

WORLD WIDE MINISTRIES

The Mighty Counselor

PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE

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World Wide Ministries

"...SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE..." EPH.4:11-16

COUNSELING

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COUNSELING

CHAPTER 1

"FOUNDATION"

Once you become a Christian, there is an automatic work that begins to happen in your life and it is that of a counselor. The question then isn't whether or not you are a counselor. The question is what kind of counsel are you giving. If we are going to do the work of the Lord, we talk about the works that Christ did, and greater works shall we do because He goes to the Father. Do you realize that 95 per cent of everything that He did was based on counsel that He gave. When the sick came to Him, He said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." When they came to Him with questions, He gave them true counsel. Counsel is not something you attain with the natural. Counsel is a **SPIRIT**. In the Spirit of the Lord there is a manifold Spirit. There are seven Spirits in Christ.

We'll start with Rev 1:1

Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto him...

This is not John's revelation. It is Jesus Christ's revelation that the Father gave to Him.

Rev 1:1 ...to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass and he sent and signified it by his angels unto his servant John:

It is important to realize that this is a revelation that was given to Jesus Christ by God, the Father. Jesus in turn gave it by the angels to the church.

Rev 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God and of the testimony of Jesus Christ and of all things that he saw.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Then John begins to write:

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was,

and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne.

Rev 3:1 And unto the angel of the church of Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works...

Rev. 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God.

Rev. 5:6 And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

One thing that I want you to recognize about these seven Spirits and note, is that the word 'Spirit' is capitalized. It is not a small 's', it is a capital 'S'. It is a noun. It is a proper name.

Let's go to Isaiah 11:1-4. We are going to find the names of the seven Spirits now.

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots;

Isaiah 11:2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;

That is five spirits: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, and Knowledge. The other two are found in Isaiah 4:4.

Isaiah 4:4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the Spirit of judgment, and by the Spirit of burning.

In the Spirit of the Lord there is first the Spirit of wisdom. **Proverbs 4:5** tells us that wisdom is the principal thing. With all of thy getting, get understanding. Without wisdom you cannot build. Wisdom hath hewn out her seven pillars (**Prov 9:1**). Wisdom is the foundation. Upon wisdom you will build the things of God.

I'd like you to look at the drawing in the front of this study book. The picture will give you an idea of the vision that Ezekiel had; a wheel in the midst of a wheel, and as He is, so are we to be in this present world. Whatever God is, we are to project to the

world. If you will notice in the big wheel, it is God all by Himself. God does not need your help. You need God. There are seven cogs on the big wheel, and those seven cogs are found in the revelation that we just read. There are the Spirits of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, judgment, and burning. Those are God's completeness. Seven is always God's complete number.

You will notice in the two smaller wheels that the body is attached to the head. We don't stop there, though. We find that each one of us individually has a ministry in Jesus Christ that we are going to ultimately be responsible for. Now if you really believe that Jesus said, "**The works that I do, and greater shall you do, because I go to be with the Father**" (John 14:12), then you are going to have to manifest everything that God is. You cannot manifest it without the body or the church, and if you move away from the body, you are no longer in the move of God. If you are attached to a body that is not moving with God, you and that body are both incomplete. Everything has to be snugly or jointly fit together.

God said in 1981 that He was going to make three gigantic moves. So #1, wisdom has already moved in the church, and the church is beginning to wake up to the message of the Kingdom of God. If you are not moving in God, it simply means that you have removed yourself from the body. Either that or you are attached to a body that is not being moved by the Spirit of God. Get out of it. Don't attach yourself to a religious movement or a group of people just because they have a form of godliness. If there is not a continual changing and moving and rotation in your life, then you have missed God.

The Lord showed me this picture in Jan. 1978. He did not give me the numbers; He gave me the three wheels. In 1981 He put in my heart exactly what this means. God is restoring something to the church that was lost and that is simply counseling after the mind of the Lord. We are going to find out that in counseling there is healing, deliverance, and every work of God, and we are going to lay the basis for this study.

So we find there are seven Spirits of God. You do not have one Spirit without the other. They are all there in you because you are complete in Christ Jesus (Col 2:10). You are called to be a counselor. You have no choice. When you say, "It is my opinion" or you counsel after the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear, or after a natural thing, then you have said to God, "Move over, for my opinion is better than your wisdom." The reason that the church is in the trouble that it is in today is because they have no sound counselors. They have people who judge after the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear.

Isaiah 11:3 tells us what the word said Jesus would be like, and if Jesus is like this, we must be like this.

Isa 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

The word "**quick**" means alive, fresh, and strong- Conc. #2416. There is only one thing that gives life; it is the Spirit that maketh alive. The Spirit quickens (**John 6:63**).

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Does the counsel that you give people make them alive from darkness? Does it make them alive from sin? Does it make them alive from flesh, or does it please the flesh? Does it walk in a place where it compromises so you can walk in darkness? The Spirit of the Lord causes a quickening, and that quickening causes people to be cut off from the natural to live in the Spirit, and they no longer sow to the flesh but they sow to the Spirit.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

How many of us give that kind of counsel? Be honest in your own hearts. We don't give that kind of counsel. We tell God to move over, that we have a better idea. We have considered it and it is our opinion. You see, what we have done then, is that we have taken ourselves and moved out. The moment that you give your own counsel and your wisdom, you have separated yourself. God is moving, but you have become stagnant. Anytime you go contrary to the word of God, you have separated yourself from the move of God. Anytime you attach yourself to a body that is not moving in the Spirit of God, you have become stagnant and cut yourself off from the move of God. You see, God is the motivating power, and through Him flows all this, and everything is in synchronization. When God moves, the body moves.

The word says that Jesus Christ was the express image of God (**Heb 1:3**). You ought to be the express image of God. When God says it, when God thinks it, when God puts it in your heart, you are to do it, to manifest it. We are talking about counseling. So many people are hung up on the manifestation of the sons of God, they are looking for something down the road, but don't you realize that every day you are manifesting something. The whole world is looking for a manifestation of Christ in the church. They come to the church and what kind of counsel do they get? They get the same counsel they could have gotten from a psychiatrist.

The world counsel does this: they suppress the thing and put it under and hide it, but the counsel of the Lord digs it out, goes down to the root of it and takes the root out where it is no longer even there. If your counsel just puts it down and doesn't take it out, then that is YOUR wisdom. The wisdom of God does not work that way.

I want to show you by laying a foundation, so let's look at **Job 12:12-13**.

