



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Proverbs 4:7-8 / James 1:22

Title: Keys to Wisdom, Part 2

Theme: Grasping the Wisdom of God

Introduction: *We serve a God who has resources that never run out. One of those resources that are available to all Christians is wisdom. James wrote, "If any of you should lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5) The child of God needs only to ask and then live according to the written Word of God and he can enjoy the benefits of "Walking in the Wisdom of God."*

Proverbs 4:7-8, "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you." James the half brother of Jesus gives us some practical advice and we read it in James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Proposition: *I would propose to you that if Christians would but just take heed to the Biblical principles in seeking God's perfect will for them and grasp the truths found in today's message. The church would be seen as a people of God who knows, understands and walks in the wisdom of God.*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what is in the heart of those who enjoy the benefits of Godly wisdom?*

Transitional Sentence: *Over the last few weeks we have been discussing the practical ways of seeking and applying the wisdom of God.*

There are four basic disciplines to making the two master disciplines of hearing and doing a practical part of his Christian walk.

- 1.) Attention
- 2.) Meditation
- 3.) Obedience
- 4.) Endurance

Today we are going to come to understand "Obedience and Endurance."

The basic disciplines of "Attention and Meditation" are needed before we can lay down a foundation for wisdom. The basic disciplines of "Obedience and Endurance" are needed so we can express a life of walking in the counsel and wisdom of God.

Illustration: "Wild Mind Billy"

If the child of God is going to enjoy and know the power of God to enable him to obey, he must want to obey because it first, pleases the Lord and second it will show God's grace upon His life. There must be a personal submission to God, Christ and a longing to have fellowship in the Holy Spirit before any child of God will be able to beat any sin that causes him to miss out of walking in the wisdom of God.

Therefore, the heart condition to walking in obedience should be for the glory of the Lord, not for us. We should not want to walk in obedience so that we can be seen as someone great or good, but that Christ is working in and through us. So the lost will be encouraged to look to Christ and not to us. Our goal is to please Christ and He will enable us to enjoy the blessing of walking an obedient life to God's will for us.

Transitional Sentence: *Having the right heart will cause you to walk in the joy of obedience and keep you from missing God's best.*

Illustration: The Prairie Overcomer "I Missed God's Best"

He wrote, "I have a beautiful home and a lovely wife and children. In my heart, however, there is a deep void. From the world's view I was successful, from God's view point I never knew His best for me."

Biblical Illustrations: Cost of a disobedient / blessings of an obedient heart

King Saul: The primary indicator of Saul's unsuitability was his repeated failure to obey the Word of God.

(1 Samuel 13, 15)

(1 Samuel 13:13)

(1 Samuel 15: 9)

The Hebrew verb for "unwilling" is specifically linked with the sin of rebellion in Deuteronomy 1:26. The Bible says that God told Samuel, "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." (1 Samuel 15:11)

King David:

(2 Samuel 22:2-3)

(2 Samuel 22:2-3a)

The Bible says, "After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: `I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'" (Acts 13:22)

Illustration: Adoniram Judson

It is my understanding that the fashionable church in Boston still stands, doing a work with the Lord, however, the churches that the Lord had established through Adoniram in Burma had gained fifty thousand converts, and the influence of his obedient life is still having a positive effect on missions today. The church that is obedient to her calling will find the wisdom of God for the present and for her future work with the Lord. Their work will reach out to many beyond their church walls.

Those who walk in the way of wisdom know very well that Biblical obedience is not just compliance to some abstract law or rule. It is being submissive to the Person of the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9) as He has revealed God's will to them. It involves saying no to the flesh, the world and the devil and yes to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Jim Berg, "There are only two choices on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self."

Transitional Sentence: *Once a Christian understands the basic discipline of "obedience" he needs to apply "endurance." Endurance is continued obedience to God even under pressure or heavy persecution.*

There is a difference between endurance of someone who says, "I will see this through because I believe this is important," and someone who says, "I will see this through because I am in submission to My God, my Lord Jesus Christ, and by the strength of the Holy Spirit." This endurance is birthed not from just a head full of Bible passages and Scriptural principles, but from having a mind and heart that is set on things above, and not on this earth.

(Colossians 3:1-2)

Hebrews 12:1-2 says; "Therefore, since we have so great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross..." (NAS)

"Endurance" (*hypomone*) as it is used here refers to the endurance that is needed for a lifelong, long-distance race." The practical application is a determination that is unhurried and goes steadily on and refuses to be deflected. Satan's and the world's obstacles do not turn this man away from his God given vision. Discouragements do not take this man's hope away. He has a steadfast endurance that carries on until the end.

The key to success in the Christian life is the same as it was for Christ and the heroes of our faith. Spiritual success is found in the ability to endure. If there is one character flaw that we should be without, it would be that we are quitters. A Christian should never quit. We are admonished, over and over again to endure, to stay in the fight to the very end, through finding strength in Christ.

(Hebrews 12:3)

Biblical Illustration: Moses:

Relationship with the Lord is what enables the child of God to endure through the hardships and trials that can come upon Christians as they serve Jesus, thus, allowing them to enjoy all the victories that come while serving in the Lord's army. Just like Moses, the obedient children of God have a Friend that sticks closer than a brother.

There are four points worth considering as Christ as a friend who sticks closer than a brother:

One, Jesus comes nearer to us than any friend or brother can

Two, Jesus is always the same to us

Three, Jesus' patience is inexhaustible

Four, Jesus lives forever

These four truths is what the heroes of faith found comfort, strength and stability in, which empowered them with endurance to see their God given task through.

Enterprise of taking the people out of Egypt: Moses Endured

(Exodus 3: 12)

(Matthew 28:20)

(John 14:17,18; Galatians 2:20)

(Exodus 3:18)

(Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Luke 8:15)

(Exodus 3:19-22)

(1 Peter 2:5-9)

(Exodus 5:21)

(Exodus 5:22)

(Exodus 7:1-2)

(Exodus 7:14)

(Exodus 8:15)

(Exodus 9:35)

The fact is no matter what ministry you are called into. It may be while raising your children, in the work place and even in the church. There are going to be seasons that God is doing a work all around you before the eyes of people who can clearly see God doing something, yet people are going to continue to harden their hearts. You can set down with them and show them in God's Word what His vision for you is and it won't soften their hearts. Their hearts are going to be hardened and you had better be like Moses, who had a heart that endured, so you and the people who believe in you can see God's mighty deliverance. Just as Moses saw when he took the people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea.

In Closing: All Christians can have a walk with the Lord that Moses did through a heart that gives attention to God's call, that meditates upon what God's Word says, that is obedient to what the Lord says to do and endures to the end.