

BE WISE

Sylvester Onyemalechi

“Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is”. (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Knowledge is not just wisdom. Wisdom is the right application of knowledge. It is possible for one to know the right thing to do, and yet not do it. That one knows the right thing to do does not make that person a wise person. Wisdom is in application. Wisdom is action and not just knowledge as some presume. This scripture advises the believer to be very careful not to live as unwise but as wise. This means that it is possible for the knowledgeable believer to live as unwise if care is not taken.

Care must be taken by all to make sure that one does not take foolish steps or say foolish things. Every Christian is expected to live as a wise person because our God is wise and we are his children. The seed of wisdom is in us. Jesus is the wisdom of God and he lives in us. To live according to the will of the Spirit of Jesus is walking in wisdom. The passage says,

“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lords will is.”

The will of the Lord is wisdom from the wise God. To walk in the will of God is to walk in wisdom. To live contrary is to be foolish. Therefore it is your duty to find out what the will of God is in all situations and do it. Let your life comply with the will of God, and our Wise God will regard you as a wise person. Men may call you foolish because you are doing the will of God, don’t let that border you. What God calls you is more important than what men call you. Be wise before God, and soon, men will call you wise. Wisdom is connected to God’s will.

A wise man always makes most of every opportunity that presents itself. Wisdom demands prompt action. It is only the wise that are able to identify opportunities and take advantage of them. This calls for an understanding mind and diligence in seeking and following God to keep abreast with the Spirit of God. It takes a close walk with God to know what his will is in every situation. Be close to him.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE WISDOM OF GOD FOR US

Jesus Christ as the wisdom of God lives within us. Therefore, we have the wisdom of God in us waiting to be exploited.

“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.” (1 Cor. 1:30)

Wisdom is not far from you, he is in you. So by nature we are wise. Every true born again Christian has wisdom as a potential waiting to be steered up.

“But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not

received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: `For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? ` But we have the mind of Christ.” (2 Cor. 10:16)

The ordinary man without Christ does not see what God sees, so he cannot appreciate the wisdom of God. As a result, the wisdom (counsel) of God is treated as foolishness. A true child of God should not approach God the way the world does. A true believer should prove that he truly believes by practicing confidence in God and in his word. God sees what we don't see. He knows what we don't know. He understands what we don't understand. The carnal (unspiritual) man cannot appreciate and understand the things of the Spirit because he is carnally minded (sees as a mere man sees). The wisdom of God is spiritual. It is supernatural. The wisdom of God is not earthly. It is from above, and is above the wisdom of this world. Therefore, to judge the wisdom of God by human intelligence is foolishness. God is not foolish at all. He is true wisdom and the fountain of wisdom. All knowledge and all that exist came out of his wisdom. To accept and walk by his will is walking in wisdom. Whether it makes sense or not, does not matter, just do what he says and you will soon see the wisdom behind the instruction.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM

The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of wisdom reveals the mind of God to God's people.

“But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: `For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? ` But we have the mind of Christ.” (2 Cor. 10:16)

No one will know the mind and heart of God more than God's own Spirit just as no one will know your mind, as your own spirit will. Our duty therefore is to search out what the Spirit is saying to us as his people per time. This is the reason God gave us his Spirit to guide us and lead us in the will and wisdom of God.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Rom. 8:14)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom for he knows all that the Father knows and understands all things. To follow him is to follow God. To follow God is to walk in wisdom.

THE WISDOM OF GODS IS FOOLISHNESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD

The things of God (wisdom of God) are foolishness to the people of the world – It doesn't make sense to them. The reason being that they are not spiritually sensitive to understand them. Another reason is that they don't see as God sees. They see as mere men. They want to understand everything before they believe.

IT IS ONLY A FOOL THAT WILL DESPISE THE WISDOM OF GOD.

The Bible teaches that it is only a fool that says there is no God. Only a fool will despise the wisdom of God. It is only a fool who will treat God as a joker. It is only a fool that will despise the word of God and not take them serious.