Job 12:12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

Job 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

Who does counsel belong to? It belongs to the Lord. Now if counsel is in the big wheel, is in the wheel in the midst of these wheels, then in the leaders wheel or heart, should be the same thing. The manifestation in this individual should be the same as it is in God, and when God speaks, you speak.

Peter said, "If any man speak, let him speak as an oracle of God" (**1 Peter 4:11**). God is not interested in what you think. God is not interested in your considered opinion. God is interested in your obedience.

The Lord has spoken to you. He has given you 66 books of wisdom, so if any man lack wisdom, let us ask of God who giveth liberally and upbraideth not (**James 1:5**). So who do we go to for wisdom? GOD! When you come before the Lord one of these days, God is not even going to judge you. He won't have to. He'll have a book in front of him, and the same book that he judged Satan with, will judge you for the day of your rewards. The Lord will not say to you, "You were a big failure because you did this and that." He will say, "What did you do with the wisdom that I gave to you?" "Oh, but Lord, I didn't have any wisdom," and the Lord will simply say, "It is written!" Jesus said, "I do not judge you, but you have one that shall judge you in that day. The words which I have spoken to you, they shall judge you" (**John 12:44-48**).

Here he is saying that with God there is counsel. If you say that you are a Christian and a disciple, a follower of the Lord, people have a right to expect to come to you and get an answer different than they can get in the world. That answer may cause some men and women to become angry with you, and even separate themselves from you, but you have at least spoken the truth in love. You have been probably the only person that has ever given them a power of choice.

Look at **Job 12:12-13** again: "With the ancient is wisdom and in length of days understanding; with him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding." If you don't have counsel it isn't because you don't know the Lord. It is simply because you are not making yourself available to him. It is like living in a library with tons of books on every subject and still not knowing anything, and you are able to read and to understand what the book said.

God has given you 66 volumes that are beyond all the knowledge of the world. They are only given to the church, but the church has desired to be like the world in everything they do and say. They judge after the seeing of the eye and after the hearing of the ear, and they wonder why the church doesn't grow. They wonder why the church has splits in its' own body. I'll tell you why it is: because everybody is judging after his own eye and after his own hearing and this brings death. This does not bring life. The

word that you and I are to bring, brings life; quick understanding, alive understanding, an understanding that is fresh and strong. The blessing of the Lord is new every day. The Christian should be out here counseling the world with counsel that is fresh, something they cannot receive from stale books of men.

I want to show you some things before we get into the study. I want to show you how closely the Lord puts everything together. Everything is in Christ whether we know it or not, or whether we will accept it.

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...

Isn't that right? If I want more wisdom, what will it take in my life? It would be more of Jesus, but something has to happen to me. I must become like John the Baptist: for Him to increase, I have to decrease (**John 3:20**). For me to make right wisdom and judgment, I cannot judge after what I see or hear. I must seek the Lord until it is no longer I that speak, but Christ speaks through me. It is no longer I that lives, but Christ liveth in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live it by the faith of the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me (**Gal 2:20**).

Many times, because we are parents, we counsel our children with different counsel than we counsel other people's children, and our children go into bondage. You see, I must give my children the same counsel that I would give your children, or anyone else's children. I must give the counsel of God through the mind of Christ who does not counsel after the flesh relationships.

Jesus came to bring a sword and not to bring peace; to set a man at variance with his family.

Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Mat 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Mat 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

We do everything in the world to make a man and his wife right regardless of what it costs them in the spirit. That is wrong! Because two people are living in a house and because they are married in the flesh, does not mean that because one is going to serve God, the other one will. You can't read that in the word of God. It has cost men their families; it has cost women their families to serve the Lord. But when you give counsel that brings real genuine revelation truth to the heart of an individual, it causes them to be changed, but because they changed, it doesn't mean that somebody living with them is going to change.

If you could learn to love as Christ loved, if you could learn to love that person in the spirit and quit worrying about learning to love them in the flesh, or trying to change their flesh, they would see a more genuine relationship and would want and desire what you've got. We counsel after what we see and after what we hear.

Especially in the last days there will be people with itching ears that would heap to themselves teachers in order to have those itching ears tickled. "If you will prophesy to me what I want to hear, counsel to me what I want to hear, I'll give anything you want." No, friend, you have a responsibility for which you will give an account one day. The moment that you said, "I am a Christian" identified you with Jesus Christ. God took you at your word, and said, "Everything I am, I want you to be, and I want you to speak as I speak. I want you to move as I move. I want you to be a manifestation of what I am."

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

1 Cor 1:31 That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

There is another thing about giving true counsel by the word of God. You cannot say, "Well, I got this from some man." This is not the mind of Dr. Freud or half a dozen other men, or intellectualism that has put it into a book for me. This is what I have received of the Lord. Paul said, "That which I received of the Lord (**1 Cor 11:23; Gal 1:11-12**). I am just a man like you are."

God is saying to us that we are talking about a manifestation of the sons of God. The first manifestation is this, that you should walk in the wisdom of God, manifesting his wisdom, manifesting the first Spirit of the Lord. If you cannot manifest wisdom, don't worry about the rest of it; you will never manifest anything of God, because God builds everything on wisdom.

Jesus is the foundation. Jesus is the wisdom of God. You are going to find that out in our study of wisdom later on but He said that counsel is with the Lord. He is going to build on wisdom because His son, Jesus Christ, is wisdom. You say, "I think I should counsel after my own seeing because I have some smarts. I went to school." Well, I have news for you. God has been in this business forever, and He has never made one mistake. How many mistakes have you made? Are you going to counsel people after what you see and feel and hear?

A brother of mine who is pastor of a church in Oregon wrote an article in a Christian magazine, and I read it and then talked to him later. He said that when he was a young man God taught him a lesson. It was cold one morning and he was driving by in a bus, and a bunch of kids were outside and he looked at one boy and he appeared to be smoking. When he got to school he told a bunch of his friends that this nice Christian boy was smoking. He found out later that it was cold and the boy had a pencil in his mouth and the moisture out of his mouth looked like smoke. He judged by what he saw for a second, and he had to go and apologize to that boy, but the damage had already been done. He had already sowed the seed of discord and mistrust in that young man.

Don't you realize that when you speak a word, you can't erase it. You may repent of it, but you can't erase it. When you plant a seed of doubt and fear in a person's heart, you can apologize to them, but it is still there. That's why He said that you will give an account of every idle word that you speak (**Matt 12:36-37**).

