I envy or feel jealousy because I want to be liked more than the one I envy!” We are to put to death these

things of the fallen nature (selfishness) so that these things do not block the flow of heavenly wisdom. Confusion causes doubt and indecision about even the simplest issues in life. These three — envy, selfishness and confusion — lead to all kinds of evil.

Heavenly Wisdom

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Characteristics of Wisdom that comes from above:

is pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, merciful, impartial, sincere which leads to righteousness.

Note: **God's wisdom in our lives will defeat evil**, because it is pure, desires and seeks peace, is gentle in interactions with others, willing to yield in areas of opinion, loves to show mercy toward others, produces fruit for God's kingdom, and hates nothing but sin. Holy Spirit leads us with the wisdom from above. (See verse below). Good fruit (v 18) is produced by peacefully abiding by God's will.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." John 14: 15 -17

Holy Spirit will guide us into obedience.

Holy Spirit will guide us into obedience. Holy Spirit gives us the mind of Christ. A follower of Jesus is empowered to live the life God intended for them. They love His presence and obey the unction and guidance of the Holy Spirit as He leads them to all truth.

Isaiah 11: 2 -3

1. Name the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11:2-3

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that his works are done* in the meekness of wisdom. (James 3: 13)

How do you get heavenly wisdom?

1. The Fear of God (honoring God) is the beginning of wisdom. What does Solomon tell us about wisdom? (Proverbs 9:10)

- Honor Jesus/obey His commandments

2. Pray for Wisdom (James 1: 5 -8)

Underline or highlight what stands out for you in these verses:

James 1:5-8 gives God's invitation, "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/HER. 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. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

3. Desire Wisdom:

What do these verses tell us about desiring wisdom? (Proverbs 2: 4, 19:8 ,16:16, 8:32-35)

- Seek to grow in Wisdom: being filled/being led by Holy Spirit, listen obey... don't quench and don't grieve.

4. "**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

- Yes, we can disappoint, grieve, or sadden God the Holy Spirit. We need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He does His transformational work within us, by denying self and its earthly wisdom and obeying Him into a life of righteousness and holiness.

5. "**Do not quench the Spirit.** Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:19 -22)

- We do not want to resist the Holy Spirit's work in our lives but make room for him to manifest His supernatural gifts through us.

6. Study God's Word (Psalm 19:7), allowing Holy Spirit to transform your life by the renewal of your mind through the Word of God.

Read Philippians 4

In this letter to the church of Philippi, Paul highlights themes such as joy and glory. He also puts great emphasis on how a Christian's thinking—their attitude—affects the way they live out their

faith. Know that God provides for all our needs and that through prayer, we can become close to Him. Paul puts heavenly wisdom in different words in Philippians when he lists the things we need to actively think about or be preoccupied with.

“Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say rejoice.

Vs. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand, do not be anxious about anything.

Vs. 7 And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Vs. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Vs. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Prayer

Dear Father,

We rejoice in You always! Holy Spirit, please forgive us when we grieve you. Help us to follow Jesus today in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Help me be gentle, open to reason, slow to make negative judgments. We bring our thoughts and struggles before You in the light of Your presence to sift them discerning what is bad and putting it to death and what is good and embracing and living by it.

*“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are
sons (and daughters) of God.” Romans 8: 14*

Gal 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Continuing in verse 22, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such thing there is no law.

Physical Exercise Component:

15 minutes of exercise will put closure on your problem solving.

- The movement away from distractions of technology allows you to reflect and think in solitude. Think about how big God is. Worship him with your lips of praise.
- A problem that's been bothering you may be from holding onto an expectation/ideal you can't control. Let it go.
- Mindfulness of thoughts: Be an observer of your mind. Practicing watching your thoughts creates a space between thought and reaction. Apply wisdom and understanding. Review what you have learned.
- Are you working on a project? Allow yourself to get some perspective on the project, see what's important and work out some difficult problem with it.
- Give some thought to people that you love. Be empathetic to understand what they might be going through and pray how you can be compassionate and helpful.
- Observe and immerse yourself in the beauty of God's creation around you.
- Think about the good things: whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

