

WISDOM AND THE LIFE OF JESUS

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GREETINGS: It's a great blessing for me to come to you again and just bring you the absolute Good News of Jesus Christ. Today I am going to continue to talk along the lines of Jesus, what He went through and how God brought salvation to Him, how He trusted in God, how He believed that He will not die but that He will declare the Word of the Lord. The scripture in Psalm 18 where it basically says, "I will not die but I will declare the wisdom of God. That passage is actually referring to Jesus Christ and we are going to look at that specific passage.

Psalm 118:17 I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. This passage is actually referring to Jesus. It is referring to what Jesus prayed, what He confessed, what He believed, based on His mind that was set in the wisdom of God which was from before the world began. That sounds complicated but that's what we are going to talk about today. We are going to start off in James looking at what wisdom is. Today's message is just going to be a short message but can be thought provoking. It can touch the depth of your heart and get you to think in a certain direction understand Scripture in a certain way.

The idea that I have in my ministry is not to teach and spoon feed people all the time but it is to give you nuggets and ways of thinking and unlocking certain things by the grace of God and not my own ability or because of you know me being smart or all those kinds of things. I don't see myself as this smart guy having all the degrees and all of that. I don't have any of that. I'm just the person who has studied the scriptures and walked with God and just want to share with people what God has put in my heart and then it's for them to go and look into the scriptures for themselves. Or, even if you are not a person that reads the Bible all the time, just walk in your relationship with God from this wisdom and this knowledge.

You need to understand that the New Testament people didn't have Bibles but they knew the Gospel. The Gospel was put into phrases and words and they remembered that, recited that, they thought about that. They lived from the reality that there was a man that was crucified, died, and rose from the dead, that He is Lord and the Ruler of heaven and earth and that submission is given to Him and that He then conquers death in you and they have had the expectation of being raised from the dead. They lived that in the presence of Rome, in the presence of the Jews that persecuted them, in the presence of all the idol worshippers and all of their old traditions. They lived it and saw the fruit of it. Sometimes they were persecuted but we found that the persecution that they were standing under was definitely not stronger than this message because they believed this word in verse 17: ***I will not die but live and I will proclaim what the Lord has done.***

Do You think that is not true anymore for those who have already passed away 2,000 years ago? No! That scripture is still true. It was true for Jesus and He was raised from the dead. He died but then death didn't have Him. He was raised from the dead and He, today, is through people and by Spirit poured out on people, proclaiming what the Lord God has done. And that is true for every martyr. That is true for Paul. That is true for Peter. That word remains true for they shall be raised from the dead! Death shall not have them. They would have been chastened, if you want to call it like that, severely. They would have entered into the clutches of death but not given over to death. They will be raised from the dead and what will we all do in the day of the resurrection? As the scripture says, we will proclaim what the Lord has done. He has given us eternal life.

So, that scripture is not true or not true defined in everyday circumstances because we find many people, I think of friends of mine who have believed in and confessed that they will not die but they physically, in their bodies, died. But I want to tell you that scripture remains true for them. Death shall not have them. They shall be raised. They shall live forever more and they shall proclaim what the Lord has done. They will be raised from the dead and that God has given eternal life and they've walked in the wisdom of God.

I mean, what an honor to have the last words in your mouth when you pass away, if you want to call it like that, is to say that I will not die but live! I mean, wouldn't that be the most beautiful words? And this is exactly what Jesus Christ said when He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit." What He was basically saying is, "My life is in Your hands and the Father has promised! By that I'm saying, with my last breath, that I will live and not die because God is faithful!. Glory to God! That is just so much higher than the elementary things of this world where it is about having everything today and now and seeing changes and all that. Do we see that? Yes, we do. We do see God working in our lives every day but the inner peace that we have is based on the wisdom of God.

Let us just pray and then let me get right into the scripture. I have already started to preach there and I actually wanted to pray. Let us pray.

Father, thank you so much for Your love and Your kindness and Your goodness. Thank You for Your grace and that You empower me to preach this message powerfully today and that many people's lives will be impacted. Thank You, Lord, that this which I preach will be like a key that unlocks things for people, that they can think in a certain way. Thank You that it brings peace to our lives. Thank You that You are God almighty and that You love every person! Amen and amen

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

James 1:

4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

What he is basically saying here is, "Persevere, continue to believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ, to the point that you will lack nothing." What he is talking about there is that believe in Jesus Christ, even if it would be unto death so that you can, basically, in the day of the resurrection, lack nothing. And if you lack wisdom, if you feel that you need life, if you lack the power of God, that's another way you can put it, ask of God who gives without finding fault. That is beautiful! If you need the power of God, if you need the life of God in your life today, ask of God and He will give you wisdom. He will give you that power too.