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Mat 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

It's a serious thing to be a Christian. It's serious to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. It's a serious thing to open your mouth and say, "Well, I think; I saw; I heard." We had better say, "It is written." Everything that Jesus did, He did it according to the law and the prophets. Everything that the Lord did while He was in a human body, He did according to the prophets. Isn't that great! And all of a sudden, we have more wisdom than the Lord. We are going to tell God, "Move over, Lord; I saw, I heard." God will say, "Who are you? I receive no accusation against my anointed."

God is simply saying to us that counsel is not something you can obtain through anything you have in the natural. Counsel is a Spirit. Counsel is that which God alone has. Counsel is that which belongeth to the Lord, and for you to work in it simply means that God has given you a portion of His divine nature to begin to manifest to the world the wisdom of God. Isn't it great that God would trust mortal man, that God would entrust to your hand the Kingdom of God, and say, "I want you to go out and be fruitful and multiply. I want you to be faithful. I want you to replenish the earth with the knowledge of the Lord."

In the last days the knowledge of the Lord, the glory of the Lord, shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (**Isaiah 11:9**). How is it going to happen? It is going to happen when people begin to say, "I don't want to know anything but Christ. I only want to know him among you." Paul came to that revelation. He said, "I don't want to know anything among you except Christ and him crucified (**1 Cor 2:2**). I don't want to know what you are doing in the flesh. I don't want to know what you are into. If you have a problem, I have the answer; but if you think I have time to sit around and give you opinions and philosophies, you are wrong. I must be busy about my Father's business. Here is the answer. Do with it what seemeth good in your sight." Here the Lord begins to teach us, doesn't he.

Let's look at **James 3:17-18** to show what wisdom is like.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

So He said that this isn't wisdom that you can get from your sensual realm. He said that the wisdom of this world is sensual, it's devilish, it's a five sense realm (**James 3:15**). Your five senses are against God. You see, that is the thing that Satan appealed to in the day that he tempted Eve. He could not really appeal to the word of the Lord because the word of the Lord was against him. He had already transgressed, but he came to the five sense realm, and it was good to look at, and it was desired to make one wise. All the things that appealed. That's why Jesus said, "There are not many that are wise after this world that are called."

1 Cor 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

The wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God, so He said, "I want you to realize the wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure." When you give wisdom is it pure, or is it tinged a little bit with "I think," or what you have learned in your natural mind? "But Brother Krider, I know this because I learned it from this person and that person." If you didn't learn it from the Holy Ghost, it didn't benefit you.

"The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Do you have a tendency to flow to certain people and do things for them because they are in a position to help you? You kind of float and you pick out who you want to be with. You pick out who you want to share things with because you know they are a little more in your line. That's from the pit. That is sensual; that is a devilish wisdom.

Jesus Christ is made our wisdom and He is all of these things. He does not love you more than He loves the sinner. He does not love any one of us any more than He loves the other. He will give to any man who asks of Him, and He gives it without partiality. This is what we are going to have to come into, beloved.

The world needs a manifestation but they don't need a manifestation of wonders. When a man is in trouble, he needs some sound wisdom. He needs wisdom that he can count on. He needs understanding that he can lean on. He needs counsel that will make him strong in the Lord.

If you will notice these things, there is first of all wisdom, understanding, and then counseling. You cannot counsel without wisdom and understanding. But look what happens: when you give the third step to somebody, the fourth step is might. They have been locked in a situation for years without any power to be delivered, but when sound counsel, based on wisdom and understanding comes, it gives them might to attain knowledge. Once they have attained knowledge, they begin to walk in the judgments of God which are righteous altogether (**Psalm 19:9**), and the Spirit of burning comes to burn away everything but Christ in their lives.

That works in all of our lives. Wisdom is the foundation. Understanding, counsel, and might will give a person the power to separate himself from all the ungodliness of the world. He begins to have knowledge, and he begins to walk in the righteous judgments of God. Then the power of the Spirit of burning comes until there is nothing left but Jesus. It's the seven steps to perfection if you want to call it that. You never grow up without all seven of them working in your life. Let's look at **Proverbs 2:6-7** as we lay this foundation.

Prov 2:6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Prov 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

I want to emphasize again, the Lord is the one that gives these things. I want to put this in the foundation. I want to strengthen you and make you understand that you can get nothing of this unless the Lord gives it to you. There is nothing that you on your own beautiful merits, can say to the Lord that merits this wisdom now. He said to study to show thyself approved unto God, not unto men; a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (**2 Tim 2:15**). The Holy Ghost is our teacher (**John 14:26**). The Holy Ghost is the one who brings the gifts of God to the body. The Holy Ghost is the one in whom the Kingdom of God is resident (**Romans 14:17**). Here the Lord is saying that He is the one who gives all of this to you.

How are you going to stand before the Lord, and say, "Lord, I didn't have enough wisdom to make a choice." God is going to say, "It is written." He's not going to argue with you. He is going to say, "It is written," just like He did with Satan. He didn't argue

with Satan. Satan came against Him, and three times the Spirit of God went into the book of Deuteronomy.

During the time of the Nazi infiltration of another country, Hitler tried to tear the book of Deuteronomy out of the Bible and destroy it, because that was where Satan was defeated. Hitler had the same anti-christ spirit in him. It drove him crazy every time he would hear or see those words, "It is written, it is written, and it is also written." **Isaiah 59:19** said that when the enemy came in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord raised up a standard against him, raised up the word of the Lord against the anti-christ spirit and defeated him. So Hitler comes along, and the same anti-christ spirit is in him. He wants to rip out and do away with the book of Deuteronomy. Isn't that amazing.

You can burn every Bible in the world but you cannot get rid of Christ. You can hang him on a cross; you can put him anywhere you want to, but you can't get rid of him. When a man's conscience is defiled, the Holy Spirit is speaking to him, convicting him of sin. When a man has a pure conscience, all things are pure. But to a man or person who is defiled, there is nothing pure. So we have to get the mind of Christ that only He can give, don't we. We have to get to a place where we are receiving ours from God. We are not just receiving it and sitting on it; we are receiving it and taking it to the world.

Do you know why people really don't want to be Christians today? They haven't seen a Christian in so long, they don't know what they are like. I mean that! Christians were men who laid their lives on the line to follow Jesus. They did not even have the Holy Ghost. They only had His word that what He was doing was real. They only had the signs and miracles that what He was doing was confirming that He was the Christ. We who are born of the Spirit of God and have all of this given to us, can't even stand up five minutes without falling over. But pure counsel is coming back to the church - **pure counsel**. Everything is being restored. There is a people now who have a heart desire to do the things of God, to manifest Christ to the world.

