

9) How do you value wisdom? What would it mean for us to treat wisdom like gold or silver? How would you search for it differently?

10) How does the wisdom of God add another layer to our understanding of how God speaks?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read Proverbs Chapter 1 and think and pray about the following questions.

- 1) How do you value wisdom?
- 2) What do you see that is new?
- 3) What are you going to do differently?

When God Speaks

The Holy Spirit & Wisdom

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 29, 2023

Thread: It takes courage to hear God's voice and follow.

Jesus offers more than just a list of DO's and DON'Ts.

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." **Philippians 2:13 NLT**

Testing

"And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men." **Acts 17:11 – 12 NLT**

Wisdom:

1. General truths and amazing insights grounded in God's Word. (Wisdom literature in the Bible: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job and Song of Solomon.)

- Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 25:6–7, Psalms 46:10

2. Sound judgement, seeing clearly, accurately. Skilled at living the written Words of God practically speaking. Right application of knowledge. The best plan, selecting the best means to achieve God's heart on the matter.

Key Passage: Acts 15:1 - 29 NLT

In this critical instance of the Church, God spoke through His written Word, the Holy Spirit and WISDOM.

Let's learn from the voice of wisdom.

- We see sharp disagreement between 2 parties using the written Word of God.
- The people/Church appealed to people more mature/learned/experienced than themselves.
- They listened to each other.
- They sought God together and searched the written Word for answers and insights.

They asked the same questions we ask.

Good questions to ask in order to hear the Spirit of God:

- Which decision will allow me to live into the voice of God's written Word, not contradict it?
- What would be consistent with the character of God revealed in the written Word?
- Am I getting confirmation?
- What is my motive?
- Will this decision lead to the Spirit of God bearing fruit in me?
- What does WISDOM tell me? (Counsel of others)
- What am I now sensing the Spirit leading me to do?

Challenge:

As God comes near to you with the written Word and His Spirit, the real questions are:

- What is He saying?
His voice speaks, am I listening?
- What questions am I asking?
His voice speaks, am I listening?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resources.

Life Group Homework

When God Speaks
Fall 2023 | Week 7
Message Date 10/29/2023

MY STORY

- 1) What was your least favorite Halloween candy to get as a kid?
- 2) If you could choose any two famous people to have dinner with, who would they be?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Read Proverbs Chapter 1:1-7 and answer the following questions.

- 4) What is wisdom and where does it start?

For clarity the fear of the Lord can be defined as reverent respect. It's not fear as in running from or being terrified by. But a respect that we offer with humility. He is God and I am not, and He is holy, and I am not. In Christ we are told to boldly come to the throne of grace so we can receive from the Lord in our time of need. We cannot do this if we are in fear in our time of need.

- 5) What does Solomon (the author of the Proverbs) say about how Proverbs will help us?

Read Proverbs Chapter 8:1-31.

- 6) How is wisdom portrayed in this chapter and what is it doing?
- 7) How does wisdom help us hear the voice of God?
- 8) Where can you find wisdom?