

ACQUIRING DIVINE WISDOM

Last week we studied a parable of wisdom recorded in our text that impressed Solomon:
(Eccl.9:13-15) “Also I came to see wisdom under the sun, and it impressed me.”

You may also recall that Solomon drew the following three doctrinal conclusions regarding divine wisdom from the parable of the ‘Poor Man’s Wisdom’.

- (Eccl.9:16) “Wisdom is better than strength.”
- (Eccl.9:17) “The words of the wise heard in quietness are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.”
- (Eccl.9:18) “Wisdom is better than weapons of war.”

We learned that the Hebrew word for wisdom is chakemah and its equivalent in the Greek is Sophia. This type of wisdom is the highest form of knowledge.

A person with this type of wisdom would be known as an expert in his field. It is considered to be the practical or application side of specific knowledge. We saw this in Solomon’s famous legal case between the two mothers of 1 Kings 3:16-28.

**We will study five aspects of Acquiring Divine Wisdom as a believer,
Through spiritual growth in the word of God.**

1. The only access to divine wisdom is through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

(1 Cor.1:18-30) “For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.’”

(1 Cor.1:23-24) “But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

(1 Cor.1:30) “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.”

(1 Pet.1:23) “For **you have been born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.”

2. Every Church Age Believer (CAB) begins the Christian Way of life (CWL) as a ‘baby believer’ needing the ‘milk doctrines’ of salvation.

(1 Pet.2:2) “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” (Isa.28:9)

(Heb.5:12) “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”
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It is the fundamental or elementary materials for spiritual growth in acquiring divine wisdom:

(Heb.6:1) “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God.”

(Acts 20:32) “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

3. Reflections of my own spiritual journey:

After I reached spiritual adulthood, the following **eleven categories** of doctrines of the CWL were essential in grounding me in the Faith and stimulated my spiritual growth momentum (Heb.5:13-14; Jude 20). You can find these doctrines on our web site (doctrinal studies.com).

1. **Grace orientation to the plan of God** (2 Pet.3:18; Eph.5:17; James 4:6)
2. **Dispensations** (Gentile, Jewish, Church, and Millennium) (Col.1:26-29; Eph.1:9-10; 3:8-13)
3. **Spirituality verses Carnality** (Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor.6:19-20; 1 John 1:9)
4. **Orientation to the Will of God** (directive, permissive, and over-ruling) (Directive: geographical, mental, and operational) (Eph.5:17; 6:6; Col.4:12; James 4;15; Acts 2:23; 20:27)
5. **The Faith cycle** (Rom.10:17; Heb.4:2; 2 Cor.5:7; James 2:22, Heb.11:1)
6. **Mastering the details of life (DOLs)** (Matt.4:4; 6:18-34; Phil.4:11-19; 1 Tim.6:10, 17; Prov.23:4-5)
7. **Suffering** (undeserved, self-induced misery, and divine discipline) (James 1:2-5; 1 Pet.1:6-8; Heb.12:5-11; 1 Pet.3:17; 4:19; 1 John 5:16)
8. **Victory in Angelic Conflict** (Eph.6:11-17; 1 John 4:4-6; 5:4-5; 1 Pet.5:8; 2 Cor.2:11)
9. **Spiritual Gifts / Ministry** (Rom.12, 1 Cor.12-14; and Eph.4)
10. **Capacity to Love - receiving and giving God’s love** (John 13:34; 1 Cor.8:1; 13:4-8; 1 John 4:9-10, 16-19)
11. **The Transformation Process** of the mind of the spiritually mature believer from cosmos diabolicus thinking to divine viewpoint thinking (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:22-24; Col.3:5-10; 1 Cor.2:16)

4. My theological mentor, Bob Thieme, taught that these doctrines would produce an adult stage of spiritual growth which he called Super-Grace Status (Eph.4:13-15)

(Eph.4:13) “Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.”

The following **eleven synonyms** are used with Super-Grace Status (Eph.3:8-11).

1. **Reaching the measure of the stature of Christ** (Eph.4:13-15)
2. **Capacity for greater grace** (James 4:6)
3. **Possessing mind of Christ** (Rom.12:2; 1 Cor.2:16)
4. **Christ dwelling in heart** (Eph.3:17; Gal.2:20)
5. **Christ formed in you** (Gal.4:19)
6. **United with Christ** (Phil.2:1-2, 15)
7. **New man** (Col.3:5-11; Gal.3:27)
8. **Enlightened heart towards divine truth** (Eph.1:18-20)
9. **Walking worthy of Lord** (Col.1:9-14)
10. **Christ exalted in my body** (Phil.1:20-21)
11. **Pressing towards goal of high calling** (Phil.3:12-15; Matt.6:20-21)

(Col.1:28-29) “And we proclaim Him, admonishing **every man** and teaching **every man** with all wisdom (Sophia), that we may present **every man complete in Christ**. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”