

THE SPECTRUM OF WISDOM

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Text: PROVERBS 9:9



Proverbs 9:9 - Give instruction to a Wise Man, and he will be yet Wiser: teach a Just Man, and he will increase in learning. That Bible Text tells us straightaway that Wisdom can be in Degrees. Because it is asking us to give Instructions to a Wise Man - Meaning the Man is already Wise and then he will become Wiser. So, it means that we can talk of Wise, Wiser and hopefully Wisest. That is why today, we want to talk about: "THE SPECTRUM OF WISDOM". Wisdom is a very, very Powerful Thing - As a matter of fact:

I. Proverbs 4:7 says: Wisdom is a Principal Thing, therefore get Wisdom. And it says with all your Getting - Getting like cars, houses etc; make sure that you get Understanding along. II. Proverbs 8:11 tells us that Wisdom is better than Rubies. In order words, it is better than Precious Stones. III. Proverbs 19:8 tells us that if you really love your Soul, you must get Wisdom. IV. Ecclesiastes 7:12 says: Wisdom is a defense. Not only is it a defense, it gives Life. V. Ecclesiastes 7:19 says: Wisdom Strengthens a Wise Man more than ten Mighty Men. In order words, a Wise Man is Stronger than Someone who is not Wise but has ten Strong Bodyguards. VI. Ecclesiastes 9:16 tells us that Wisdom is better than Strength. VII. Ecclesiastes 10:10 says: Wisdom is Profitable to Direct.

*I have decided to give that Little Introduction concerning Wisdom because that is what the Lord laid in my Heart to share with you. I am believing God that the Prophecy of my brother who introduced us will come to Pass - That after this Evening, you will be Noted for Wisdom. Now, when

we talked about "The Spectrum of Wisdom" - It means that you can go from one extreme to the other extreme!

I. And the Lowest Extreme will be "The Fool". Who is a Fool? My Teacher who taught me way back in 1957; he defined a Fool as Somebody who knows not and knows not that he knows not. The Bible says in Psalms 14:1 that a Fool has said in his Heart that there is no God. That tells you that in a University, there could be a Set of Fools - You know that I grew up in the University before I ended up being a Pastor. And I had a lot of friends who had different opinions about God:

I. There are those who said that there is no God Outrightly - No Creator. They said that Creation started with a Big Bang or something swamp out of the Ocean, became a Tadpole. The Tadpole ended up becoming a fish of one kind or the other. Finally, it became a Monkey and then the Monkey became a Man. And when you asked them - Well, who created the Ocean out of which the Tadpole came out? They said: Well, we will soon discover.

II. Then there is another Category that says: Well, maybe there is God - They call him "Higher Power". And that it is most likely that he created the world. They said that the Prescription of the movement of all the Planets et cetera et cetera; the fact that if the Earth had been just one Degree off the Course, its either we will "Burn Up" or we will "Freeze Out".

They said that the way the Earth is tilted towards the Sun; if it were to be altered by just one Little Degree; we will be finished. So, they concluded that maybe there is a "Higher Power"; "Higher Intelligence" that put everything in Place. But after he finished Creating everything, he lost Control.

III. And then, there are those who even think that they are Clever than all these - And they said that there might be God but He is in Heaven minding His Own Business and I am here on Earth minding my own Business. So, you can see that even in the Categories of Fools, some Fools are more Foolish than the Others!

B. The Bible talking about these People in 2 Timothy 3:7 - It spoke about People who are

"Ever Learning" but never coming to the Knowledge of the Truth. If you are one of them; I Pray that today will Change you completely - Amen.

C. And according to Matthew 7: 26-27; just before you begin to say: Definitely, I am not a Fool. Read that Passage because another definition of a Fool is the one who knows God's Word but never do them. If you know for Example that it is written - Thou shall not fornicate and yet you are a Fornicator; then you are a Fool. The Word of God made it abundantly clear - You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you Free. Because when we first considered holding this Program; my initial urge was to have an "Outward Meeting" - Something like a Holy Ghost Rally, where we can come, jump up and down, shout, enjoy ourselves and then go home. But when the Almighty God says: No, you have not been here for a while and the way things are going; we need some Solid Food. And if there is Someone who could tell the People I'm sending you to, it is you. Some of the Reason is that - You used to be one of them. I was an Academician and believed it or not, I used to be a Fool among Fools. If I tell you what I used to say about Jesus Christ; you will know that there is Truth in the saying: Therefore, if any Man be in Christ, He is a New Creature. If you knew me then, you will know that Jesus Christ can Change a Fool to a Preacher. If you know the Word of God and you are not Practicing the Word of God; it doesn't matter how Learned you are, you are a Fool.

2. Higher Up than the Fools is what we will call "The Illiterates". A. According to that my Teacher in 1957; he defined the Illiterate as the one who knows not but knows that he knows not. So, he can be taught - There is Hope for the Illiterate. It will amaze you that many of you are Illiterate with the Possible Exceptions of Lawyers because they are the only "Learned Men". The Lawyers will tell you that you can have a PhD in Mathematics and you are an Illiterate if you are not a Lawyer. Which is interesting because when it comes to Medicine, a Lawyer is an Illiterate - He doesn't know the difference between the Lung and the Liver.

Proverbs 12:1 says that there is Hope for the Illiterate because he knows that he doesn't know and he loves Knowledge and so he wants to know. It is the one that doesn't want to know at all that the Bible calls a Brut. Proverbs 12:1 - Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish. In John 9: 39-41; Jesus Christ said to the Pharisees - He says that if only you will admit that you are blind, then I will be able to help you. But you are blind but you claimed that you see; then your Problem remains. How can you say that there are many of us who are Illiterates?

