

Principles on Wisdom; Wisdom Is the Result of Soul Renovation: Knowledge Converted to Understanding, Understanding Executed as Wisdom

67. To be a winner you must become a sophisticate who advances to spiritual maturity. To do this you must acquire wisdom. To acquire wisdom you must have understanding. To acquire understanding you must expose yourself to the teaching of the Word of God. For this process to continue its forward movement you must have an interest in attaining the objective.
68. This is the purpose of the local church in this dispensation. Believers have all the assets necessary to accomplish this mission and to be able to say with confidence what Paul wrote in his last Epistle:
- 2 Timothy 4:8** - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
69. To accomplish these three things the believer must develop wisdom, the seventh category of doctrinal retention stored in the *kardia*'s stream of consciousness.
70. These principles regarding wisdom will introduce us to the study of Proverbs 8:
- 1) Wisdom is the compartment of the stream of consciousness from which application has its maximum effect.
 - 2) With wisdom as its source, the believer's application of doctrine to life and circumstances fulfills the intended purpose of the sophisticated spiritual life.
 - 3) The Hebrew word for wisdom is חֵכֶמָה *chochmah* while the Greek equivalent is σοφία, *sophia*. Each refers to a resource of information retained in the soul that enables the believer, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, to apply divine viewpoint to life.
 - 4) Doctrine understood —ἐπίγνωσις, *epignōsis*— is developed into wisdom—*sophia*— when volition is positive to its application.
- 1 Corinthians 2:7** - We speak the wisdom of God, hidden in a mystery, that God predetermined before the dispensations for our honor.
- 5) Wisdom existed in eternity past. Its ultimate source is God who possesses infinite wisdom. Wisdom is a reflection of the perfection of His righteousness, the totality of His omniscience, the virtue of His veracity, and the inflexibility of His immutability.
 - 6) From these things the human race was granted all the information it would need to engage the challenges of a fallen environment in a fallen body against a fallen but ingenious opponent.
 - 7) Wisdom enables us to overcome these obstacles by applying the light of divine thought into a darkened and dying world. When accomplished it results in glorifying God and magnifying His Word.

- 8) In this way we honor God; we use His wisdom to resolve the challenges that the devil's world presents. We are victorious yet God is paid tribute; God is pleased and we are blessed.

Colossians 1:9 - For this reason we also, from the day we heard, have not ceased praying for you and asking God with the purpose that you may be filled with the knowledge [ἐπίγνωσις, *epignōsis*] of His will by means of all spiritual wisdom [σοφία, *sophia*] and by means of spiritual understanding [σύνεσις, *sunesis*].

- 9) The secret to changing one's life for the better is the renovation of thought. This is accomplished by developing an interest in studying the Bible with the long-range goal of transforming the soul's inventory of ideas in order to make good decisions from a position of strength.
- 10) This strength is two-fold: (1) the power of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to convert knowledge of divine thought into *epignōsis* understanding, and (2) the power of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to apply this wisdom to the exigencies of everyday life.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, so that you may prove what the will of God is, namely, good of intrinsic value [divine viewpoint], the well-pleasing [compatibility with the plan of God], and the complete [spiritual maturity].

- 11) It is through this process that a soul catharsis occurs: the sludge of human viewpoint, human good, and evil is flushed out and replaced by the purity of divine-viewpoint thinking, divine-good production, and divine-power-system modus operandi.
- 12) Failure to undertake this transformation has detrimental impact on the life of a believer and contributes to the decline of his client nation:

Revelation 2:23b - ... I am He who constantly inventories the emotions and the stream of consciousness, and I will impose punishment on each one of you according your production from the cosmic system.