



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Kingdom Disciples

SPEAKER SP Daniel Foo

THEME Wisdom in Turbulent Times (Part 2)

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Introduction

In these unstable and turbulent times, we must rely on the wisdom and knowledge from God to help us navigate to victory. And wisdom begins with knowing and understanding God.

In the second sermon of this two-part series on wisdom in turbulent times, SP Daniel Foo elaborates on why we need wisdom from God, how we can get wisdom from God and an overview of how the Lord can guide us in making wise decisions.

Wisdom in Turbulent Times

A. WHY DO WE NEED WISDOM FROM GOD?

- **To thrive in turbulent times**

- ✓ We don't want to just survive. We want to thrive and every year is a good year if we are anchored upon the Lord. With wisdom and knowledge, we can have stability and strength amongst turbulent times (Isa 33:6) and be able to have an understanding of the times (1 Chron 12:32). God has promised rewards and blessings for those who are wise and are connected to God. (Dan 11:32, Dan 12:3)

- **To redeem the time**

- ✓ We need to redeem our time with a sense of purpose and a sense of direction of where we are going (Eph 5:15-16). We need to ask God for wisdom on how we are numbering our days (Ps 90:12) so that we do not get distracted by the things of the world.

- **To know His Will**

- ✓ We must understand what the Will of the Lord is (Eph 5:17). Thus, we need to pray that we may be filled with the knowledge of His Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Col 1:9). God has promised us that we may come to Him boldly and confidently and if we ask according to His Will, He hears us. (1 Jn 5:14-15)

- ✓ It is God's will that we be like Jesus in our discipleship journey - doing the Will of the Father, walking worthy of God's calling and bearing fruit in every good work (Rom 8:29). However, we often fail to finish the race victoriously because of sin that entangles and baggage that hinders (Heb 12:1).

- ✓ It is also God's Will that He has prepared us in advance to do good works (Eph 2:10) but we can only give of what we have. We need to walk and serve as sons of God and not with an orphan spirit (competitive and comparison spirit).

- **To overcome the wisdom of the world**

- ✓ Godly wisdom is pure (James 3:17) but worldly wisdom is full of self-seeking envy (James 3:14-16). We are called to change the rules of the game, fighting from heavenly places and to operate higher than the ways of the world. But we are also called to love our enemies and pray for them as in Matthew 5.

B. HOW TO HAVE WISDOM FROM GOD?

- **Develop the Fear of the Lord** (Prov 9:10)
 - ✓ We need to know the goodness and severity of God (Rom 11:22).
- **Develop a spirit of gratefulness to God**
 - ✓ When we are not thankful, our thoughts become futile and wisdom is absent (Rom 1:21).
- **Ask God for wisdom**
 - ✓ God is more than willing to impart wisdom to us if we ask of Him (James 1:5).
- **Do and apply the Word that we hear**
 - ✓ If we know and apply the Word of God, God promises us that even when we experience rain, floods and harsh winds in life, we will be like the wise man who built his house upon the rock and we will not fall (Matt 7:24-25).
- **Continuously sharpen our ability to hear God**
 - ✓ God desires to always guide and lead us (Jn 10:27) and we must always desire to be guided by God in sharpening our hearing to hear His voice (Jn 10:4). How can God lead or guide us to make wise decisions?
 - ✓ God's Word (Ps 119:105) gives us directions by laying out broad principles and sets guidelines by giving instructions. The Holy Spirit of Wisdom which dwells in us (Rom 8:16) directs us in our thoughts and emotions on the decision to be made by putting God's laws (i.e. His will) in our minds and hearts (Heb 10:16).
 - ✓ In our decision-making process we have to:
 - (a) Eliminate thoughts that are from the evil one (i.e. not from God/ourselves) by drawing near to God and resisting the evil one (James 4:6-7), wielding the Sword of the Spirit in the Name and under the Blood of Jesus (Heb 10:19).
 - (b) Align our will with God's will.
 - (c) Trust God and pray unceasingly before and after reaching a decision (Prov 3:5-6). By using God-given knowledge, wisdom and understanding, we are inclined towards a decision we must make by faith (Rom 14:23) and commit the decision to God.
- **Always come into the Presence of God to inquire of Him before we go out into the world**
 - ✓ We need to connect with God in His Presence first (Ps 100:4-5) and ensure that we are with Him in our coming in and going out. We, as disciples of Christ, must be as the great men in the Old Testament – Solomon (1 Kings 10:5), Moses (Exo 33:7-11, Num 11:24-25), David (1 Sam: 18:-12, 14 and 16) who inquired of the Lord and had an intimacy with God. We need to seek God first before men.

Conclusion

God does not want to just give us eternal life – He wants to bless us and prosper us in all the facets of our lives so that we may thrive and live abundantly. However, we can only reap blessings if we connect with God and seek first His Kingdom. We must be Kingdom Disciples who first walk with the Lord and then in the world (Ps 121:1-8). Through our lives and actions, the world must see us as people who have been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). As we connect with God, we will be able to make wise decisions even in turbulent times for our help comes from the Lord and He shall preserve our coming in and going out and protect us from evil always.

QUESTIONS

How does the world define wisdom and how does that differ from the Bible's definition?
What is the difference between head knowledge and practising godly wisdom?

In order for us to gain wisdom from God, we must know, understand and apply the Word of God. Name 1 truth in the Bible that you have recently learnt. How can you seek God's wisdom to apply or act out this truth in your life?

We must be Kingdom Disciples who first walk with the Lord and then in the world. To do so, we need to connect with God in His presence, come in and go out with Him. When was the last time you connected with God and heard His voice? What are some changes you can make to your daily schedule to connect with God and sharpen your ability to hear His voice?