

Pursuing Wisdom's Positive Path
(Job 1:1-8) & Proverbs 2

Let us pray-

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

We, as baby human beings, are born into this world with limited physical mobility and limited mental understanding. Just as we need loving parents, mature adults, in our lives to help us learn how to walk by supporting us and keeping us safe, so too do we need God to enable us to grow in wisdom that we may live, move and have our being in the world He created. While God does this through parents, wise teachers, and His Word recorded in the Bible, it is God Who supernaturally gives wisdom; because, while human beings are generally born with a desire and inclination to walk; no one is born with an inclination toward wisdom as it is defined biblically. Furthermore, we are born neither with a desire for Wisdom from God nor for His discipline and instruction. God must give us the desire and sustain our never-ending ability “to walk” in the straight paths of the wise and righteous. God grants us wisdom through Jesus who is our Wise Big Brother Who already paved the way of life, righteousness and wisdom for us through His life, death and resurrection. In Jesus, we become adopted children of God Who call upon Him as our Father. It is this saving relationship, as children of God, that enables both a desire for wisdom and an ability to live wisely according to God’s Word being led by the Holy Spirit. Apart from God’s supernatural intervening grace, we will blindly follow the wide but crooked paths of wicked and idolatrous people. By God’s grace, we may walk in the wise way of Jesus. However, we must pursue this wise path of Jesus. We are to seek out and grow in Wisdom in every aspect of our lives; especially when it appears God is absent or when we are confused and lost as to what is right and wrong. We must submit to God’s training that we may grow in His Wisdom every day of our lives as we earnestly seek to live righteous lives and walk in wise ways. We do this by going to our Bible to listen to God’s Word and by coming together regularly for prayer and fellowship, so we may take hold of Jesus as our Wisdom for us. Are we reaching out to Him and pursuing

Him? Looking to God, focusing on Him, and loyally walking along the path He has paved for us by His Son Jesus is the fear of God, which is beginning of our growth in Wisdom. These are all themes we touched on in our three-part study of Proverbs 1. Recall Proverbs 1-9 introduces the entire Book of Proverbs, and they paint a “Portrait of Wisdom” while also offering “Warnings Against Her Detractors; one of which is “Folly.” Folly is the opposite of Lady Wisdom. Folly is represented a dangerously loose and adulterous woman.

Recall, Wisdom is personified as a Woman; because, the Hebrew word for Wisdom is feminine. We will see the fullness of Wisdom’s portrait and personification in Proverbs 8. Last time, we learned that Wisdom is not hiding from us. She is out there in the open, loudly urging everyone to repent of folly and turn to her. Lady Wisdom’s call is available to anyone who will listen. However, while Wisdom is public, She must be pursued for positive results in our lives. The positive result Wisdom entails includes deliverance from: 1.) the temptation of wicked people and 2.) death.

Pursuing Wisdom’s Positive Path

Again, we see a formula of “Paternal Instruction” that depicts a parent, or any teacher of wisdom, that we saw earlier in chapter 1. This formula today is:

- a) Introductory Address = “My son” (*Verse 1*) For those of us in Christ, this is addressed to us as God’s children.
- b) Instruction to Attentiveness = “Accept, Store Up, Turn Ear, Apply Heart to and Cry Aloud for Understanding, Call Out for Insight, Look, and Search” (*Verses 1-5*)
- c) Characteristic of Wisdom = A Treasure (*Verse 4*) from the Lord (*Verse 6*) that leads to Success and Serves as a Shield for Protection (*Verses 7-8*) by entering our Heart, Pleasing our Soul and Giving Discretion (*Verses 9-11*)
- d) Main Teaching Theme = For the one who pursues Wisdom, She enables us to understand what is right and just (*Verse 9*), and Wisdom saves/delivers us from the crooked paths of wicked men and the adulterous woman that leads down to death. (*Verses 12-19*)
- e) Reflections on Outcome for the Fool/Wise = The upright and blameless who keep to the paths of the righteous and walk in the ways of the good will live in safety and enjoy God’s blessing, but the wicked and unfaithful will be cut off (*Verses 20-22*).

1. **Pursuing Wisdom Verses 1-11**

a. If...*Verses 1-4*

i. Describe searching and pursuing wisdom.

1. If you have this desire to search and pursue Wisdom in this way; opening to instruction and discipline according to God's Word, then thank God for this desire He has put in your heart.

b. Then...*Verses 5, 9*

i. "We" will "Understand and Find" "the fear of the Lord" and the good path to follow. We will have "discretion and understanding that will protect and guard" us on the way (*Verses 9, 11*).

1. Who? The "upright, blameless, and faithful ones" – those like Job (*1:1*). Those who "fear the Lord"; those who are loyal and obedient to God even amid suffering and doubt; trusting in His discipline and instruction.

2. **Positive Results for Pursuit Verses 12-22**

a. Saved/Delivered from Wicked Men & the Adulterous Woman *Vss 12-19*

i. Adulterous Woman = She is NOT a "faithful one" (*verse 17*). This is a forbidden woman. She is dangerous. She is a married woman that sleeps with any passer-by, and remember, physical adultery is a mere sign of our spiritual adultery against God; idolatry.

b. Live forever in safety and with God's Blessings *Verses 20-22*

How are we to understand that Wisdom is out in the open for all to see, BUT we must look for her and pursue her? How do we find Wisdom who is public yet something we need to pursue; even search for? We discussed how we are neither born able to walk nor born with wisdom; much less the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of Wisdom. *Verses 6, 10. Job 28:1,2, 12-26* God does it. He gives us the desire to walk uprightly. He holds us up, and He leads us on the good and righteous path by His Word, the Bible, and His Spirit, but there is a reciprocal relationship between fearing the Lord and pursuing wisdom. "Fearing Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, but receiving wisdom helps people better understand the fear of Yahweh" (Faithful). This is why we must continue to search out and pursue wisdom in every aspect of our lives. Pursuing wisdom enables us to know God better, and knowing Him better makes us wiser in every aspect of our lives. God promises that when we earnestly seek Him, we will find Him for who He really is,

and we learn of the fullness of God as He has revealed Himself in His Son Jesus as recorded in the Bible.

We are not born wise. Rather, we are born inclined to follow the paths of wicked men and the adulterous woman as people unfaithful to God. God needs to put us on the right path and give us the desire to follow it for our good and His glory. An unbeliever does not have the fear of the Lord Jesus to even begin to grow in true wisdom. They despise God's instruction and discipline and prefer the pseudo-wisdom of the world. They may even appear to be in covenant with God through Jesus (professing to be Christians), but he/she follows after the adulterous woman and is so seduced by wicked ways that they are led to death; because, in their hearts, they do not desire God's Wisdom that will grant them security and safety. *Verses 20-22*

The Believer, the Christian, is saved/delivered from wicked and perverse people and from the adulterous woman who breaks her covenant as one who is unfaithful and disloyal to Jesus Who purchased His People with His blood to be a spotless and beautifully adorned Bride. *Colossians 2:2-4*. Job looked to God. We look to Jesus Who fully reveals God. Jesus is also a better Job. Jesus reveals to us perfect uprightness, blamelessness and faithfulness because of His unwavering trust in His Father by the Spirit. By the same Spirit, we must be walking, making progress and pursuing Jesus as His faithful Bride; as His redeemed wise woman; because, in Jesus we have the Wisdom, security and safety we desire.

Let us pray-

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light *riseth* up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what *thou wouldst* have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in *thy* light we may see light, and in *thy* straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*