

A New and Living Way! **Part 4: "Applying God's Wisdom"**

The Church is at its best when we're ALL-IN, stepping up to the life God has planned! Jesus didn't come to make us Bible experts but Living Bibles... *guiding authorities* of His way! So that we can invade our world with the power of God, and ignite the heirs of salvation!

So far... Found that there's quite a difference between being religious and in relationship! Pharisees were very religious people... Power poor, personally weak, troublesome to God and godly people! Rather than admit it and change their lifestyles to fit the divine life God offers... Exchanged/edited the word of God to accommodate their lifestyles... Much easier to appease conscience!

**So, with their lips they built a façade of godliness, but their hearts were very far away from Him!
"These people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor Me, but they have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men!" Isaiah 29.13 "These people draw near Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. In vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt 15.8,9 "Your religious façade is folly because you teach the commandments of men as God's word. You lay aside His word to hold the traditions of men. You neutralize His word to keep your own tradition." Mark 7.6-9**

So far... We don't want to be "Pharisees!" We don't want to be hung up, slowed down, taken off the new and living way! Distractions like offenses/unforgiveness! Not when we have been made more than overcomers by the Overcomer of Life! We want to be doers of His word and not be hearers only... Because we know that means we are deceiving ourselves... and others... *FOLLOWERS FOLLOW!*

We walk in His steps and step up into the "new and life way" God has planned!

First step is from born again believer to purposeful server! 1 Timothy 3.8-15 Servers must be worthy of honor, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as servants, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be honorable, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons *obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus...* these things I write so that you may know how to conduct yourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God and the pillar and ground of truth!

First Step... Starts at home... Spouse-kid service... For second step: "For if you don't know how to rule your own house, *how will you take care of the church of God?" 1T3.5* Not dominance, subjugation but service! "Be worthy" of honor/respect/audience! Be filled with Holy Spirit rather than wine! Be present instead of gone chasing \$\$\$ Deal with the word of God in good conscience, pure heartedly, transparently! Be willing to be "proved!" PATIENCE!

Asides... "How can you care for the church?" can be, "How you will care for the church!" Same way you care for your family! Overindulgent? "*Mine do no wrong!*" Disconnected? "*let them do their thing!*" Over critical? Abusive? Authoritative? Impatient? "*Why are you so slow?*" Hypocritical? Kind/gentle/loving/prayerful/helpful/honest/transparent?

All of this has to do with stepping up into the way and the wisdom God gives! And if ever we are going to step up, it will only be by His ways! We must stop drinking from the wells of earthly, sensual wisdom – "swill!"

Swill... A mixture of liquid and solid food, such as table scraps, fed to animals, especially pigs; slop. 2. Kitchen waste; garbage. 3. A deep draft of liquor. 4. Nonsense; rubbish. (Christian filter) Swill: A mixture of "solid truth"

with “fluid knowledge,” leftovers consumed by “brute beasts.” Cooked up “wastedness” that should be revulsed at first taste but habitually swallowed rendering the eater/drinker senselessly sick and weak.

The Wisdom of God... “Who is a wise man, endued with knowledge? The one who shows from a good lifestyle his works - with meekness of wisdom. *If you have jealousy and strife in your heart, don't glory, and don't lie against the truth, for where there is envy and strife there is every evil work.* The wisdom that is from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to deal with, full of mercy, good works, without prejudice or hypocrisy!” **James 3.13-17**

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all men liberally, without any kind of reproach for asking, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, not wavering... for the one who wavers back and forth is like a wave driven by the wind, tossed around... don't let that man think he will receive anything from the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways! **James 1.5-8**

“*Regard* wisdom and *apply your heart* to understanding. If you *cry* for knowledge and *lift up your voice* for understanding; If you *seek* her as hidden treasures; Then will you understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. The Lord gives wisdom. out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous. He is a shield to those who walk uprightly. He guards the paths of judgment and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yes, every good path!” **Proverbs 2.2-9**

Getting on Solids... **Regard:** to look at attentively and observe closely, to listen to and hold in respect... **Apply for:** prepare for, make a request and lay a claim for... **Cry for:** shriek and make a proclamation of faith for... **Lift up your voice for:** intent/interest. **Search for:** “turn on the lights/turnover the house for...” **The wisdom, the applied knowledge, of God!**

Applying His wisdom to... **Partnering:** a lifelong vow before an eternal God, not a contract! **Parenting:** a step up into the image of God, not a distraction from youthful lusts! **Prospering:** identity, provision, riches and honor comes from the Lord, not our careers! **Preparing for the future:** not wise to be rich in this world and poor towards God!

Applying God's wisdom to every area of our lives is about being wise and building our homes on the Rock!

Applying God's wisdom, being “doers” of His word, is about “being” followers of Jesus on a new and living way!

Applying God's wisdom is about doing “the good works that God ordained that we should walk in!”