



## Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

### “Character of God” Series Lesson 11 – October 16, 2016

#### Attribute of Wisdom

#### I. Lesson Starters:

- Last lesson we looked at the Communicable attribute of Knowledge or Omniscience. *God fully knows his infiniteness and all things actual and possible in one eternal act. He is “perfect in knowledge” and “knows everything”. The Quality of “Knowing Everything” is called omniscience or “all-knowing” being omniscient.*

Today we will continue our review of Communicable Attributes with the Attribute of Wisdom.

#### II. Attribute of Wisdom

*God’s wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.*

- This goes beyond the idea of God knowing all things:
  - *Specifies that God’s decisions about what he will do are always wise decisions*
  - *They will always bring about the best result from God’s perspective*
  - *They will bring about the results through the best possible means*

Scripture affirms God’s wisdom in several places:

- Affirmed as “The only wise God” (Romans 16:27)
- Job says that God “is wise in heart” (Job 9:4)
- “With him are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding” (Job 12:13)
- “O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made all; the earth is full of your creatures (Psalm 104:24)

God’s created the universe perfectly suited to bring him glory, both the day to day processes and in the goals for which it was created.

#### III. God’s Wisdom Seen in His Great Plan of Redemption

##### 1 Corinthians 1: 18-30

***18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. <sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe....<sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength....<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong... <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.***

Christ crucified is God’s power and wisdom. Those who reject Christ think of themselves as wise. God’s gospel message reflects his amazing plan, which in its depth of wisdom, surpasses anything man could ever have imagined.

#### IV. Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of all Wisdom

##### Psalm 111:10

**1 Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly....<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup> He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name. <sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise**

If we fear dishonoring God or displeasing him, if we fear fatherly discipline; then we will have the correct motivation that makes us want to follow his ways and wise commands. Possession of wisdom from God will:

- Result in humility, not pride
- Result in a gentle and peaceful spirit, not arrogance
- Be wise according to God's standards
- Continually walk in dependence in the Lord
- Have a desire to exalt Him in all we do

**V. But Yet, God's Wisdom is not entirely Communicable**

While God's wisdom is not fully communicable:

**Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out! (Romans 11:33)**

**"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5)**

In practical terms, there will be many times in our lives where we simply do not understand why God allowed something to happen. At that point, we simply have to trust him and move on obeying his wise commands and wisdom.

**"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator and continue to do good" (1 Peter 4:19)**

God is infinitely wise and we are not; it pleases him that we demonstrate faith in his wisdom and way for our lives; even when we do not understand.

**VI. Group Questions:**

1. When you couple Omniscience and Wisdom; God now knows all, can predict all and has perfect plans with means to those goals; How do we know that we are making the right choices so "That God works all things together for good for those who love him"?
2. Each person in the circle read Psalm 111:10; Discuss the type of "fear" that God expects of us so that we can gain wisdom? What type of fear is this not talking about?
3. While James 1:15 seems to make it sound so easy and straight forward to obtain wisdom from God, why is it so very hard? Why do so few people seem to possess "God's Wisdom"?
4. What do we need to do to position ourselves to "obtain Godly wisdom"?
5. Does the bible guarantee as Christians that we will find ourselves at some point in our life not understanding God's will for us and making sense of what happened? IF yes, then why do we get so worked up about it?
6. How do you personally deal with difficult situations in your life where you simply do not understand God's wisdom for your life?