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good” (Ps. 14:1). Read Psalm 53:1

“A fool spurns his fathers discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence...Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the part; he who hates correction will die.” (Prov. 15:5,10)

“The wise in heart accepts commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.”(Prov. 10:8)

“The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Prov.12:15)

“He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he respects a command is rewarded.” (Prov. 13:13)

Space will not permit me to elaborate on these passages, but permit me to say that it is dangerous to play the fool. The disobedient is foolish. To disobey the word of God is to be foolish because any man in his right senses will not neglect the word of God. It is only a fool that will despise his father's discipline – He doesn't give a damn about the consequences of his disobedient actions. Foolish acts provoke discipline. There will be no need for discipline if all act wisely. To act contrary to the word of God is to act foolishly.

Take the word of God serious. Accept the instruction and counsel of God as the final authority on every and any subject. If you do, then you are wise.

TO BE UNWISE

- 1.** To walk as unwise is to despise the word of God and treat it as if God is not serious about what he has said, and it will never come to pass.
- 2.** To be unwise is to live life and learn nothing from life experiences. Each life experience has a lot of lessons to teach us if we are willing to learn. To avoid a reoccurrence of the same experience, learn from the past experiences.
- 3.** To walk as unwise is to think of yourself as having arrived.
- 4.** To walk as unwise is to think of yourself as better, holier, greater than every other person. It is to think of yourself more highly than you ought to.
- 5.** To be unwise is to take steps without considering the consequences of your proposed action.

“Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.” (Prov.10:13)

Wisdom teaches that one take steps after careful thought.

6. To be unwise is to be self-centered in thoughts and actions.
7. To be unwise is to apply the same method and technique and expect to get a different result
8. The unwise see the instructions of God as foolish and a burden. But for the wise that are true lovers of God, the word of God is not a burden. Love is the motivation for obedience. The wise cherish the word of God.
9. A fool is always right in his own eyes, and never sees his own faults. Even when he sees his faults, will blame another person for it. He never fixes problems but blame.
10. The unwise are slow in making amendments in their lives. They keep postponing action.
11. The unwise give in to their weaknesses instead of dealing with them. They justify it as part of their nature. Jesus came to change men. If you are not being changed, then something is definitely wrong with your conversion and walk with the Lord.
12. The wise when they are confronted with a problem, settle down to analyze the problem to know what they have done wrong and learn lessons from them to avoid a repeat. But the unwise does not, rather, looks for whom to blame for it all.

THE WISE

Everything itemized under the unwise, the opposite of it are the characteristics of the wise. Never the less, I will highlight a few things to remind you of what is expected of you.

1. The wise love, honor and reverence God and his word.

“The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.” (Prov.10:8)

2. The wise builds his life on the word of God.
3. The wise is quick to learn from all that happen to him.
4. The wise is pure in thoughts, words and actions. He understands that his thoughts give birth to his words and actions, so he is careful about the thoughts he thinks.
5. The wise does not envy.
6. The wise is not selfish.
7. No evil practice is found in the life of the wise.
8. He is a peacemaker and peace-lover.
9. The wise is considerate, submissive, and full of mercy and good fruit.

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peace makers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” (James 3:16-18)

10. The wise looks before leaping.

11. The wise is always gentle, cool and calm no matter what the condition may be. They don't panic.
12. The wise search out God's will and does it.

CONCLUSION

Do not be unwise but wise. Make most of every opportunity that God brings your way. Redeem the time because the days are evil. Be careful how you think, talk and act. To know the truth is not enough. To practice it is what God is looking for. Wisdom is the right application of knowledge. It pays to be wise. The will of God is the wisdom of God. The instructions of God though difficult to practice are the wisdom of God. To obey it is to position yourself for honor and blessing of all kinds.

Every act of disobedience is an act of foolishness. To go contrary to the revealed will of God is to walk in foolishness. To know what to do is the main task before man at all times. The worst thing that can ever happen to a man is to know what to do, and fail to do it. The bible says it is sin for that man.

“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.” (James 4:17)

Therefore, sin is an act or manifestation of foolishness. Be wise.