

The Seven Pillars of Wisdom

Happy Wednesday from the beautiful NC Mountains!

“Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars. She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.” The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.”

Proverbs 9:1-6, 10-12 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/pro.9.1-12.NIV>

A few weeks ago, we read about building your house (which represents your life) on the firm foundation and the Rock of Jesus Christ. Then we talked about the whisper of God’s voice, teaching us what to do. The truth of God is quiet and simple, but lies from elsewhere are loud and complicated.

In today’s verses, we see that wisdom has built her house on seven pillars. Now, if we use Scripture to interpret Scripture, which is what we should ALWAYS do, we can recognize that wisdom’s house is built on 7 pillars, which all rest on the Rock of Christ.

What are those seven pillars?

1- The fear of the Lord. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (From above) This is not being “afraid” of the Lord, this is reverence to the Lord. (Shameless plug: Let’s be careful that we don’t mistake “reverence” for meaning that we have to look or worship a certain way for God - remember when He created Adam and Eve, they were totally naked, so it doesn’t matter what you wear. There’s a place in the Bible where King David was so happy that he hadn’t died, he ripped his clothes off and danced in the street to worship God for protecting Him, so it doesn’t matter what you wear or if you dance in God’s presence. There are also multiple places where Jesus was visiting people in the leper colonies who we know didn’t have access to good clothes (only rags) and were in such pain their fingers and limbs were missing, so they couldn’t dance in God’s presence. REVERENT FEAR of God does not mean you have to dress a certain way or sit a certain way to worship Him. Anyone who suggests otherwise should confirm that society rule or expectation with the Truth from Scripture.) So what does reverence mean? It means that you recognize that God is more than the head honcho or “the man upstairs”, He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Nothing created exists apart from Him, and nothing that is made exists unless He made it. He is the only one who can destroy your earthly body and your soul. THAT is a lot of power, and He alone should be revered.

2- Knowledge of the Lord - “My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the

mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:2-3 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/col.2.2-3.NIV>

The knowledge of God is hidden in Christ, not in the news, social media, bank accounts or stocks, real estate, and definitely not in horoscopes. If you're looking for knowledge anywhere besides Christ, you'll be led astray every time. If you know horoscopes, Instagram handles, or stock trends better than you know Scripture, you may not be pursuing the knowledge of God.

3- Seeking the Lord's counsel: "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."

Psalms 1:1-2 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.1.1-2.NIV>

Whose advice do you seek first? Second? Last? Wisdom seeks God first and seeks him only: day and night, delighting in Him.

4- Discerning the Lord's Instruction:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."

Proverbs 3:5-7 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/pro.3.5-7.NIV>

"(Jesus said) I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—"

John 10:14 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.10.14.NIV>

Discerning requires recognizing what is from God and what is not from God so that you can follow the path you choose: wisdom or folly. There is no other path. Remember: The truth of God is quiet and simple, but lies from elsewhere are loud and complicated.

5- Repentance or Reproof - "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

Matthew 3:8 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.3.8.NIV>

We can all be tempted to stray from God, but what do we do when we discover we've messed up? Continue in our sins? No, we ought to repent, to turn from our sins and seek His forgiveness, which comes freely and leads to freedom!

6- Understanding from the Lord - "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 2:6 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/pro.2.6.NIV>

The Lord gives us what we need - we need only to listen and obey.

7- The fruit of the Lord's Spirit and in-dwelling of His Spirit: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God."

1 Corinthians 3:16-23 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1co.3.16-23.NIV>

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/gal.5.22-23.NIV>

So what have you built your house on? Which pillars do you commit your way to? Do the pillars of your house line up with wisdom or folly? Which pillars do you want to have?

For reference, wisdom and folly are VERY different:

Wisdom:

"Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord. But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.""

Proverbs 8:32-36 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/pro.8.32-36.NIV>

Folly:

"Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way, "Let all who are simple come to my house!" To those who have no sense she says, "Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!" But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead."

Proverbs 9:13-18 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/pro.9.13-18.NIV>

"My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when

you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life,”

Proverbs 6:20-23 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/pro.6.20-23.NIV>

Prayer:

Father, I praise you for revealing your truth and your ways to us, your children. Help us follow what You say is true; cut off any other input that would lead us astray, and lead us in your everlasting truth. I praise you that we do not build the house alone, but help us surrender to your way of building the heart you created each of us to have and the heart you invite each of us to pursue in You.

Worship:

“If The Lord Builds The House” by Hope Darst <https://youtu.be/bDaI725AkoI>

“My Feet Are on the Rock” by I Am They <https://youtu.be/2uYiHiJTN6Y>

In case you missed it in 2020, you can buy a copy of a book I wrote on

Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Escaping-Fowler-Brittany-Laing/dp/B08QRXV76B/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3QLGPIMT4WIUA&keywords=escaping+the+fowler&qid=1690286977&prefix=escaping+the+fowler%2Caps%2C119&sr=8-1

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