Now look at the diagram in the front of your study book again. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven cogs, and in every one of you is the completeness of God. You are complete in Christ Jesus (**Col 2:9-10**), but if you separate yourself from any of these, you are no longer complete. You are no longer alive; you are dead. If you are associated with a work which is not moving with God, it's dead, my friend. You cannot go outside the body and see anything of God. Everything is in the body. His body is the fulness of all that filleth heaven and earth (**Eph 1:22-23**).

So the Lord said, "I am going to give you wisdom. I am going to give you counsel. It belongs to me, but I am going to give it to you." **Psalms 33:10-11** will show you about God's counsel.

Psalms 33:10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

Psalm 33:11 The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

I decided a long time ago that I want eternal things. I want counsel that is not only going to cause me to stand in this world, but I want counsel that will cause me to stand in the world to come. His word shall never pass away (**Mark 13:31**). Do you not realize that for 1000 years you will rule upon the earth in the Kingdom of God. What counsel will you give then? To whatever degree you have yielded yourself to the Spirit of God today, in that realm you will rule forever. The tragic thing is that we are giving so much counsel today to please the flesh, that it is doubtful if very many will be in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said in Rev. 3:21, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Jesus had to overcome something besides the cross, death, hell, and the grave. He had to overcome himself. He had to overcome his will, and in your will are all of these ways to do your own will, to do your counsel, to do your own thing, but in God's will there is the counsel that standeth forever.

"Brother Krider, I want to be important so I am becoming a counselor, and you ought to see the people who follow me. Oh, they love me. They just flock to me by the tons." I had the same problem one time, but thank God I got killed. I was pastoring a church and having thirteen services a week. I didn't know that Christians didn't like to go to church seven nights a week. I thought that was where they wanted to be. So my wife and I, as a young pastor, built a church and opened it seven nights and six mornings a week, even Christmas. The only morning we had off was Saturday, and we were running around with the kids, taking them somewhere to youth groups.

I really felt that when a person became a Christian, he was a new creature and the world didn't have anything to offer him, but I had people in my congregation who were just running me crazy. They wanted my counsel and did I give it to them. I told them everything, and boy, was I a wise counselor. I'll tell you, they loved me. They referred me to all of their friends, and I was killing myself. Between the morning service and the night service, I couldn't even see my wife. I was always counseling.

One day the Lord said, "Do you want to cut your counseling in half, or way down even beyond that?" I said, "Oh yes, Lord!" I thought, "I'm really going to get wisdom now." God said, "Give them my word." Boy, that was like shooting me right between the eyes because of this wisdom that I had accumulated! I had them in bondage to me, because I was giving them what they wanted to hear. I repented of it, and I told them that I was wrong.

There was a sister in the church who came to me every morning, weeping and sobbing and crying, wanting **MY** counsel. The next morning when she came, I said, "Praise the Lord, sister, I have the answer." She said, "Oh, great." She just knew that I was going to give her the same old thing again. I said, "The Bible says," and I turned

over to the word of God, and she said, "No, no, no! What do **YOU** think?" I said, "Last night I quit thinking. I'm giving the word from now on." She never did come back in my office.

People do not want to hear the word of God, and when you counsel them out of your own mind, you are making them in bondage to you. Oh, they will puff you up and tell you how great you are, and you will always wonder why you are so tired and dragged out. When you give a man the word of God, I'll tell you what it will do: it will either straighten men out, or they will separate themselves from you. So He said, "His counsel is forever."

Prov 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Prov 19:21 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

I want counsel that will stand when I need it. I want counsel that won't leave town when the person that I put my confidence in leaves town. I want that counsel to live in me, and I want to put that counsel in other peoples' hearts until it lives in them and makes them strong in the Lord. His counsel is forever and His counsel shall stand.

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Isaiah 46:11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass: I have purposed it, I will also do it.

He said, "I will do it," and He says in **Jeremiah 1:12** that He hastens His word to perform it.

How many of you can bring anything to pass in your own strength that is going to be of any value? You say, "Well now, Brother Krider, I have wealth. I have this, I have that." NO! The Bible says that you have wealth because God gave you the power to get it (**Deut 8:18**). You didn't get it because you were so smart. You got it because God gave you power to get it. You say, "Well, I have the ruling authority." NO! He rules in the kingdom of men. He gives the kingdom to whomsoever He wills (**Dan 4:17**). If you have any position in life at all, then your responsibility is greater.

My responsibility is great before God because I must give you exactly what God gives me. If I do, then I can walk in His righteous judgments without the fear of the

judgment of God; but if I deviate and give you my opinion, then I must give God an answer for it. If I tell you something, and it does not come to pass, then I have lied to you and I must give God an account of it. If I say, "Thus saith the Lord," and the Lord has not spoken it, then I am a false prophet.

So when we say, "It is my opinion," we are saying to God, "Move over, I am sitting down on the throne. I am taking over. I have the right." He said, "I am God, and beside me there is no other (**Isaiah 45:20-21; Isaiah 43:11**). My counsel shall stand." Does your counsel stand when you give it to people? If people take your counsel, what happens to them? Somebody said to me, "I wish that I had stayed home." You see, this has been the problem. The church has been hiding for years in their little holes, not wanting the responsibility; but God is going to find a people that want the responsibility, that want to be responsible to God.

Now let's go to **Jeremiah 23:20-25**.

Jer 23:20 The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Jer 23:21 I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

Jer 23:22 But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

Isn't that what it says?

Jer 23:23 Am I God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?

Jer 23:24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.

Jer 23:25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

You need to read the rest of it, but the part that I want to deal with is counsel. If we stand in the counsel of God, we will cause men to hear His words and they will turn from evil. But if you stand in the counsel of your own mind, you will say, "The Lord said," when the Lord had not said it. You will prophesy according to the respect of flesh. You will speak the word with respect of persons. You might as well say "Amen" because it is true. But His counsel causes men to hear the word of God. This is just the foundation that we are getting into. I am trying to show you that you have no right to say, "This is my counsel."

***Prov 8:14 Counsel is mine and sound wisdom: I am understanding;
I have strength.***

Isn't that beautiful! Then counsel isn't mine; it belongs to Him. I began to realize that I have nothing of my own. Everything I have, God has given to me, whether it be my physical family, which has been a tremendous blessing to me over the years, or whether it is finances to carry the gospel around the world, or whether it is counsel. I have none of it because I earned it. I have it because the Lord has trusted me with it, but I must give an account for it. I must stand before the Lord in that day and tell Him exactly what I did with the counsel that He gave to me.

