

WISDOM VS. FEAR

Should be one of the characteristics of a Christian - Luke 10:30-36 -30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 **"WHICH OF THESE THREE DO YOU THINK WAS A NEIGHBOR TO THE MAN WHO FELL INTO THE HANDS OF ROBBERS?"**

When we do for those in need we do for Jesus - Matt 25:31-40 - 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these **brothers of mine**, you did for me.'

There are consequences for doing for others and not doing for others - Matt 25:45-46 - 45"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.**' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

***Question:** How do we stay obedient to helping others when there are so many dangers? Do we just avoid helping and pray for them or do we just help and let God handle it? There are two elements we must be aware of to answer this correctly; Fear & Wisdom.

FEAR-a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; the feeling or condition of being afraid.

The evolution of fear, as with other emotions - James 1:13-15 - 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

There are some justifications for this feeling of fear –

A fear because of others and my lack of following God - 2 Cor 12:20-21 - 20 For **I am afraid** that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. **I fear** that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. 21 **I am afraid** that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

A Fear for others who “choose” to go the wrong way -Gal 4:9-11 - 9 But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? 10 You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! 11 **I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.**

How others allow themselves to be influenced by Satan - 1 Thess 3:5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. **I was afraid** that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

Timid fear is NOT from God - 2 Tim 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of **POWER, of LOVE** and of **SELF-DISCIPLINE.** *(Situational, relationship, & self)

The only fear we are suppose to ACT out of is for God and based on God –

Prov 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Luke 12:4-5 - 4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

The biggest reason we shouldn't fear is because we have God - Ps 118:6-9 - 6 The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? 7 The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies. 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

God never leaves us but we can do things to leave him - Heb 13:5-6 - 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, BECAUSE God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

Living in fear is wrong – Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a SLAVE AGAIN TO FEAR, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Understand, when we act in fear, we sin –

Matt 25:24-26 - 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?"

Matt 25:30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

You should fear if you're doing wrong - Rom 13:3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

HOW TO AVOID ACTING IN FEAR

Christian must be free from the fear of death - Heb 2:14-15 - 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery BY THEIR FEAR OF DEATH.

"Not fearing" is a command that we must exercise - 1 Peter 3:13-15 - 13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts **SET APART CHRIST AS LORD.**

It is up to us not to fear - Ps 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I WILL fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Getting rid of fear only really works with trust and faith in God –

Only true trust in God combats fear – Ps 56:3-4 - 3 When I am afraid, I will trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

If we do not trust in God our fear will be our downfall - Prov 29:25 - 25 **FEAR OF MAN** will prove to be a snare, but whoever **TRUSTS IN THE LORD** is kept safe.

Knowing who God is eliminates fear - Ps 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?

Perfect love removes fear - 1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We are not to talk down to those that fear but we are to encourage them - 1 Thess 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

WISDOM (a major part of God's protection)

The value of Wisdom and understanding is priceless –

Prov 16:16 How much better to get **WISDOM** than gold, to choose UNDERSTANDING rather than silver!

Prov 5:1-2 - son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, 2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.

Wisdom will reward those who follow it - Prov 9:12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."

If we are not wise, we are fools and doomed for destruction - Prov 1:32-33 -32 For the waywardness of the simple WILL kill them, and the complacency of fools WILL destroy them; 33 but whoever listens to me WILL live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

Listening is wise. A fool follows his own ways - Prov 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Be aware, there is a counterfeit wisdom - James 3:14-16 - 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have **envy** and **selfish ambition,** there you find disorder and every evil practice.

How do we know if we have Godly Wisdom? -James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

It is up to us to receive and trust in Godly wisdom and understanding -

Prov 4:5-13 - 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. 7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. 8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor." 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. 11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

Prov 2:1-11 - My son, if you accept my word and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair — every good path. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 **Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.**

We need Godly wisdom because the way things “seem” to us could be misleading – Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

To get wisdom, just ask - James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

We must mentally “dumb down” in order spiritually “wise-up” - 1 Cor 3:18-20 - 18 **DO NOT DECEIVE YOURSELVES.** If any one of you thinks he is wise by the STANDARDS OF THIS AGE, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For **THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHNESS IN GOD'S SIGHT.** As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Keep in mind what comes with understanding - Prov 8:12-14 - 12 "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. 13 To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. 14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.

