



GETTING OLD & GROWING UP

We say we're growing "older & wiser" as though it's a given. But the truth of the matter is we caaan just get older...👁️👁️

Solomon knew wisdom - he'd been granted it by God himself - so it's not surprising that he encouraged his son to actively seek wisdom as well. He told him to focus in on it & cry out for it. He *pleads* for his child to take wisdom seriously. And when the son finally finds wisdom, does it amount to degrees or honors or "gotcha" moments in arguments? No. In searching for wisdom, *he found God.*

Paul agrees that wisdom is more than intellect when he says the world's and God's wisdom don't always line up. In fact, the Gospel can sound absolutely whacky - but that message of the cross & resurrection is the very place where real wisdom lives. It's the whole (joyful) point.

So as we grow older, we don't just want more years... we want joy & understanding & *wisdom*. Wisdom is found in the pursuit of Him, and the pursuit of Him always leads to life.

PRACTICING THE WAY:

Solomon says to "cry out for insight, and ask for understanding." This week, seek wisdom through the Practice of Prayer! You can get a refresher at thepointknox.com/prayer.

IN THE BIBLE.

PROVERBS 2:1-15

- My child, listen to what I say,
and treasure my commands.
- ² Tune your ears to wisdom,
and concentrate on understanding.
- ³ Cry out for insight,
and ask for understanding.
- ⁴ Search for them as you would for silver;
seek them like hidden treasures.
- ⁵ Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord,
and you will gain knowledge of God.
- ⁶ For the Lord grants wisdom!
From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- ⁷ He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest.
He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.
- ⁸ He guards the paths of the just
and protects those who are faithful to him.
- ⁹ Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair,
and you will find the right way to go.
- ¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will fill you with joy.
- ¹¹ Wise choices will watch over you.
Understanding will keep you safe.
- ¹² Wisdom will save you from evil people,
from those whose words are twisted.
- ¹³ These men turn from the right way
to walk down dark paths.
- ¹⁴ They take pleasure in doing wrong,
and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.
- ¹⁵ Their actions are crooked,
and their ways are wrong.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-25

- For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.
- ¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. ¹⁹ As the Scriptures say,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise
and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.”

²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. ²² It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. ²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. ²⁴ But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What sticks out to you in the verses above? What encourages you? Challenges you?
- 2.) Why do you think seeking wisdom and finding God are so closely connected? How does one lead to the other?
- 3.) How does God make “the wisdom of this world look foolish”? (v 20)
- 4.) What does actively seeking wisdom look like for you?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?