Now let me just explain the true context of James because we are taking it a bit out of its original context and we know that context is always king. You need to understand the context wherein things were written to see what it truly means although I've already pulled it out of its true context just in the examples that I gave.

Let me first explain the true context here. The true context here was that there were Jewish people that were believing in Jesus and were now going back to the old Jewish traditions. The reason why they were going back into the old traditions was because of persecution and he said to them, "Listen, man, don't go back to the old Jewish ways of doing. God is not double-minded!" Obviously, many people came and they looked at scriptures and they looked at circumstances and they talked about the death of Jesus and His resurrection and the persecution that came, and all of that. They would say to them "No, no, no. I think we've missed it a little bit with Jesus. Let's go back to our old Jewish customs. Maybe this guy was truly not Jesus."

Or, some would say, I think most would say, 'Yeah, maybe He's the Lord but we misunderstood what He came to do and I think we waited for Him to come back. He hasn't come back now. Well, if He's Jesus, He will do what He said but let us, in the meantime, go back to our traditions.' And they looked for wisdom, how to have life in every day life. They wanted to know how to live every day because a lot of things had changed for them. We're looking at the prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem. We looked at Jesus being the Messiah but not being a political leader that has brought freedom for them based on the wisdom of politics and all those kinds of things and yet they were now in a very difficult time and they basically said they thought that what they were going through was just a temptation and that they had to go back to the old Jewish customs.

So what James is telling them is, "If you need wisdom...", and what the Jew would understand as wisdom is basically the power to life. If you need the power unto experiencing life, ask of God and know that He will give without looking back. That's what the Greek says. "He upbraideth not. He doesn't take the past into account." That means that if you, as a Jew, is being persecuted and you are now scattered and you are beaten and you are mocked and all those kinds of things because of your faith as a Christian, and you need wisdom of God, God is never going to advise you to go back to the old system that you were under where it was about the flesh, where it was about who is the Jew, who is the Gentile, and so forth. He's not going to back to that.

This is a good example even though it is not a truly contextual example but it's a good example: If you think that you, if you were doing well financially and you were a tither and all of a sudden you got a revelation that Jesus Christ is the tithe and then you stop tithing. Not long after that you are sharing things that you are going through. Then covid comes, for instance, and the business is closed down and now you are suffering a bit financially and now you need wisdom of God. You want to know you need life now that comes from God. The only way you're going to have life is go ask of God. In other words, not to try and produce but to be on the receiving end of that power. If you need wisdom, if you need the power to life, if you need the correct application of truth in your life which is Jesus (we're going to look at that now, ask of God who will never take the past into account. That means that He will never go back to the past. He upbraideth not. He will not look at the past and bring that up again.

In other words, if you are going through the financial difficulty and you ask God for wisdom, He is not going to tell you to tithe. He's not going to do that. He's not going to go back to the old way. What the Jews would have understood is, if back then, if you had to be circumcised and then obey the Law and then you waited for a political leader to bring salvation to you and now you need wisdom. After that, you have now rejected all those things or where you basically said that life is not by that, don't think that He is going to come back with the old fleshly way of looking at the law again. He's not coming back with the Ten Commandments as a way to life. He's still pointing to Jesus. He's not going back to the old way! That's it. He's not going to tell you that you need a temple, you need to build a synagogue. He's not going to do that. He's not bringing back the Jewish way of doing. He's not doing that. He abraideth not!

It's like, if we look in South Africa at solving problems and if you need wisdom, you can go to, let's say somebody, a judge or a lawyer for instance, and he can give you advice as pertaining to what to do about your business and employing people, and so forth. And if you go to him and you ask for advice, know this: He is never going to give you the advice to start the apartheid system again. He will give you advice, but don't go expecting that he will go back to that old system because if you go back and you think he can give advice. It can be the old system again or it can be mixed with a new, you'll be unstable in everything you do.

When you expect that, and that is what you have already have pre-decided you will hear, you are not going to truly understand what that man says because you are receiving everything through a filter.

