

A. PROMISE

- *Beginning in January 2026, the Lord kept pointing to wisdom as the thing that was most needed in several diverse situations (both mine and those of others).
- Wisdom is one of those words that's often used by people of faith. It's possible to have only a general or vague understanding of these oh-so familiar words.
- If we are to embark on the Way of Wisdom (WOW!), we need a good, working definition. This quote tells us what wisdom is and what it is not:

"Wisdom is truth applied in specific situations. Shallow understanding trusts only in well-weathered paths. Wisdom, however, is an exercise of trust in the Lord." (Meredith Lee Myers)

- God has given us an incredible invitation in His Word – He wants to share His wisdom with us, to show us how to apply His truth!
- He's made many promises to give us His wisdom. Notice in the promises listed here that His desire is that we ask Him for it:
 - 1) Jer 33:3 -- Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know
 - 2) James 1:5 NIV -- 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
 - 3) Prov 3:5-6 -- Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths
- God offers to reveal His plans, His truth, His will, and His ways to those who will ask Him. Our theme verse is the perfect response to this astonishing invitation: Ps 25:4 – Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths.
- How wonderful to know that our heavenly Father will always answer this prayer!
- *Why does the Lord promise to give us wisdom?* Scripture reveals that His primary goal is to deepen our relationship with Him: Eph 1:17 NIV -- I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.
- While we may desire wisdom, if we're honest, most believers would have to admit that we do not avail ourselves of this invitation as consistently as is possible.
- In upcoming lessons, we will address some of the common reasons why we don't ask or expect God to bestow wisdom. For now begin to:
 - 1) Be alert for any resistance you may have to asking God for His way
 - 2) Consider how your day-to-day life would be transformed if you took advantage of the wisdom that is yours for the asking.
- Insights:

B. PROCESS

- Becoming a person who walks in the Way of Wisdom is a process. David provides a wonderful example of this: Psalm 25:1-5 NIV – To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in You I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
³ No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without cause. ⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths.
⁵ Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.
- We don't know the backstory of this psalm, but we do know that David had a situation on his hands. *We all have situations that would benefit from God's wisdom!*
- In every situation we have a choice. We can rely on our way, our knowledge, our viewpoint, and our abilities OR we can bring that situation to God.
- 1) Lift up my soul: David recorded his process for us to follow. He showed us to handle first things first -- he brought his soul, not just his circumstance, to the Lord. (v.1)
 - Our soul is our innermost being, the part which contains the breath of life. This word is also translated "heart." (Strong's H5314)
 - Our soul can be likened to a balloon. It's empty and lifeless unless someone breathes into it, enabling it to take its proper shape and function. It can even soar above its earthbound state when a superior substance like helium fills it.
 - Let's lift up our souls to God as David did. He will fill us with His Spirit and through His Word with wisdom that is vastly superior to any human resource.
 - Even helium-filled balloons can be held down with weights. We, too, can be weighed down by enemies like shame, fear, pride, worry, self-reliance, avoidance, etc.
- 2) Trust: David chose to look beyond the enemies in his situation and extend trust in God. "Trust" means to be confident, secure, or sure in someone. (v. 2, Strong's H982)
 - Trust is based on our experience. It grows over time as someone proves trustworthy again and again. It begins in certain areas and expands to other areas: 1 Cor 4:2 NIV – It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove that they are faithful.
 - Because David experienced God's faithfulness from an early age, he trusted God more than he trusted himself or the collective wisdom of the people around him.
 - David declares in verse 3, "No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame."
- 3) Hope in God alone: His hope was wholly in God because he never had reason to regret following God's Way. Ungodly ways and deceitful people held no appeal.
 - *Shame comes when we allow false hope to take hold in our lives. Even "good things" like our people, spiritual activities, or (lack of problems) can let us down.
 - As we learn to trust God more and put our hope in Him alone, we will know Him better and enjoy the same confidence and security that we see in David.

LISTENING EXERCISE:

- *Take a moment to see yourself lifting up your heart to God in heaven. What do you observe?*

- *Is there anything you want to say to Him about your heart and whatever may be weighing it down?*

- *Ask Him to reveal anywhere you've been holding back from trusting Him:*

- *Lord, please expose any false hopes (anywhere I placed my hope before You):*

- *By faith I say, "I trust You, God."*

- David asked to know God's ways and paths, to be guided and taught. This required humility and a willingness to set aside his own "well-weathered paths." (vv. 4-5)
- **How was he so humble and willing and teachable?* [David seemed to understand the powerful of knowing who God had been for him – his Savior!] (v. 5)
- God shown His great love for us by saving us from sin and death. Hallelujah! Furthermore, He is with us and for us in every situation we will ever face: Ps 68:19 -- Blessed be the Lord, *Who* daily loads us *with benefits*, The God of our salvation! *Selah*
- Insights:

C. TESTIMONY

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING

- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.