



“Getting to Know God”

Section 2: What Can We Know About What God Is Like?

Unit 2.8: A Wise & Faithful Father



I) Putting Perfection into Practice

- We have now reached our final unit on the shared attributes of God that reveal His moral perfections. And in this final unit, we are going to examine how God’s perfection is practically seen in the world when demonstrated through the attributes of *wisdom* and *faithfulness*.

II) Ways of the Only Wise God

- **Romans 16:27** declares, “...to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.” When we think of God, many of us have conjured up mental images of a white-bearded grandfather because that is typically what we have associated with wisdom. However, God’s wisdom is not based on a wealth of earthly life experience, but instead on a completely omniscient, all-knowing mind, that is matched with a benevolent, all-loving heart, and an uncompromising all-holy character. So, when examining the attribute of God’s wisdom, we must never separate it from God’s love as a total commitment to His glory and our good. Therefore, we will define wisdom as... *“the ability to understand and choose what will bring God the most glory, and bring others the most good.”*
- In Scripture, God’s wisdom is also connected with his infinite power to put his wise plan into practice. As the prophet proclaims in **Daniel 2:20**, “*Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.*” Perhaps there is no one who understood the wisdom and power of God in the midst of challenging circumstances more than Job. This is why he consistently connected these two attributes of God throughout the book, including the following passages:
 - a) **Job 9:4** – “*He is wise in heart and mighty in strength*”
 - b) **Job 12:13** – “*With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.*”
 - c) **Job 36:5** – “*Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; he is mighty in strength of understanding.*”

III) Opening the Windows to His Wisdom

- The wisdom of God has been revealed to our world through several open windows throughout human history, including the following:
 - a) **Wisdom through Creation:** (Jeremiah 10:12, Psalm 104:24, Psalm 74:17, Proverbs 8:22-23)
 - b) **Wisdom through Christ:** (1 Corinthians 1:23-24)
 - c) **Wisdom through the Church:** (Ephesians 3:8-10)

IV) Requirements for Receiving His Wisdom

- So, if the wisdom of God is at least partially shared with creatures made in His image, how can we acquire godly wisdom as we follow Christ? There is an entire section of the Bible called *wisdom literature* (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes) because God does desire for us to gain wisdom as His image bearers. Therefore, Scripture points out these four important ways we can begin to receive this wisdom from the Lord;
 - a) **Fear God for Wisdom:** (Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 9:10, Proverbs 1:7 Proverbs 15:33)
 - b) **Ask God for Wisdom:** (James 1:5, Proverbs 2:3-5, Ephesians 1:16-17)
 - c) **Hear God for Wisdom:** (Colossians 3:16, Psalm 19:7, 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
 - d) **Obey God for Wisdom:** (Proverbs 2:6-7; Proverbs 23:15-19)

V) The Father of All Faithfulness

- Faithfulness is the ultimate result of God applying His wisdom through a character and will that is eternally *unchanging*. Faithfulness, then, can be defined as “***an unwavering commitment to fulfill every promise and goal that will bring God the most glory, and bring others the most good.***” As the Lord encourages us in **Hebrews 10:23**, “²³ *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*”

VI) He is Trustworthy because He is True

- Not only is God’s faithfulness tied to His unchanging character, but what is equally important is that He is *trustworthy* because that unchanging character is *righteous* and *true*. The Bible consistently ties together God’s *faithfulness* with His *truth*:
 - a) Faithful in *Who He Is* – One True Way (John 3:33, Romans 3:4, John 14:6)
 - b) Faithful in *What He Says* – One True Word (John 17:17, Psalm 119:142)
 - c) Faithful in *What He Does* – One True Witness (Numbers 23:19, Deuteronomy 7:6)
 - d) Faithful in *What He Requires* – One True Will (1 Thess 5:23-24, 2 Timothy 2:13)

VII) Greater Wisdom Leads to Greater Faith

- Something the world does not understand is that greater knowledge is much different than greater wisdom. People seek greater knowledge because they want to be self-sufficient and trust more in their own power and ability. However, greater wisdom leads us to have greater faith and therefore trust less in our ability and more in God. As J.I. Packer states in *Knowing God*, “***...the kind of wisdom that God waits to give to those who ask him is a wisdom that will bind us to himself, a wisdom that will be expression in a spirit of faith and a life of faithfulness***” (p. 108).

VIII) The Glory of a Wise & Faithful Gospel

- Finally, the gospel unveils wisdom and faith in its supreme form through the person and work of Jesus Christ. And, this wisdom and faithfulness of Christ that is being manifested today through His faithful followers will always be something our fallen world mistakenly deems as foolish. As the Apostle Paul boldly proclaimed in **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**, “²⁶ *For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.* ²⁷ *But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;* ²⁸ *God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,* ²⁹ *so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.* ³⁰ *And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,* ³¹ *so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*”
- So, as we draw this entire section to a close, allow us to take a moment to consider the wisdom of God’s plan in our own individual lives, and also His faithfulness in walking with us through every stage of this life. Can you look at your own journey and say that from the very beginning you were held in the hands of a wise and faithful father?