Now, back to the point. When it comes to asking God for wisdom, He is not going to go back to the law. He is not going to go back to a system where you were under that you were redeemed from. No! He's going to continue to point you to Jesus. Listen to this: **James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all (be it Jew or Gentile) without finding fault** (He's not saying that the Jew or Gentile in this. He's not going to say: "The person is not circumcised and this one is circumcised. This one followed the custom of Moses, that one doesn't. This one's dress code is right. That one's eating kosher", and all those kinds of things. He is not going back to that!), **and it will be given to you.**

6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

So, what he is saying here to the Jews is, "Listen. When you ask God, don't be double-minded. Don't be law and grace minded. Only be resurrection minded! Only be, "A Jew/Gentile system has passed away. Jesus was raised from the dead and now I need life. I need Jesus in my situation." and know that the answer will never be out of the law system.

Now, with that said, I want to look at **1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God,**

So, what it basically says here is that Jesus Christ is the power of God and He's the wisdom of God. He is the one through whom God rules and He is the wisdom of God.

We are going to look at what that wisdom is. He says,

30 But of him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God has been made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

So, Jesus Christ has been made unto us the wisdom of God. Let us read it again. **Because of God, we are in Christ who of God is made unto us wisdom.**

So, Jesus was made the wisdom of God unto us. Now, back then the Jews saw wisdom as the correct application of the law which, strictly, is right because the correct application of the law is to see that the law says to you that you cannot live by your own power and that you should live by Jesus. That's the one thing, plus the law was prophesying about Jesus Christ. So, the correct application of the law is that the law points to Jesus.

So, wisdom, the law, would be the knowledge that comes our way. Wisdom would be to apply the correct application of that knowledge which would point us to Jesus, which would, in himself, be another form of wisdom. I'm sorry for being so technical today... But that wisdom that Jesus Christ is, is basically the power of God whereby we have life.

So, if you are in any situation, doesn't matter how bad it is, if you are going through a difficult time... A few days ago, I spoke to a friend of mine. His grandchild was ill and we prayed for him and everything, and then, when he asked for prayer, and to this was to me the wisdom of God. He spoke everything what was wrong, needed prayer, didn't know if they have covid, whatever, there were many things. Then he said, "But, do you know what? It's basically like this: I give it to God because my grandchild is also God's son." That is wisdom! That is to say that the source of life, the one that gives life, this person, the grandchild, is under His rule, under His jurisdiction, and the authority to get the grandchild healed does not rest upon the grandfather doing everything right, praying everything right, and all of that. He comes and he says, "Thank you for prayer but I also just want to say that, (and this was what he quickly mentioned and it was so powerful), "He is also God's child!" That is so beautiful! Do you know how much peace that has given me?

God has promised my children life. Do I care for them as their father? Yes, but they are also God's children... actually more so. They are more the child of God than what they are my child. I am just a biological father and me being their father is temporal, not just because of death in the sense of that I will pass away one day and they will pass away one day but because of the resurrection. And they will be raised from the dead where their physical bodies will owe their birth to God only and not to my wife and me. So, God is more their Father than what I am and God has promised them life in Jesus. He's raised Jesus from the dead and whenever I ask God wisdom about my children or in this case with my friend and his grandchild, we need prayer, true wisdom is to know that God is the Source of life for that person. And if you ask God for wisdom, you asking Him the application of Jesus to your situation. That is what you do when you ask for wisdom. Wisdom is not what I must do every day. Wisdom is to say, "God, I want the power of the resurrection as pertaining to this situation." We will look at that in Psalm 118. We did touch on that and we are going to look at it again.

1 Corinthians 1:30 Jesus Christ was made wisdom unto us. In other words, as what the Jews saw a correct interpretation of the law. You know, you can have the law, but it doesn't mean that when you have the law you have the answer. You'll have judges and you'll have people that interpret the law that will tell you what that law means and what it expects of you. So, that law would be you would seek the correct application of that law and the correct way to obey that law so you can have life from the law. But Jesus Christ was made the wisdom of God so we are not seeking the law. We are seeking the death and the resurrection of Jesus and what it means to us. That's what we are seeing. So, when you ask for wisdom, you are asking God to help you to know how the death and the resurrection applies to you.

That's why the Bible also says in **1 Corinthians 2:13**:

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but the wisdom which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Now, that comparing spiritual things with spiritual, we didn't really understand that for many years. If you study that out, it basically talks about explaining, comparing. I would basically say that it would more be pairing. That is more what the Greek basically teaches there. When it talks about comparing there, it basically talks about seeing the spirituality that comes to us because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, taking that which is eternal and immortal and comparing it with what we were and what we are now because of the resurrection of Jesus. That is what it truly means.

