

## The Quest for Godly Wisdom *by Lois Burgher*

In this the third month of 2005, I find myself once again asking the Lord to impart to me His heart concerning this month's newsletter. For several days I have been impressed to write about the word "wisdom": what it means not only portrayed in the Word, but also in a spiritual context. Interestingly, this word has come up over and over again as we have been in prayer for the past month. We have been asking Him daily for His wisdom concerning every decision we make. James 1:4-6 states, "*If any of you lacks **wisdom**, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*"

"Wisdom" is defined in our English dictionary as: "having a soundness of judgment in matters relating to life and conduct, knowledge, enlightenment, and learning."

In the worldly view of things wisdom is portrayed mainly by the pursuit of knowledge and learning, and by the comparison of one intellect to another. It is wonderful to have a superior intellect with the ability to expand our minds in the pursuit of more knowledge, but without having *sound judgment* it does very little for us in the pursuit of happiness and in having eternal values. The definition of wisdom that we have been praying for has to do with this "soundness of judgment in matters relating to life and conduct."

The Bible has a great deal to say about wisdom, but I will only have time to be able to search a small part of what the Word says in this article.

1. The Bible tells us that true wisdom encompasses one very important quality: Psalms 111:9-12 says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **wisdom***"; and Job 28:29 echoes, "*The fear of the Lord, that is **wisdom**, and to shun evil is understanding.*"

Wisdom does not question the existence and sovereignty of God. Wisdom believes that Father God knows what is best for His children and that He knows what will bring life and happiness to us as well as what will bring destruction to our lives. He created everything and in Him we live, breathe and exist. He placed the stars in the sky, created the delicate balance of our fleshly bodies, has the hairs of our head numbered and knows the time of our last breath of life here on earth. He is the only one that is truly awesome, blameless, righteous and holy! He is deserving of all honor, praise and glory.

Wisdom also submits to our Lord and to His commandments. Proverbs 3:13-14: "*Happy (blessed, fortunate, enviable) is the man who finds skillful and godly Wisdom, and the man who gets understanding [drawing it forth from God's Word and life's experiences], For the gaining of it is better than the gaining of silver, and the profit of it better than fine gold.*"

2. The scripture is clear that there is a heavenly and a demonic wisdom and how we are to discern the between the two. James 3:13-18: "*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*"

3. Wisdom is also a spirit given by the Lord as seen in Exodus 28:2-4: "*So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of **wisdom**, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.*" And in Deut. 34:8-10: "*Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of **wisdom**, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.*"

4. Wisdom is being ready for our coming bridegroom. Almost since the beginning of this present outpouring the Lord has reminded me of the Parable of the 10 virgins as

is written in Mathew 25:1-13: *"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

Wisdom is having our oil lamps full so we may be prepared and alert in anticipation of the return of our bridegroom. He is coming back for His bride in all His splendor and glory, and what a glorious day it will be when we sit down with Him for the marriage feast!

My prayer for myself and for all of you reading this is that we would be filled with the spirit of wisdom given from heaven, that we would have true happiness because we fear the Lord first and follow His commandments, that Godly wisdom would be shown through us by Godly character as we mature in Him, and that we would stay alert keeping our oil lamps filled as we anticipate His coming for His bride.

Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit and purify our hearts Oh Lord we pray In Jesus name. Amen.