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Wisdom Listens and Obeys

It's been many decades since I gave my heart to Christ. My hair grays as I become the older man in my life story. I believe the saying is, "If I could just give my younger self the wisdom I've learned over the years." I think we wish we could go back in time and share things we've learned about life. Maybe some truths about God or things about finances or love. Mostly, I would probably share advice on what to focus on and what I need to quit worrying about. In thirty more years, I wonder what older me would want to tell me to quit worrying about today.

Wisdom is the source from which we can obtain all that we need in life. In the past, I would spend much time praying to God, asking for my needs to be met and for my dreams to come true, but now I live by a much better standard. I can't go back and share what I've learned with my younger self, but I can share it with you. Let's be seekers of God's wisdom because, in it, we will find all the answers to our needs.

In Proverbs 4:4-9 wisdom is referred to as a female to be respected. *"He also taught me and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."*

If I could share anything significant from my older age, it would be to pursue God and His wisdom. In my youth, I pursued anointing and ministry, and I could have accomplished so much more of His will if I had found His wisdom. Having His understanding will bring forth the Victories that so many people are chasing after.

One way to navigate through life is to learn from your mistakes. In fact, most people learn that way. However, there is a much easier way to learn in life, and that is from other people's mistakes. If I told my young son not to touch the hot stove because it would burn and cause pain, he then had two choices. He can listen to and trust my advice, test my opinion, and learn on his own. Most people have to experience the pain of mistakes personally before they choose not to do something. My son had to test my theory and learned not to touch a hot stove because of the burns and pain of doing so.

This is a simple definition of wisdom: listening to someone else's advice and doing it because you trust their wisdom over your own personal experience. My son could have chosen never to touch a hot stove and never experience the burn and the pain, but that would require being wise at a young age. Learning without the pain or punishment of our mistakes is available for all of God's children. James 1:5 says, *"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."* You can always trust God's wisdom as it is the key to all things, and He desires for us to have it.

In a dream, the Lord came to Solomon and said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” His response was to ask for a discerning heart to help him lead. *“And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.”* 1 Kings 4:29

It was this wisdom that helped him to become the wealthiest and greatest king of his time. There is no shortcut to the riches of this life for us, no quick answer, but there is a path from God where you will walk in all He has for you. God desires you to be filled with His knowledge and understanding; this is the answer to your future success.

In a world of social media and thirty-second video clips, we can learn the most valuable lesson from Solomon and what the Lord told him of his request for wisdom in 1 Kings 3:11-13, *“Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.”*

I want to encourage you today to change your future by growing in wisdom and not be like many Christians in this modern world. Let’s not be like those who might go around the mountain again and again but never see the promises come to pass. The Bible itself is the foundation of God’s wisdom, and it can get into you by assimilating it. Spending time praying in tongues will allow the mysteries of God to be deposited into your spiritual man. You will build a foundation of truth that will protect and guide you into all the questions you will ever face.

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