I can become angry with people. I can become jealous, full of envy, and I can blame you for everything that has happened to me. But in the final analysis, counsel tells me this: the decisions that I make are what affect my life every day, not the decisions that you make. Your hating me will not bother me. Your not agreeing with me will not bother me. But if I want your respect because of flesh, compromise the word of God, or change my lifestyle to please men, I will not please God. You will pass away. I will pass away in the flesh. But there is one that is eternal that I must ultimately answer to. Paul said, "What men judge me of is very small." I have found this to be true in my life. It has no significance in my life, for I judge not myself but God is my judge.

God is saying to you in this foundational structure, "I have given you counsel. What are you manifesting out here?" Oh, you can shout, you can praise the Lord, but individually, when it comes down to your life, what of those seven spirits are you manifesting? If you are not manifesting wisdom, you are not manifesting anything, because wisdom is the principal thing. It is the one thing that God builds on today. Isn't that great!

In **Matt 16:13-18** when Jesus said, "Who do men say that I am," the disciples said, "Some said John, some Elias, some one of the prophets, some this and some that." He said, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. This wisdom which you have attained has not come from men. You did not intellectually receive it. The wisdom which you have just spoken has come from God, and upon that wisdom, upon that confession, upon that rock of faith, I will build My church. Upon that rock of faith, upon that confession of faith, upon that wisdom which you have now spoken, I will build My church."

If God builds on wisdom, why do we build on anything else? If God gives pure counsel, why do we counsel after what we see or hear, or why do we hear it? Why do we let people counsel us with that stuff. It is only because we want to hear it. You always receive what you want to receive. If you want to receive truth, you will receive it, and your old man will go, "Oh my; oh me! Ow, ooh, ooh, that hurts. Stabbed; shot again." It is the Lord who has smitten us and He will heal us.

The Lord is going to have a people in these last days who have only one desire. Do you know what that desire is? It is to glorify God in their body and in their spirit. I have determined in my heart that I will be in the bride. If the Lord will grant me the strength and the wisdom, I want to be in the bride. I mean that! I know that to be in the bride, I must conform to what **Rev 22:20** says. I must have only one desire, and this is, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." **Rev. 22:17** "The Spirit and the bride, they say come." They will not be into the world, they will not be after the things of the world, but everything they have is the Lord's to glorify him. **"Even so, Come Lord Jesus."**

It is fun for me today. It wasn't always fun to be a Christian because I had to watch how I talked. I was afraid of offending people or hurting their feelings, then I found something in **Psalm 119:165**. It says, **"Great peace have they who love thy laws, and nothing shall offend them."** If you become offended over the teaching of the word of God, or over things that people say, or things that people do, it means that you don't really love God's laws. You don't have great peace, but that can change through this study. Your life will be changed, and never again will you ever desire to give people counsel after what you see or hear. You will know that if you do, you are going to bring them into bondage to your counsel. They count you as God, and you will have to perform. If it fails them, they are going to blame you. The worst part is that God is going to hold you accountable for it.

I want to show you what the counsel of God is like. I'm not talking about the attributes of God's counsel and how that counsel should be in your life. We are going to study these one at a time. David is writing here in **Psalm 55:12-14**.

Psalm 55:12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me...

We are so afraid of correcting one another. Did you know that? We are so afraid of offending one another, because we love them. We don't want to hurt their feelings. Right? Oh, what a misnomer that is. If you saw a person perishing in the fire, you would counsel them, wouldn't you? I hope you would. There is only one door out of this place (**John 10:7-10**). Don't just say, "Take it easy; don't worry about a thing." If they took it easy, they would burn to death.

Psalm 55:12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

Psalm 55:13 But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.

Psalm 55:14 We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

It may even come to the place where this thing reproves you. It may be a word that comes against you and there isn't a thing that you can do about it, because it was someone who was equal with you. It was someone who walked right along with you

that corrected you and had a reproach for you; but when you sit down together and you begin to take counsel, what kind of counsel does it turn out to be? Sweet counsel! And when that sweet counsel works in you, you walk in God's company, don't you. You walk in the house of God in company. No two can walk together unless they be agreed (**Amos 3:3**). Isn't that what the word of the Lord teaches? A house that is divided against itself shall fall, it will not stand (**Mark 3:25**). But if we are going to be together in this, we are going to have to have one thing in common: the sweet counsel of God. I like that!

If you see me in error and you love me, you would come to me privately and you would tell me. You would show it to me, but you would do it because it was the Lord who had shown you, not because you saw and suspicioned it, or you felt it, or heard it. You knew God had shown it to you. You would come to me and we would have sweet counsel together. We would not part enemies, but we would go into the presence of the Lord in company. Counsel binds us together. I love the word of the Lord! It is always correcting me and straightening me up; getting to me. I need the word of the Lord. I need the counsel of God.

Prov 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Prov 1:25 But ye have set at nought ALL MY COUNSEL, and would none of my reproof:

Prov 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity: I will mock when your fear cometh.

You need to read the whole chapter, but I am saying that if you want God to respect you, and you want God to hear you when you call, you will not reject His counsel. Now what IS God's counsel? How can I find it? I have 66 books of it that tell me exactly what I am to do. The word of the Lord in Isaiah says, "Come and let us reason together. Let us take counsel together. Let us sit down together, and let me show you my counsel" (**Isaiah 1:18**). If you were one who had sinned, that sin would be taken from you. If you are one who needs to know the way of the Lord, He says, "I will teach you in the way (**Psalms 32:8**); I will give you My counsel." If you reject it and take your OWN counsel, there will come a day of calamity, and you will try to run around and get every preacher in the world to pray you out of trouble. It won't work. They may prophesy and tell you how wonderful you are, and they may for just a moment make you feel good, but when you go to bed that night, the peace will still not be there.

If God's counsel tells me to do one thing, and I respect people more than God and I do not do it, then I have rejected his counsel. But if the Lord tells me to do something and I do it, then I have taken his counsel; and then I can walk in **Psalms 91:7-8: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shall thou behold and see the reward of the wicked."**

You don't have to worry about it when you walk in God's counsel, friend. The church is not manifesting because they talk like the world talks, and they are afraid of the same things the world is afraid of. Yet the Lord has said in **2 Tim 1:7**, "**I have not given you the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**" When you fear, have you taken God's counsel? "Well, Brother Krider, I just don't have perfect peace." Then you haven't taken God's counsel. **Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, for he trusted in thee."** God's counsel is all right here in the word. Do you know why you don't have peace? It isn't because of world conditions. It means that you are not taking God's counsel. If you are full of fear, it isn't because of the things that are in the world. It is because you are not taking God's counsel.

