

# God Is...Wise

August 26, 2007

What does it mean that God is wise? It means that God is big enough to see the whole picture, He's smart enough to know what needs to be done & He's strong enough to get it done

Why more of us don't see God's wisdom as priceless...

- **"God is love"** 1 John chapter 4 verse 8 (943)
- Since God is love, He loves me!
- I assume that God wants my life to be trouble free, pain free & comfortable!!
- Therefore, I conclude that anything painful or upsetting (illness, injury, accident, money troubles, the Phillies NOT making the playoffs...AGAIN!) means that God's wisdom or power or both have broken down, or that God doesn't love me or that God doesn't exist
- This is stinking thinking!!!

Stinkin' Thinkin'

- No where does God promise to use His wisdom & power to keep the world or me happy, comfortable & pain-free
- No where does God promise to keep Christ-followers happy, comfortable or pain free
- In fact, Jesus tells us to expect the opposite: ***In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world. I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable & assured, deeply at peace.***

*John chapter 16 verse 33 (Mess)*

***Colossians chapter 1 verses 21 – 29 from "The Message"***

- *You yourselves are a case study of what God does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got.*
- *But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.*
- *I want you to know how glad I am that it's me sitting here in this jail and not you. There's a lot of suffering to be entered into in this world--the kind of suffering Christ takes on. I welcome the chance to take my share in the church's part of that suffering.*
- *This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing.*
- *The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple.*
- *So we preach Christ....*
- *That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.*

☉ ☉ God's wisdom & dealing with my troubles ☾ ☾

1. Don't be surprised by the troubles of life... *Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job.* 1 Peter chapter 4 verses 12 (Mess)

1a. Don't be surprised by the troubles of life...expect them & be thankful for what God is doing thru them - *Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.*

*1 Peter chapter 4 verses 12 & 13 (Mess)*

➤ God NEVER wastes any pain or trouble in my life. He uses ALL of it to refine me, strengthen me, improve me

2. It's OK to ask God to remove the pain / suffering - *Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.* 2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 8 (888)

3. More often than not, God allows the pain / suffering to remain - *Each time God said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."*

*2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 9 (888)*

4. When God says "no," I need to trust His wisdom & look for the spiritual work that God is doing in me - *Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.* 2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 9 (888)

➤ *To keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh....*

*2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 7 (888)*

5. Remember, this life is not about me! - *God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.* 2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 4 (882)

6. When I trust God's wisdom, I can have joy & thankfulness, even when I don't have all the answers - *That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

*2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 10 (888)*

*So if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it.*

*1 Peter chapter 4 verse 19 (Mess)*