

*Digging Deeper*

**DEVOTIONAL**



**The Wisdom Piece**

**Kittiwake Baptist Church**

<http://www.kittiwake.org/devotionals/>

**(Week 21)**

## Day 1

### The Wisdom Piece

*6 Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. 8 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. (1 Cor 16:6-9)*

If you are a follower of Christ, does God promise to always give you all the answers or clear direction for all the decisions you have to make? No. When we pray “God show me what to do” God doesn’t always show you exactly what to do, but often He will give you wisdom to make good decisions.

Notice in verses 6-8 the words “perhaps” and “if the Lord permits.” Paul didn’t know where he was going to be, but he was still serving God where he was. Even though Paul didn’t know exactly where God was going to take him, he was being obedient to what God had already told him and using God given wisdom to make decisions that would glorify God.

Many times we think God isn’t in something because people are opposing us. Paul says the opposite, God is in it because he is being opposed (vs. 9). Opposition isn’t an accurate indicator of God’s will. The disciples often faced opposition doing what God had called them to do. When you face opposition, draw near to God and ask for wisdom, but don’t give up. God can provide a way through the opposition which glorifies Him even more.

***Are you asking God what He wants you to do? Make sure you are acting on what He’s already revealed to you.***

## Day 2

### The Wisdom Piece

4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." 6 Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. 7 "Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" 10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. (1 Kings 3:4-10)

Solomon was required to sacrifice 1 bull to the lord, but because he loved God so much he sacrificed 1000. God was so moved by that act of love that he let Solomon ask for anything he wanted. And Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people well.

***Do you have the kind of love and generosity that moves the heart of God? Do you seek the wisdom to accomplish God's will in your life?***

## Day 3

### The Wisdom Piece

*The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. (Prov 4:7)*

How do we get the wisdom that we need?

#### 1. Walk with the Wise

*Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Prov 13:20)*

Solomon says that if you want to get wisdom, you should hang around wise people.

*Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor 15:33)*

*The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. (Prov 12:26)*

If you run with the wrong people, the wrong things tend to happen. Who you choose to make your close friends will greatly affect how you act and think. It is almost impossible to live the right life when you have the wrong friends.

Solomon says to "walk with the wise", not to ask them for wisdom, but build a relationship with someone who is wise. We need more than advice, we need wisdom to permeate our life through our friends.

***If you want to make better decisions, hang out with better people. Ask God to help you evaluate your friends. Do you tend to make poor choices with those you hang out with? It may be time to reevaluate your friendships.***

## Day 4

### The Wisdom Piece

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)*

#### 2. Ask to be wise

“Without finding fault” – If you ask God for wisdom, God says “that is a good thing” and He will give it to us.

*26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (1 Cor 1:26-31)*

Worldly wisdom may seem attractive or compelling, but true wisdom begins with the Gospel Message and the Word of God. True wisdom comes from God, and He says that if you ask, He will generously give it to you.

***God is ready to give you wisdom. Have you ever asked? Ask God to give you wisdom today so that you can make good decisions in your life.***

## Day 5

### The Wisdom Piece

36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. (Acts 15:36-41)

*Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (2 Tim 4:11)*

### 3. Pull the Trigger

Make a decision. After we've walked with the wise and asked God for wisdom, make a decision. "But what if I make the wrong decision and make a mistake?" Both wise and foolish people make mistakes, but a foolish person looks for someone else to blame. A wise person asks; "What part did I have to play in that mistake." And then they ask God for the wisdom not to make the same mistake again. God can use that failure to develop wisdom in you.

If you've never failed at anything, you've never tried to do anything. In Acts we see that Barnabas and Paul had a disagreement about whether to take Mark along with them. Mark had tried to go on a previous journey, but had deserted them. But Mark learned from his previous mistake and God used his trip with Barnabas to grow Mark into someone Paul would later rely on in his ministry.

***Indecision has never accomplished anything. Pull the trigger and if you make a mistake, do like Mark did and learn from it.***

The Wisdom Piece

*So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, (1 Thess 3:1-2)*

As Christians there are some things that the Bible has already spoken on. On those things the only decision we have to make is one of obedience. Are we or are we not going to follow what God wants for us. When the Bible is clear on something we don't have to ask God for direction, He's already spoken.

*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)*

*But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:25)*

Paul says “we thought it best”. Paul made a decision to stay in Athens. We too can make decisions that glorify God when we surround ourselves with wise people and ask God to give us wisdom to accomplish His will.

***What steps do you need to take to start making good, God honoring decisions consistently in your life? Don't let indecision keep you from making a decision. If you fall, ask God to give you the wisdom to learn from your mistake. Are you learning from your mistakes?***