Somebody out of the world comes into the church and they are preaching fear, they are preaching newspaper, they are preaching the world, they are preaching conditions, they are preaching anti-christ, they are preaching everything, and the church is in fear. They tell people, "You need to get saved." For what? There is no manifestation of peace there. There is no manifestation of joy, there is no manifestation of power, there is no manifestation of a sound mind there. Why should I join that kind of an outfit? Just to become religious and have more trouble? No! There is going to be a people right here who will manifest everything that Jesus is. **THEY WILL MANIFEST EVERYTHING THAT HE IS.**

Somebody asked me, "How come that big wheel is bigger than this one. It won't work that way." I had a commercial artist in my office and he was drawing this up for me, and the first thing he said was, "Brother Krider, that won't work. The gears won't mesh because that is bigger." But God said, "That is the way I showed it to you. It will only work when I work it. It will not work when men work it. If it were equal, then it would never work for men could work it, but My ways are higher than your ways" (**Isaiah 55:8-9**).

So here God is saying, "Because you reject my counsel, that is where you are." How are you going to tell a person to have perfect peace when you are afraid of the price of gas going up? You see, you are taken snare by the words of your mouth. When you counsel somebody, it had better be, "Thus saith the Lord! It is written!" When somebody comes to you and says, "I don't have any peace. How do I get peace?" you don't have to give a fifteen hour lecture. You say, "Here, let me show you **Isaiah 26:3**. Isn't this great? Here's the answer to your problem." "Oh, but that won't work for me. I tried all of that, and it doesn't work." When they truly try it, it always works.

Someone else says, "What kind of counsel can I give the sinner?" **REPENT!** That is all! There is nothing else you can give them. We are trying to counsel our loved ones who are not saved, to be like Jesus and they can't. They will fail every time they try it, because they try it in their own strength. But when you tell them that what they need is Jesus Christ, that is true counsel.

Isn't it amazing how Jesus gave true counsel every time He was asked. **Matt 12:46-50** gives the account where He was in the room with His brothers and sisters in the Lord, and here come His brothers and sisters and mother up to the door, and they would like to see Jesus. Somebody comes running in who would like to interrupt the meeting (there is always someone who has an important announcement to make, you know), and he comes running in to give Jesus some counsel. He says to him, "Your mother and your sisters and your brothers are waiting outside. I have given you the big revelation, Lord." And the Lord said, "Who is my mother and my sisters and my brothers? These who do the will of my Father." That is true counsel. Jesus put the emphasis right, but we put it the other way around. "I will serve the Lord, but I will take care of my family first. I've got to do this, and I've got to do that, and then I will serve God." It doesn't work that way. **You see, God is either all or He is nothing in your life. He is either Lord or He is nothing.**

So when you reject counsel, what happens? Calamity comes, right? Have you ever prayed and felt like the heavens were brass? David must have felt that the heavens had become brass and everything was shut up to him, because he had willfully rejected God's counsel (**Psalm 51**). He had gone the ways of his flesh, fulfilled the lusts of his flesh, and when he needed God, he couldn't find Him. He couldn't find Him! The heavens became brass. He had rejected God's counsel. We are talking about counsel, how God's counsel works, not how man's counsel works.

Prov 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

From the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established. He said that where there is no counselor, what happens? People fall, don't they. **Proverbs 29:18** says that with no vision the people perish. Where there are no counsellors, there can be no vision, because you are the ones to make the vision plain. You are the counsellors to bring to the body the vision of what Christ expects and wants out of His body, and where there is no counsellor, the people fall. What does counsel do? It makes you strong, doesn't it. Counsel makes you strong, makes you alive, makes you able to stand when nothing else works. The word of God is a counsellor.

Somebody said to me one time, "Brother Krider, I'm having big problems, but I'm a man of peace and I can't understand why I've got them." **Proverbs 20:17** will show you something that may change your whole life.

Pro 20:17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Oh, how we like to be deceived. How we like to hear vanity. "Man, you are the best looking guy in town, you know. You're this. You're that." You know people are lying to you when they tell you how good looking you are, because you can go to the mirror in the morning before you've got all the stuff on and see it. You wish it was true,

don't you. That is all deceit and vanity. Not one place did Jesus ever say, "Boy, you sure are a good looking specimen of a human being."

The rich young ruler came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life"(**Luke 18:18-25**). Jesus began to list a few things to him, and He didn't say to him, "Now look, you sure are a fine hunk and specimen of flesh. I could get you into this church and you follow Me instead of these other twelve renegades I've got. You've got some money. You've got some influence. You've got power. You're the kind of man that I want in the church." He said, "You're going to have to get rid of everything you've got." "Wait, a minute, Lord. That isn't the way you build a church." It's the way God built it.

Pro 18:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

"But Brother Krider, I'm a peaceable man." No, Jesus didn't come to bring peace, but a sword (**Matt 10:34**). You have enemies of your soul, and number one is **YOU**. If a man is true with you and gives you right counsel and good advice, you're going to know how to make war on that guy, (**your flesh man**), aren't you. You're going to have to know how to serve notice on him.

A coach who is a dear brother of mine in Selma, Calif. called my office one day, and asked for some counsel. He knew a young man who was a Christian and filled with the spirit, but his Dad was into witchcraft, in the occult. The coach said, "What are we going to do?" I said, "I'll tell you what we are going to do. We are going to serve notice on the unclean spirit, that he CANNOT, he CANNOT transgress on the property of God." We agreed together on the phone, in the name of Jesus, and that thing was bound.

Two days later he called me back, and he said, "Brother Krider, we agreed together and it worked. The young man went home, and his Dad got up the next morning and said that the only way he could get along with his son was to kill him; and all of a sudden the Spirit of God fell on him and convicted him, and he got on his knees and he asked his son how to be saved." See, he had received good advice on how to make war.

You aren't a Christian in your own strength. You aren't a disciple in your own strength. You are fighting against principalities; you are fighting against powers, rulers of this world, spiritual rulers in high places (**Eph 6:10-12**). You are fighting against the things which cannot be seen by the human, but are manifested through the flesh. But the same power that is in you, raised up Christ Jesus from the dead, should be manifested through you. **Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)**, and through that wisdom and counsel, you know how to make war. You are not making war against the manifestation, but against the power that causes the manifestation. So here the Lord is saying that everything is established by counsel.