So, when we seek wisdom, we are talking about seeking and wanting to know how the death and the resurrection pertains to my life today, to my finances today, to my relationship with my wife today, to my relationship with my children today or if my son is ill, or my grandson is ill. I remember a few years ago my son had to have an emergency operation when his appendix started to burst. I just said, "God, I pray." But. Like my friend said is that he is first Your child, oh, God. You know, I cannot take responsibility by my prayer. I am just comparing what happened in the resurrection of Jesus and he is a believer, meaning that he owes his birth to God. He's the life that is in him, right now, comes from God and the only thing that can give life to him is God our Father. That is the only way. From there we think and reason and live. Glory to God!

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

I hope you can see here that wisdom is basically put in the category of the power of God. So, the wisdom of God is basically the power of God to raise the dead. We will see that now in **1 Corinthians 2: 7: *But, we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom*** (So we talk about the hidden wisdom of God that which was not known to man, which has been made known to man in the resurrection of Christ), ***which God ordained before the world unto our glory.***

So, the hidden wisdom of God is that which was ordained to us before the world began. Now, what was ordained to us before the world began?

One of my favorite scriptures:

Titus 1:

1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to further the faith of God's elect, and their acknowledge of the truth that leads to godliness---

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time (and is now being made manifest through our preaching declaring that He was raised from the dead.)

So, wisdom is that which was before the world began, which is that God knew how to bring eternal life to man. This is wisdom. This is the way to life. That which was before the world began, which was promised to us, which is that we will have life by the power of God in keeping His promise. So, if you lack wisdom, if you are in lack of knowing or experiencing, or appropriating, the whole thing that God will bring forth life in you, if you are lacking that, ask it of God and He will bring your mind, your intellect and your life in line with the following: God promised eternal life and is brought forth by Him fulfilling His promise. That is what He will give you!

I've had that in my life. You know, there were things that hung like a sword over my head and it is easy to think that well, if the sword doesn't hang over my head, then I am going to have life. That is not wisdom. That is just a lie! The wisdom of God is that God promised me life. It's not in the power of any person to give me life by changing anything in my life. Let us use Zambia for an example. I cannot say, "God, You know I need joy. I lack wisdom to joy. I don't know how to be happy." God is never going to tell me, "Listen. If you want to be happy finish the mission station", because never has joy been found in finishing a mission station. No. If God is abraideth not, He's not going to go back to works. The way He is going to show me joy is He is going to tell me, "Listen. I want to remind you, the Spirit will remind me, of what I have freely received in Christ who remind me that joy is on the other side of God being faithful to us. He will remind me of God showing His faithfulness in Jesus Christ.

As we have mentioned here in Psalm 118:17 where Jesus prayed and said, "***I will not die, but live,***"

So, the Father promised Jesus eternal life. How did He live in wisdom? He lived from the foundation that He cannot have life by Himself, but the Father will give Him life because He says, "***I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.***"

Did Jesus die? Yes, but we see the next verse.

18 The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

Now I don't want to talk about the chastening of the Lord now, but I want to tell you there's good news about that.

19 Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become thy salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

I preached on that verse last week. Peter understood the stone that was rejected became the cornerstone as the rejection of the stone as the crucifixion and the becoming of the cornerstone as the resurrection.

23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Or if we read the King James said it better there.

24 This is the day which the LORD hath made;

What day has the Lord made? It is the day of the resurrection, the day that never was. So, in every situation, when we live by wisdom, we live by knowing the only way we can have life is by God fulfilling His promise in the Spirit of God quickening our mortal bodies, quickening our minds, quickening our emotions, by the supernatural power of God in God keeping His promise. It can be in no other way. The moment we believe that, we calm down in all of our efforts whereby we want to change our situation. All of our efforts whereby we need to do things. All of our efforts, "This must happen, that must happen. On the other side of this we are going to have joy. On the other side of that we are going to have joy."

I just look at what was happening in the covid. I mean, I can understand that. I feel so myself. It almost felt like there's life on the other side of not wearing a mask. Then when you walk in the street and you wear a mask, especially in the countries where it's law, like in South Africa, you cannot not wear a mask when you are in the shop. It's law. Then you think, "Oh, we will be happy again when we don't wear a mask." It's the same with the English. "No, on the other side, we're going to have joy when the covid restrictions are lifted." Then the president comes or then, or the prime minister, what he's called in England, comes and he lifts everything in a day and now all of those people are still stuck with themselves. Now wherever you go, there you are. And it's not as if everybody's now going to be happy.

