

Read

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Ephesians 5:15-17

Proverbs 1:7

James 1:5, 3:7

Consider

Eight years ago, my wife and I were faced with a challenging decision. We had both sensed that it was the right time to start trying to have a baby after a number of years of marriage. At the same time, we felt that God was prompting us to lead a mission trip to Philadelphia for our youth ministry to serve and care for families in a halfway house shelter. This particular opportunity came with inherent risks and would be emotionally and physically strenuous, not to mention that we would be driving for long stretches to our destination. Honestly, we didn't see how a pregnancy and this short term mission opportunity could coincide with one another.

We spoke and sought wise counsel from family and friends, who all expressed their concern, but encouraged us to seek out and trust the Lord. We had been praying for months and felt that God was calling us to pursue both. We stepped forward in faith, but in my mind, this didn't seem like a wise decision and I had expected that God was going to close the door on one of them. Perhaps we wouldn't conceive right away or maybe the mission opportunity would not end up happening. I was proven wrong and several months later, we were on the road with dozens of teenagers while my wife was starting her third trimester driving one of the vans.

Human wisdom was telling me that this was foolish and that I was taking unnecessary risks. The wisdom from the Spirit was telling us that He was doing something beyond what we could imagine in our lives and for the sake of the Kingdom. The shared experience stretched us to trust God more fully and rely on his protection, especially when we found ourselves caught up in a street brawl and also when the host house that was lodging us had a natural gas leak. Many of the single moms and expecting young women in the shelter gravitated toward my wife and were encouraged and in awe of her faith to trust God to serve in this way. There were many tears from us all as we gave thanks to God. Nowadays, we are also able tell our daughter all the time that she was already a missionary two months before she was born!

Wisdom from the Holy Spirit is found in who Christ is and our life in Him. I would encourage you to read the suggested verses above and consider how each of them speak into your relationship with God and how we live in Him. Resist the temptation to think about them in terms of what you may want for yourself, but be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your life.

How is God calling you to trust Him today and live by His wisdom? Do we believe that He is for our joy, good, and fullness of life, even when it doesn't make sense by human wisdom? Is the Holy Spirit leading us to participate in His Kingdom work, even if it goes beyond our comfort level and there may be sacrifices? Are we willing to surrender to Him to experience His presence and work in and through us in greater ways?

Pastor Jonathan Nip

Pray

Slowly read Proverbs 3 out loud and mediate on how Holy Spirit is speaking to you. Allow the verses to guide and form your prayers today.

Diving Deeper

How do you differentiate between human wisdom and wisdom that comes from the Spirit?

In 1 Corinthians 2:4, why does the apostle Paul emphasize the power of the Holy Spirit in his preaching? How is this connected to 1 Corinthians 1:17? What does it mean for "the cross of Christ to be emptied of its power"? How does that impact the way we minister and share the gospel?

How can v. 12-16 move us to trust in God more and grow in confidence and patience when we pray and seek wisdom? How does that help us to grow in compassion and grace for others?

What is the picture of community that God reveals to us through spiritual wisdom? How can we share, discern, and live out the mind of Christ together?

How can we live closer **WITH** God in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?