Pro 24: 5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

Pro 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war; and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

The world is bound in powers of darkness, and the only one who has the power to break those chains is the Church. But because we have decided to build programs and bigger buildings and do nicer things, we have neglected. Do you realize the millions that are in this nation alone who are held captive by powers of darkness, and money won't buy their freedom. All the negotiating with Satan will not buy their freedom. It is going to take a Church that has counseled together with God and has the wisdom of the Lord and knows how to go out and set the captives free.

In **Rev. 1:6** the Lord says that we are kings and priests. If we would counsel together with the Lord and His wise counsel, we would know how to make war on the enemies of any city in which live. The enemies are still the same. They are not flesh and blood, they are not men and women, they are not governments, friend. They are the powers of darkness, and only the Church has the power to overcome. The Lord says, "I will teach you. I will teach you how to make war." You say, "Well, I've been to this preacher and that preacher." Yeah, but how long has it been since you've been to this? How long has it been since you sat down to this 66 books and took counsel with God. The word would declare to you how to make war.

In the account in **2 Chron 20th chapter** Jehoshaphat was surrounded, and they were in trouble. They were outnumbered, they were at the mercy of the enemy, but then a prophet of God came with a message. He told them to begin to seek the Lord, to begin to praise the Lord. With one voice they joined together. They took heed of his counsel, and they began to praise the Lord, and God spoke. **The Lord said, "This battle is not yours, but it is mine (vs.15). I'm going to teach you how to make war now. I want you to send out the praisers to magnify and glorify me, and you go and find yourself a nice seat on the side of the hill and watch the action."** He told them even where the enemy was. He told them they were around the bend.

Come on, saints! Don't you know that God knows everything. He is all counsel and He is saying to you, "Why fret yourself. I will show you how to defeat the enemy of your soul. I will give you counsel." And what do we do? We get money together. We get programs together. We try to make things better for people, and they are still in bondage. The church has forsaken the right and the inheritance that God has given it; the right to set the captive free, unconditionally. Don't you realize that when a man unconditionally signs his life over to Jesus Christ, he has never had it so good. He is taken care of. Hallelujah!

The Lord says that if we will just spend time with Him, He will make us wise, He will give us counsel, and He will teach us how to make war. He doesn't want us to be ignorant. He wants us to take counsel

that will teach us how to make war on the enemies of Christ; not on flesh and blood, but principalities and powers, rulers of this world, and spiritual rulers of wickedness in high places.

He didn't give you the armour (**Eph 6:11**) to sit down and twiddle your thumbs. He gave you the armour of God to go to war. He gave you the armour of God to fight against principalities. He gave you the counsel to go out and set the captive free. His counsel will make you a warrior. It will make you strong. It will make you of quick understanding. It will make you alive. Praise God! We have many examples all through the Bible on how to make war.

Let's see what the Lord had Gideon do with 300 men (**Judges 7th chapter**) who weren't tried for the battle. What a ridiculous number! You could at least fight for ten minutes before they killed you, but then what does God give them to fight with? He gives them a pitcher, a candle, and a trumpet. He said, "When you hear the sound, break the pitcher, let the light shine forth, and blow the trumpet. Be an oracle of God. It's all over." So Gideon did it and the enemies killed themselves in the darkness. The only ones who had light were the children of Gideon. The only ones who have light today are the children of God. They are the only ones who have counsel and are able to set the captives free. Gideon's children set the whole nation free and destroyed the enemies of God. The Lord said, "I will teach you through counsel how to make war."

You see, God's counsel is so contrary to the natural man. We will pick who we will pick, we will bring them into the church, and we will have a beautiful body. NO! When God draws together, He draws the old stinking fisherman, He draws the tax collector, He draws people that nobody wants, and He puts them together and then He kills them all, and brings them all alive.

How about old Paul and Silas in jail; midnight hour, beaten and striped (**Acts 16:19-34**). It looked like a hopeless case. We would have run out and gotten the best lawyers we could have found. I can see old Paul saying to Silas, "Let's hit a tune here and start praising God. Let's thank God that we are counted worthy to suffer these stripes." Glory! All of a sudden the jail started shaking, and that jailer's eyeballs got huge. You see, he was secure in his own little prison.

There are a lot of people today who are secure in their own prisons, and they are holding other people prisoner by their power. But all of a sudden, that man's security started coming loose. The doors flew open and the prisoners were set free. Hallelujah! Paul had made war on the powers of darkness that bound those men, and brother, when he made war, he brought forth the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ in that darkness and the jailer and his family were saved.

I want to tell you something else: by the counsel of God every one of those men stayed there. When the jailer was going to kill himself, what did Paul say? "Do thyself no harm, because we are all here" (**Vs. 28**). You see, when you begin to set men free, they want to be where the freedom of that Spirit of God is. They don't want to be in

religious churches, they don't want to be in religious organizations, they want to be where the freedom of the Spirit of God is. You don't have to draw them. The Spirit of the Lord will draw them.

We might as well get happy about this. The word isn't going to change. We can change but the word is not going to. I remember one time the Lord told me, "I never bend my word to fit men. I straighten men out to fit My word."

Isaiah 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy sin;

Isaiah 1:26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning; afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

He wasn't talking about the beginning of Israel. He was talking about the beginning of the foundation of the world, when the Lord took counsel, and He said, "Let us make man." Do you understand that? Perfect counsel. He said, "I am going to restore those again; men who do not live after the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear. After this has happened, thou shalt be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city."

Isaiah 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment and her converts with righteousness.

Before that happens, there have to be counselors established. Before leaders can happen, there have to be disciples. Before the purging and all the moving of God can take place, and before the Spirit of burning can take place, the Spirits of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and judgment must come. There must be a people who have taken counsel with the Lord of heaven and earth, and become counselors through Jesus Christ. When those counselors are set up, things are going to happen. We are entering into the greatest move of God that the world has ever seen. We have not seen it yet, but we will see it. Whenever you have a problem, you don't have to worry about how to get it straightened out. The counsel is there for you to straighten it out.

Isaiah 28:23 Give ye ear and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.

Isaiah 28:24 Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? Doth he open and break the clods of his ground?

Isaiah 28:25 When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rye in their place?

Isaiah 28:26 For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.

There is a counseling and instruction in natural things.

Isaiah 28:27 For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod.

Isaiah 28:28 Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen.

Look at that! I am not a fitch, a cummin, or of the chaff. I am of the wheat. **I AM OF THE WHEAT.** This is a prophecy of Jesus Christ, that He was bruised for our iniquities (**Isaiah 53:5**). You see, everything else is going to be broken and torn to pieces except the body of Christ.

