

Chapter 46

More Wisdom from Paul

BIBLE

A vision appeared to Paul in the night. There was a man of Macedonia standing, begging him, and saying, “Come over into Macedonia and help us.”¹

By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.² When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.³

He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all,⁴ and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word was with authority.⁵

“All the saints greet you.⁶ These words, which I command you this day, shall be on your heart.⁷ And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.⁸

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations.⁹ For you need endurance so that, having done the will of God, you may receive the promise.¹⁰

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 16:9** Paul: “Life is an energy field, a bunch of molecules. And these particular molecules formed to make these four guys, [the Beatles] ... I have to think that was something metaphysical.

Something alchemic. Something that must be thought of as magic.”

² **Hebrews 11:27** With faith in our Creator, we can endure the hardships that come our way.

³ **Acts 11:23**

⁴ **Luke 4:15**

⁵ **Luke 4:32**

⁶ **2 Corinthians 13:13**

⁷ **Deuteronomy 6:6**

⁸ **Deuteronomy 6:7** The process of aligning ourselves with our true nature must take priority. We keep our focus on God when we talk, when we sit, when we walk, when we lie down, and when we rise up.

⁹ **James 1:2** “When you find yourself in the thick of it, help yourself to a bit of what is all around you,” is Paul’s advice in “Martha My Dear.”

¹⁰ **Hebrews 10:36** “Hold your head up,” Paul recommends in “Martha My Dear.” This is good advice, literally. Our body posture and our physical gestures influence the way we think and feel.

“Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.”¹¹

“Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then am I strong.”¹²

“Be of the same mind one toward another. Don't set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Don't be wise in your own conceits.”¹³
See how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity!¹⁴

“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath. Don't fret, it leads only to evil doing.”¹⁵
Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord.”¹⁶

¹¹ **Hebrews 11:6** Rob Brezsny: “All of creation is conspiring to shower us with blessings. Life is crazily in love with us- brazenly and innocently in love with us... The Universe always gives us exactly what we need- exactly when we need it.”

¹² **2 Corinthians 12:10** In “Obladi Oblada,” Paul suggests that we reframe the challenges that we face in life; “Obladi oblada” is an African tribal expression that means “oh well, life goes on!”

¹³ **Romans 12:16** “Pride can hurt you too,” John and Paul remind us in “She Loves You.”

¹⁴ **Psalm 133:1** In “All Together Now,” Paul urges us to live together in unity as part of a colorful tapestry: “Black, white, green, red...all together now.”

Lynne McTaggart: “Cooperation, even sacrifice, is intrinsic to the biological makeup of all living things...we exist in a dynamic relationship of connection and constant influence .”

¹⁵ **Psalm 37:8** In “Getting Better” Paul, with John, is learning how to control his anger: “Man I was mean but I'm changing my scene and I'm doing the best that I can.”

¹⁶ **Hebrews 12:14** If we are not at peace, we will be unable to “see” the Lord.

“The beginning of strife is like breaching a dam, therefore stop contention before quarreling breaks out.¹⁷ Be angry, and don't sin. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.¹⁸

“In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor preferring one another;¹⁹ not lagging in diligence; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;²⁰ rejoicing in hope; enduring in troubles; continuing steadfastly in prayer.²¹

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’²²

“But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you;²³ that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.²⁴

“The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: Yahweh gives sight to the eyes of both.²⁵ He changes the times and the seasons; he removes kings, and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to those who have understanding.²⁶

“Yahweh makes poor, and makes rich. He brings low, he also lifts up.²⁷

¹⁷ **Proverbs 17:14** In “We Can Work It Out,” Paul urges us to avoid strife before quarreling breaks out: “We can work it out and get it straight, or say good-night.”

¹⁸ **Ephesians 4:26** Anger can be a useful emotion if used properly. Mental health experts teach anger *management* rather than anger *elimination*. Letting anger control us, however, is “sin,” separating us from God. We want to use our anger constructively, but not become a chronically angry person.

¹⁹ **Romans 12:10**

²⁰ **Romans 12:11**

²¹ **Romans 12:12**

²² **Matthew 5:43**

²³ **Matthew 5:44**

²⁴ **Matthew 5:45**

²⁵ **Proverbs 29:13** In the material world, there is duality. Everything has its opposite. There is evil and there is good, there are the just and the unjust, the oppressed and those who oppress others. From our perspective, evil, injustice, and oppression are not welcome, but from God's perspective, all is in Divine order.

²⁶ **Daniel 2:21** Max Ehrmann, from *Desiderata*: “You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.”

²⁷ **1 Samuel 2:7**

“But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need that anything be written to you.²⁸ For there is a time and procedure for every purpose, although the misery of man is heavy on him.²⁹

“A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.³⁰ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up.³¹

“A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.³² A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.³³

“A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.³⁴ A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.³⁵

“A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.³⁶

“But above all things, my brothers, don’t swear— not by heaven, or by the earth, or by any other oath; but let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’, and your ‘no’, ‘no’; so that you don’t fall into hypocrisy.³⁷

²⁸ **1 Thessalonians 5:1**

²⁹ **Ecclesiastes 8:6**

³⁰ **Ecclesiastes 3:2** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 were used by Pete Seeger as lyrics for “Turn! Turn! Turn!” which was a #1 song for the Byrds in 1965.