SO HOW DO WE ACT IN WISDOM AND NOT IN FEAR

Know that EVERYTHING we do must have one main purpose - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT ALL** for the glory of God. * **Not doing this is what causes the most confusion between wisdom & fear**

Example: 1 Cor 8:13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall. (Paul made sure Glorifying God, NOT eating, was his purpose)

Make sure we have the right foundation for our decisions –

The foundation of our decisions must be the same foundation of Christ - John 8:15-16 - 15 You judge by HUMAN STANDARDS; I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I STAND WITH THE FATHER, who sent me.

Faith must be your sight - John 7:24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

Are we really following God or do we trust in self? - Ps 49:12-13 - 12 But man, despite his riches, does not endure; he is like the beasts that perish. 13 This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings.

It is important for us to understand - Prov 16:22 **Understanding** is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.

It is important to know what we can't understand - Ps 131:1 - My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

Don't mistake “assessing things” as fear -

Prov 14:15 A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man GIVES THOUGHT to his steps.

Prov 15:28 The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Prov 21:29 A **WICKED MAN** puts up a bold front, but an **UPRIGHT MAN** gives thought to his ways.

Gather information while being self-controlled - James 1:19-20 - 19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for **man's anger DOES NOT bring about the righteous life that God desires.**

Don't mistake caution for fear - Prov 12:26 A righteous man is CAUTIOUS in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Caution in potentially dangerous situations is wise, not fear –

Matt 16:6 "**BE CAREFUL**," Jesus said to them. "**BE ON YOUR GUARD** against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

1 Cor 10:12-13 - 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, **BE CAREFUL** that you don't fall! 13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Careful and alert are excellent substitutes for fear – Luke 21:34-36 - 34 "**Be careful**, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch**, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Living as Christians should live, carefully, is living with Godly wisdom & Godly judgement –

Judgment of a situation is an important attribute in a Christian's walk - Prov 10:21 The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for LACK OF JUDGMENT.

The decisions we make must be wise and Godly - Eph 5:15-17 - 15 **BE VERY CAREFUL**, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore DO NOT BE FOOLISH, but understand what the Lord's will is.

We must obey Gods protective commands to avoid fear - 1 Cor 16:13-14 - 13 **BE** on your guard; **STAND** firm in the faith; **BE** men of courage; be strong. 14 **DO** everything in love.

When we live wrong, we ARE in danger - 1 Thess 5:6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be ALERT and SELF-CONTROLLED.

Make sure we are not the problem

What ever kind of person you are, will dictate your actions - Prov 15:21 Folly delights a man who lacks judgment, but a man of understanding keeps a straight course.

Our personality could disrupt our judgment - Prov 18:1 - **UNFRIENDLY MAN** pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.

Sometimes we don't get the right path because we don't want to hear the right path - Prov 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

Make sure the judgment is sound - Prov 3:21-24 - 21 My son, preserve SOUND JUDGMENT AND DISCERNMENT, do not let them out of your sight; 22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. 23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; 24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Good judgment doesn't come naturally, it needs to be taught - Ps 119:66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.

Good judgment needs to be taught by parents - Prov 4:1-2 - Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. 2 I give you sound learning, so **DO NOT FORSAKE MY TEACHING**.

We must realize even with wisdom the emotions/feelings will still influences us if we are not careful - Eccl 11:9 -9 Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, **BUT KNOW that for all these things God will bring you to judgment**.

God given wisdom will give us the right answer at the right time - Eccl 8:5-6 - 5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and **THE WISE HEART WILL KNOW THE PROPER TIME AND PROCEDURE**. 6 For there is a PROPER TIME and PROCEDURE for EVERY MATTER, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

We must learn to live in the real fear - Eccl 12:13-14 -13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**, for this is the whole [duty] of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Remember once again, The Key is to do everything for and through Christ - Col 3:17 And **whatever you do**, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wisdom vs. Fear (Questions)

Name: _____

1. God commands us to help others, what must we distinguish between in order to do this effectively? –
2. Human fear starts out as a what? -
3. The human fear for myself and others can be justified when it is concerning what?
4. God did not give us the spirit of human fear, but he did give us a Spirit of what? Please explain what he gave.
5. There is a fear we are required to have. Please explain that fear.
6. When we don't have fear does it mean that that nothing bad will happen to us?
7. How does Trust and Faith keep us from acting in fear?
8. What does "There is no fear in Love" mean?
9. How does Godly wisdom work with God protecting us?

10. How does envy and Selfish-ambition fuel worldly wisdom?

11. What should I do if I'm "naturally" wise?

12. What is the biggest difference between how Believers do things vs how unbelievers do things?

13. How will I distinguish between acting in fear and acting in wisdom?