Paul the Apostle - A Professor of Law, who definitely speak more than one Language, trained by the best Lawyers of his days said something in Romans 8:26 - He said that we know not how to Pray. He didn't say "You" but he included himself. He said that when it comes to Praying the "Right Prayers"; we are all Illiterates. And believe me honestly, I have found that to be more than true because occasionally you have Someone Precious to you who is in need of Prayer and you don't even know how to Pray. I give you an illustration: Here is a friend of mine - He is in Pain, I want to Pray that the Pain should disappeared. He looked at me and say: Daddy, I know that God hears you. Tell Him that I want to come Home. Tell me, how do you Pray in that situation? - You want him healed, he says that I want to go and the children are around, waiting for the General Overseer to Pray. Paul said that when it comes to Prayer, we are all Illiterate. He said that we do not know how to Pray. And if there is a Christian among us here or among those reading now who can tell me that when it comes to Prayer, he knows what to Pray at all times - Raise your hand and we will Pray for a liar. I Pray that the Almighty God will use this Introduction to open your Heart to learn something today - Amen.

3. We really want to talk about "The Wise" because that is what we will all become - Amen!

I. The first thing that we know about "The Wise" Man is that He Fears God. Proverbs 9:10 - When you Fear God, that is the beginning of Wisdom. Now, there are Bible Scholars who will tell you - No, in the Original Greeks, it didn't say that you should Fear God, it says that you should Reference Him. I explained to them in my own way - Referencing God is very important and crucial. But I believed that the Bible is teaching that we should Fear Him. And I gave an illustration - I said that there is a little Island in Lagos where I go to when I want to escape from everybody - Be alone with God.

There is a very long Beach there - And at Night, I can walk up and down as long as I want. So, I go walking up and down for hours and after a while, my feet begin to burn and then I will move close to the ocean and allow the wave to splash over my feet to cool them down. And I referenced the Ocean because I can't swim. But I said that no matter how Cold I am, I won't put my hand into Fire - I feared Fire. The Elders has a Saying: Even a Mad Dog will fear Fire. And one of the names of God is - "The Consuming Fire". You better Fear God as at least you should be Wiser than a Mad Dog!

Which means that a Wise Man knows that:

A. He knows that God exists. B. He knows that He is Extremely Powerful. C. He knows that a "Little Movement" of His Fingers can create a Problem for the Wisest Man. Hebrews 11:6 says: The one who will come to God must first of all knows that He exists. II. Now, who is a Wise Man before you say that I qualified to be? Matthew 7: 24-25 tells us that the one who hears God's Words and will put them into Practice is a Wise Man.

Jesus Christ says that if you hear my Sayings and you do them; then you are a Wise Man. So, you are the one who should examine yourself now and say: Am I really a Wise Man? III. I can tell you if you are a Wise Man by the Company you keep. Proverbs 13:20 says: If you walk with the Wise, you will be Wise. And it says that the Companion of Fools shall be destroyed. Show me your friend and I will tell you who you are. Birds of the same Feather flocks together. So, the fact that you are here today at least is Indicative of the fact that even if you are not "Too Wise"; at least you have an Element of Wisdom - You are gathering with the Right People.

A Wise Person stays with the Wise he stays away from Evil Companions. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says: Evil Communication corrupts Good manners. The Elders has a saying - The Sheep that Fellowships with dogs will eat feces. Sooner or later, the dogs will entertain the Sheep. Be careful who are your friends - If you discovered that your friend is not Wise, stay away from him (Cut off that Friendship). In 2 Corinthians 6: 14-16; the Bible talks of not being unequally yoked together with Unbelievers. And then, it went on to give us the reasons why we must be Separate. It doesn't matter how long the Friendship had been, after today if you noticed that your friend is not one hundred Percent (100%) on the Side of the Lord, cut off the Relationship. I will tell you a Story - I

had a friend that we were in Primary School together; we went to Secondary School together but I went to the University before him and so I Graduated before him. And we do things together. And then, we find ourselves in the same School as Tutors, teaching in the Grammar School. So the Friendship grew. Then one day, he was having a Celebration and as his friend, I was there. And then he wanted to share something urgent and he beckoned to me and I followed him to his Bedroom. He shared what he wanted to share, ask for my Advice and I gave him. And then, it was time to get out of the Bedroom and he was leading the way. Then I looked up and I saw at the Pack of the door a Big Container surrounded with all manners of cowries. Fortunately, he didn't see me but that day; I made up my Mind that the Friendship ends today. I wasn't Born Again then but that is what they call "Common Sense". Then all of a sudden, I remembered that sometimes ago, the two of us are coming to Ibadan and had to Change Vehicle at Ile Ife. Then he said that he wanted to see a friend, come along with me. We got to the house of the friend; he knocked and the friend answered from inside: Is it a Fish or a Crab? And my friend answered and said: One Fish, one Crab. I didn't know what it meant but after I saw what I saw, I remembered that occasion and asked an Elder - He said that the Fellow inside the house was a Member of a Secret Society. I believed that God wanted me to share that one so that you can realize the kind of friend you have been walking with - You can learn from their Speech. Because according to the Elder - He went on to say: If they are going to need Somebody for a Sacrifice that day; I would have been the one they will Choose.

4. Let us move on to "Wiser". Because our Bible Text says: You could give Instructions to the Wise, he will yet be Wiser. There are some of us who are already Wise! What is that Passage saying? That Passage is simply saying that you that are Wise, one of the things that will be common to you is that you can still be Wiser. In 1 Corinthians 8:2; the Bible says that if anybody thinks he knows, he does not yet know as he ought to.

It doesn't matter how Knowledgeable you are; Particularly on things of God, you have not started. When Paul was speaking in Philippians 3: 7-10; he said that he let go everything that he thought he could boast of, for one Major reason that "I may know Him" - He was already an Apostle.