³¹ **Ecclesiastes 3:3**

³² **Ecclesiastes 3:4**

³³ **Ecclesiastes 3:5**

³⁴ **Ecclesiastes 3:6**

³⁵ **Ecclesiastes 3:7** *The law of sewing and ripping*: If we rip our clothing and stitching is needed, fortunately there will be “a time to sew”!

³⁶ **Ecclesiastes 3:8** Within the duality of the material world is perfection because it gives us a chance to use our free will, have preferences, make choices, learn, and grow. We don’t welcome sadness, but without it how could we experience joy? How could we experience success without failure? Our task is to be in the natural flow of life instead of fighting against it, and to make choices that are based in love.

³⁷ **James 5:12** “You say yes, I say no” Paul shares in “Hello Goodbye,” his song about opposites: “yes/no,” “stop/go,” “high/low,” and “hello/goodbye.” Paul, on “Hello Goodbye”: “The answer to everything is simple. It’s a song about everything and nothing. If you have black you have to have white. That’s the amazing thing about life.”

“Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things.³⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.”³⁹

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he rose up and went out, and departed into a deserted place, and prayed there.⁴⁰ The wilderness grasslands overflow. The hills are clothed with gladness.⁴¹

“I delight to do your will, my God. Yes, your law is within my heart.⁴² Let me understand the teaching of your precepts! Then I will meditate on your wondrous works.”⁴³

“Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts.⁴⁴ Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.”⁴⁵

“Of the glorious majesty of your honor, of your wondrous works, I will meditate.”⁴⁶

When it was late in the day, his disciples came to him, and said, “This place is deserted, and it is late in the day.”⁴⁷

³⁸ **Philippians 4:8** In “Fixing A Hole,” Paul describes how he is keeping his thoughts aligned with Source: “I’m painting the room in a colorful way, and when my mind is wandering there I will go.”

³⁹ **2 Corinthians 9:8** In “Fixing A Hole,” Paul is in the flow and has all sufficiency in everything: “And it really doesn’t matter if I’m wrong or right. Where I belong I’m right.”

⁴⁰ **Mark 1:35** [*“He” is Paul*] In “Mother Nature’s Son,” Paul gets alone in nature to align with his higher self: “Find me in my field of grass- Mother Nature’s Son.” Paul wrote this song while the Beatles were in India learning how to meditate from the Maharishi. Paul: “It was a great gift that Maharishi has given us. It came during a period at the end of the 60’s when we were looking for something that could bring us more stability, and it was a lifelong gift. It’s something you can call on at any time.”

⁴¹ **Psalm 65:12**

⁴² **Psalm 40:8** If God’s law is within our heart, we are aligned with our higher nature. When we feel God, we feel good. Paul is delighted in “Good Day Sunshine”: “I feel good in a special way,” he shares.

⁴³ **Psalm 119:27**

⁴⁴ **Psalm 139:23**

⁴⁵ **Psalm 119:173**

⁴⁶ **Psalm 145:5**

⁴⁷ **Mark 6:35**

And they found him, and told him, “Everyone is looking for you.”⁴⁸ He said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?”⁴⁹

“With God is my salvation and my honor. The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.”⁵⁰ However, the Most High doesn’t dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says.⁵¹

“Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? says Yahweh. Don’t I fill heaven and earth? says Yahweh.”⁵²

“My soul, wait in silence for God alone, for my expectation is from him.”⁵³ Yahweh is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.⁵⁴

“Seeing then that these things can’t be denied, you ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rash.”⁵⁵ Be silent at the presence of the Lord Yahweh, for the day of Yahweh is at hand. For Yahweh has prepared a sacrifice. He has consecrated his guests.⁵⁶

“All these blessings will come upon you, and overtake you, if you listen to Yahweh your God’s voice.”⁵⁷

He said to them, “Depart for three days, then come back to me.” The people departed.⁵⁸

⁴⁸ **Mark 1:37** Aristotle: “In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.”

⁴⁹ **Luke 2:49** Divine intelligence is present everywhere. It permeates all of creation.

⁵⁰ **Psalm 62:7** William Wordsworth: “Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher.”

⁵¹ **Acts 7:48** Albert Einstein: “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

⁵² **Jeremiah 23:24** A.W. Tozer: “Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one.”

⁵³ **Psalm 62:5** Paul and John’s “Wait” is all about waiting for your good: “If your hearts strong hold on,” they advise. “Wait till I come back to your side.”

⁵⁴ **Lamentations 3:25** Paul E. Miller: “If you wait, your heavenly Father will pick you up, carry you out into the night, and make your life sparkle. He wants to dazzle you with the wonder of his love.”

⁵⁵ **Acts 19:36** In “The Fool on the Hill” the wise “fool” is “keeping perfectly still.”

⁵⁶ **Zephaniah 1:7** God is found in the silence. Lao Tzu: “Silence is a source of great strength.”

⁵⁷ **Deuteronomy 28:2** Confucius: “Silence is a true friend who never betrays.”

⁵⁸ **1 Kings 12:5** Paul Simon: “Listen to the sound of silence.”