

Message Three, Our Great Need, The Wisdom of God

Proverbs 3: 5-6 English Standard Version (ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 English Standard Version (ESV) Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

SYNOPSIS:

This series of messages is going to help the children of God understand that Jesus has turned every opportunity for sin into an opportunity to win. Every challenge we face in life is a door for which God's wisdom can be manifest in our life so we can know the plan He has for us to achieve victory.

In the process, we get to see the glory of God manifest in our lives.

INTRODUCTION:

The reason why I believe God led me to the scriptures that we have opened with is because, in the light of what we are learning from this series on Godly Wisdom, I now see these passages differently than I saw them in the past.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

1. My life is to be centered around prayer, about everything.
2. I am not to place any confidence in my own ability to make big decisions for my life.
3. Why should I trust in my own wisdom, when I have access to God's through prayer?
4. My emotional state of mind should be rooted in the truth of God's word, not in the circumstances of my life.

5. There is nothing I face or will face that lacks for opportunity for the manifestation of God's glory in me through His victory.

Moving forward I want to take a few minutes to look at a situation that unfolded in the book of Acts and discuss some observations about how details unfolded.

*Acts 5: 29-42 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We **must obey God** rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those **who obey him.**" 33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and*

from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Now compare how Gamaliel handled this situation with **James 3: 17- 18** *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

This passage of scripture speaks volumes about why God had Gamaliel where He had positioned him for just such a moment as this.

This is highly indicative of how the wisdom of God works.

Our dependence on God should bring us to point where in every situation of life, we seek God in prayer for His **Wisdom**, wherein a **Strategy** is revealed, **Victory** is achieved, and the **Glory** of God is manifest.

Over and over in the bible this truth is revealed.

Most of the time, when we pray, we pray for victory, victory, victory.

What we should be praying for is wisdom, wisdom, wisdom.

Let's take a look at the life of Naaman.

II Kings 5: 1-12 *Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.*

2 *Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife.*

3 *She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."*



4 So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel."

5 And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Naaman had pride and arrogance in his heart, believing that he could pay for what he wanted from God.

You cannot bribe God and you can set no price on the gift of God.

Peter once rebuked a man for this type of sin and told him that he perceived that he was still in the gaul of bitterness.

With Naaman it is painfully clear that he had a predetermination of how things should unfold in his life that was birthed and rooted in his pride.

There three important lessons here,

- 1. Unbelief is the basis of sin.**
- 2. Pride is the strength of sin.**
- 3. Deception is the character of sin.**

Speaking specially of pride being the strength of sin is because pride will not allow you to humble your heart to admit that you are wrong or that you have a need.

In the Wisdom of God, He provided a strategy that would provide for Naaman a way for the pride of his life to be broken.

II Kings 5: 13-28 But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Gehazi's Greed and Punishment

15 Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant."



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16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

17 Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD.

18 In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter."

19 He said to him, "Go in peace." But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance,

20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "See, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian, in not accepting from his hand what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him."

21 So Gehazi followed Naaman. And when Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?"

22 And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me to say, 'There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.'"

23 And Naaman said, "Be pleased to accept two talents." And he urged him and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of clothing, and laid them on two of his servants. And they carried them before Gehazi.

24 And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and put them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed.

25 He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere."

*26 But he said to him, "Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants?
27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.*

Let's pick up at this point next week.



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