

Wake Union Baptist Church Sunday School Devotion



Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for hearing our prayers, and for the peace and strength that you give. We pray for healing for all that are sick and comfort for those that are grieving. We pray for an end to this virus, that we might soon be able to return to church. As we consider these scriptures for today please speak to our hearts through your Holy Spirit that we might be drawn closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

This is now the 10th Sunday of cancelled services.

The new Church Directories and Sunday School Literature are currently being distributed. If you have not yet received them, please reach out to Bart (919-556-7397) or Craig (919-556-2103).

Memory Verses

⁷*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* ⁸*Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, **2 Timothy 1:7-8a***

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but...” Today we’ll consider the third of the three things He has given us instead, a sound mind. Also translated as self-control, self-discipline or wisdom; referring to a clear understanding or sound judgment which guides us to think, speak, and act as we should.

The Beginning of Wisdom

¹⁰*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth for ever. **Psalm 111:10***

Our path to a sound mind does not come via worldly experiences or learning. As this verse instructs us, it starts with a fear or reverence for God and recognizing Him as the source of wisdom which then leads to right behavior and praise for our Lord. This is a key theme throughout the “wisdom” books of our Bible where we find many similar verses including:

¹⁰*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. **Proverbs 9:10***

²⁸*And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. **Job 28:28***

⁹*And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing (what He has done). **Psalm 64:9***

While wisdom begins here, as our memory verse states God has given us the spirit of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7) as we grow in our relationship with Him.

The Source of Wisdom

¹And there shall come forth a rod (a new branch or shoot) out of the stem (stump) of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ²And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; **Isaiah 11:1-2**

This OT prophesy of the coming Messiah associates Him with “*the spirit of wisdom and understanding*” and “*the fear of the Lord*” which Jesus embodied and made known to the world.

²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: **2 Peter 1:2-3**
The power to attain “*glory and virtue*” doesn’t come via our own intellect or effort, but by God through the Holy Spirit providing the wisdom, help, and strength we need to live a godly life.

⁶For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. ⁷He layeth (stores) up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler (shield) to them that walk uprightly. ⁸He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. ⁹Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Proverbs 2:6-9

Wisdom is both a gift from God and a fruit of Christian maturity as we learn to trust, honor, and depend on God to direct our path.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

God knows what is best for us and we should trust Him, not limiting ourselves to our “*own understanding*” but allowing Him to “*direct our paths.*”

¹⁰But God hath revealed them (God’s wisdom) unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹For what man knoweth the things (thoughts) of a man, save (except) the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth (not in human wisdom), but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴But the natural man (Non-Christian) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know (understand) them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:10-16**

Through the Holy Spirit, Christians can “*have the mind of Christ.*” When we spend time in His presence in love, prayer, and Bible study, we can gain insight into some of God’s plans and purposes for our life.

⁵*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally (generously), and upbraideth not (without reproach); and it shall be given him. **James 1:5***

Christians have the great resource of prayer, and faith that God's wisdom will guide our decisions.

Benefits and Evidences of Wisdom

¹²*Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten (humble) thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for (in response to) thy words. **Daniel 10:12***

One benefit of Godly wisdom is that God hears our prayers.

¹⁷*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. **James 3:17***
 "Wisdom that is from above" should be evident in our character. Just as we can identify a tree by the type of fruit it produces, we can evaluate the extent of our wisdom by evidence of the behaviors listed here.

³⁰*But of him (by His doing) are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: ³¹That, according as it is written, He that glorieth (boasts), let him glory in the Lord. **1 Corinthians 1:30-31***

Our relationship with Jesus should be personal and living, resulting in our having God's wisdom, our exhibiting righteousness, our becoming more holy over time, and our eternal redemption through simple faith, "not of works" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

²⁷*To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: ²⁸Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (spiritually mature or complete) in Christ Jesus: **Colossians 1:27-28***

Another evidence of Godly wisdom is the desire to warn and teach others about Jesus.

Warning, that without Jesus people are doomed to eternal separation from God. Teaching, that salvation is only possible through faith in Jesus.

²¹*My son, let not them depart from thine eyes (your sight): keep sound wisdom and discretion: ²²So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace (adornment) to thy neck. ²³Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. ²⁴When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. ²⁵Be not afraid of sudden fear (disaster), neither of the desolation (onslaught) of the wicked, when it cometh. ²⁶For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken (ensnared or caught in a trap). **Proverbs 3:21-26***

The wisdom of God, kept always in mind or view, will be "life unto our soul"; it will revive us when we are down in our troubles, it will bring peace and comfort, and calm our fears.

The Spirit of a Sound Mind

²*Set your affection (mind) on things above, not on things on the earth.* **Colossians 3:2**

We are to look at life from God's eternal perspective and seek what He desires.

²*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* **Romans 12:2**

Our refusal to conform to this world must be firmly set in our minds. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think, guiding us in wisdom of discernment so that we are able to recognize and follow God's will for our lives.

²³*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴*And that ye put on the new man, which after God (in His likeness) is created in righteousness and true holiness.* **Ephesians 4:23-24***

Living a Christian life is a continuous process of change in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions as we trust God to make us more like Christ.

¹³*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind (prepare your mind for action), be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

1 Peter 1:13

We are to be prepared for action, live with self-control, and set our hope on Christ's return.

God Fights On My Side (Guardians Chorus Lyrics)

God has not given me the spirit of fear
 He gave me power when He eased my troubled mind
 So I won't be afraid, I will not be dismayed
 I'll trust the Lord, When the battle is raging,
 I'll stand on His word, He never changes
 He will keep me safe, Safe from danger
 He took me in, I'm not a stranger
 There's a reason I don't run away and hide
 God fights on my side

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for giving us the spirit of a sound mind. May we demonstrate Godly wisdom each day that others would be drawn to you and that your name would be praised. Please keep everyone safe and well until we meet again. In Jesus' name, Amen.