Now they are going to fight for impeachment. Then they are going to fight for this. Then they're going to fight for that. Then they'll get a next president and they'll still be stuck with their old flesh and who they are being unhappy about everything never having joy. Joy is not on the other side of lifting the covid restrictions. It's not like that. I'm not for all the restriction and saying, 'I don't want to give myself out on that. I mean, I liked the old way a lot but, my goodness, wisdom is not, "God, give me wisdom" and then God's going to tell you, "End these things then you're going to be happy." No, you're going to be reminded of who you are in Christ, what He's done for you, how much you are loved by God, how much you are cared for. You are going to be reminded of His death and His resurrection. Spiritual things are going to be compared with spiritual things.

Let me just take a bit of time and go to that scripture, **1Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom. Teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

Let me just explain that and read the Greek to you comparing spiritual things with spiritual. Listen to the meaning of compare there: It's compounded of two words. The

one word means accompanied and the other word is judge. In other words, is judge other was to judge together. In other words, to have a judgment wherein you're putting these things together. It also means here, literally in the Greek like that, to judge one thing in connection with another thing. That is to combine spiritual ideas with appropriate expressions.

In other words, when you combine spiritual ideas with spiritual expressions. So, the spiritual idea is Jesus died. His body became spiritual, meaning immortal, physically immortal. That is what spiritual means and now you are combining that with humans on the earth and what that means. So, what it means comparing spiritual things with spiritual walking in the wisdom of God is basically saying what effect would the resurrection of Jesus have on people here? We compare man without the resurrection with man that has been resurrected and we see the effect it had on that man. That is comparing spiritual things with spiritual. In other words, it's basically saying what spiritual effect that the wisdom of God, which is God keeping His promise, have on people? So, whenever you ask for the wisdom of God, He's going to tell you and show you the effect that the resurrection has on your life today. That is what it is all about how the effect, the death, the burial and the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus in a physical body and where His physical body will return have on you.

Just last week I've listened to, I mean beautiful people preaching wonderful messages and then they now came out with, "Jesus is not physically returning. Jesus is returning every day. Whenever you believe and the Lord manifests something in you, that is the coming of Christ." Now, that is simply what we call grace and the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. That's not the coming of Christ. If we say it's the coming of Christ, then we can simply put it this way: It is the manifestation of the rulership of Christ in your life but it's not the return of Jesus. It's such a difficult thing for people to believe in bodily immortality and that which was promised comparing what we have now because of whether we resurrected Christ and what we can expect and our hope and all those kinds of things.

So, I just want to say this to you: Jesus Christ lived in wisdom. What was the wisdom? It is the Father promised Him eternal life. That's it. He didn't live by His own power. He lived by the power of God. Then He died and the Father showed Himself faithful to Jesus. Then when He raised Jesus, this resurrected Jesus is now the wisdom of God, the promise of eternal life that has now come to us to this earth. It's the inauguration of life and we believe upon Him and we rest upon Him. Salvation and peace and joy will never be inside politics...never! Whenever you think it's that, you can on that day know you are wrong... that day. The only way whereby we can have life is God's love towards us in Jesus Christ.

So, wisdom in not in, "God, what must I do to get this thing or that thing to work out for me?" Wisdom of God is, "God, how does the resurrection of Christ apply in this area of my life?" That is asking wisdom. So, we ask wisdom and we are not double-minded

because the man who thinks it is between the law and grace, comparing this to thinking a bit of this, a bit of that, that man, the man of mixture, does not experience the power of the resurrection. That's just the way it is. Glory to God!

Well, thank you that I could give you this message today, I know that maybe I spoke a bit fast today and there was a lot that I wanted to just get quickly through and I wanted to do this in a shorter time. I know that this is a key for you, something you can look at. Whenever you think, "I need wisdom", you just say, "Father, I don't even want to know what I must do in this situation. I want to know how does the resurrection apply to my life today?" Then you start to think along those lines and you are not waiting on just answers on what you must do.

I prayed the other night. I said, "Thank You, God that You show me. I want to know how the resurrection applies. I don't want to know anything else." And things started to come to my mind. And as these things come to my mind on who I am in Christ, I found that it immediately revealed all the areas where I was trying to do it by my own self and I was immediately set free from that. And I have peace until today! Glory to God. I know exactly what to do in this life not because of a commandment but it became a result of the resurrection having its effect on me and giving me peace.