Isaiah 28:29 This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

Let me ask you a question. Do you really feel like God's counsel is wonderful? Do you feel like that is the ultimate counsel you could ever receive, or is it counsel that men give you that eases the pain or the guilt for a few moments. People will give counsel continually to the flesh man, but the wonderful counsel is that which the Lord gives.

His counsel has just told us that there will be a separation of everything but the corn wheat, and that is bread wheat, which is the word of God, which is the body of Christ. So His counsel is wonderful. Whomever He separates me from, is His counsel. We will study more about this when we get over into the Spirit of counsel.

HIS COUNSEL IS WONDERFUL. No one is studying this by accident. I prayed and asked the Lord to simply send those from anywhere in the world who had an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church, because it only takes one good counselor to touch millions of lives. It only takes one person who is dedicated to Jesus Christ to touch millions of lives, regardless of age, sex, or whatever, my friend. When you touch another person's life with true counsel, he will touch another. It is a multiplication factor. The 120 in the upper room touched 3000 lives (**Acts 2:41**) and then touched another 5000 (**Acts 4:4**), and they were multiplied and scattered abroad.

Jeremiah 32: 19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work:...

Jeremiah says, "Great in counsel.." Now if He was wonderful in counsel, and Jeremiah says He was great in counsel, do you want to be known as a wonderful counselor, a great counselor? All you have to do is let Him counsel through you.

Jeremiah 32:19 ... for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

You see, the word of God is without partiality. You are going to get exactly the crop that you are sowing. You are going to get the reward that you are investing in. **ALL WILL.** He said, "He is great in counsel. He is wonderful in counsel."

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

A child couldn't die; it had to be a man with a free will. It had to be someone who grew up just like you, from a child to a man. If I am going to counsel anybody with true counsel, who is it really going to be that counsels? **THE LORD!** That is His office; that is not my office. That is not my right to put up a sign on my door and say I am a counselor. He is the Counsellor. I am the vessel through whom the Counsellor can speak. You are the vessel through whom the Counsellor can speak, but do you think the Counsellor will give any different counsel than He gave when He was in the flesh body of Jesus Christ?

Do you think He will compromise with sin now in these last days? Do you think that He will demand any less than He demanded then? Do you think that holiness is any less than it was then? Do you think perfection is any less now than it was then? My friend, when the Counsellor begins to move again in the church, it will be, **"Thus saith the Lord. It is written. That's it!"** When people reject that counsel, they will not have rejected you, friend; they will have rejected the Lord.

Samuel gave the nation of Israel right counsel, and said, "This man that you want to be king will destroy you. He will take your lands and your children"**(1 Samuel 8:4-22)**. They desired to have a flesh man, to reject God's counsel. They rejected and turned against the word of the Lord, didn't they. What did they say? "We want to be like everybody else. We want a man, someone who can be seen, and we picked him because he is bigger than the rest." Samuel, like a lot of us, came back and boo-hoed, "Oh, Lord God, they rejected me."

I thank God for setting him straight. He said, "No, Samuel, it is worse than that. They have not rejected you; they have rejected me **(Vs.7)**. I am going to let them have this king, but everything you said about him is true. That's their desire and they are going to get him." They got him and down into bondage they went. Why? Because they had rejected the counsel of God and did not count it wonderful. We have the same problem today. We want a man to be our king. We want a flesh human being to guide us, but the Lord said He will guide us into all truth by His Spirit.

When we begin to counsel, it is not us that counsel. It is the Holy Ghost that counsels. When He speaks, He doesn't speak any differently than He spoke then. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Heb 13:8**). **"I am the Lord thy God, I change not"**(**Malachi 3:6**). What has happened, is that we have covered up the counsel of God and rejected it. We have done things our way; brought in whom we wanted, brought what we liked, never consulted God, yet we put His name on it and said, "This is God's move." God said, "I'm not even in it."

The counsel of God is great and wonderful, but it is His counsel. I tell people all the time, "If you are coming to me to know what I think, I don't think anymore. It is written, that's it. Either you line up with this or you don't line up with anything." People think that I am a hard man, but I'm not hard; I will not compromise. I will not take the word of God and put it on flesh and condone anything that flesh does. Flesh is against God, and it will always be against God. It will never be acceptable in the sight of God.

So in **Isaiah 9:6**, it is the Lord that is the Counsellor. That is His office. That is His name. The "C" is a capital "C". He is the Counsellor. He is the Mighty God. He is Wonderful. He is the Prince of Peace. He is the Everlasting Father. Those are capital letters.

"Brother Krider, I don't know how to walk." That's because you haven't read 66 volumes. "Brother Krider, I'm having trouble; I just keep falling into sin." I'm going to give you some good counsel. If you get far enough into the middle of the bed, you won't fall out. It's because you are sleeping too close to the edge of it, you keep rolling out. When you really get into Christ, sin appears exceedingly sinful (**Romans 7:13**). **IT APPEARS EXCEEDINGLY SINFUL**. Our problem is that we have let men tell us what it's like and what we ought to be like. Here, the Counsellor of God is saying, "If you listen to my voice, I will tell you what it's like. I will show thee. I will guide thee. I will lead thee."

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Romans 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his Counsellor?

Anytime we say, "But Lord," we are trying to counsel God. The Lord says, "It is written." We come up with a new revised edition. Now don't sit and say, "I never did that." Sure you did. "But really, Lord, it would work better this way...and if you let me have that, Lord...and if you give me this...then I would do it." What we are really doing is we are just saying to the Lord, simply and very subtly, "Move over, Lord, I have a better idea. You have only been working on this forever. After all, I've been saved for 20 years. Let me show you, Lord, how this thing really works."

We sing songs like, "If you are looking below, you'd know things are worse now than then." That's a "pit-of-hell lie." None of you have ever been in a judgment hall, have ever been beaten on a cross, or had thorns driven in until they penetrated the very bones of your skull. How much worse could it be? For a man that knew no sin to become sin? "If you're looking below, Lord, you know how it is." The only thing is: **God IS looking and He KNOWS how it is.** We are trying to convince Him that He doesn't know what He's doing. Very subtly, of course. We surely wouldn't want anybody to think we were telling God how it was, would we? In **Psalm 119:21-24** the whole thing is wrapped up.

Psalm 119:21 Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

Psalm 119:22 Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.

Psalm 119:23 Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.

Psalm 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

There are at least 3000 testimonies of God in this book, and if they become my counselors, if they tell me how to live, then if I do not live that way, whose fault is it? "Oh well, it's the pastor's fault." No! He didn't have anything to do with it. You made a decision one day to reject that counsel. You want to live in sin so you reject God's counsel. You take your own counsel and find somebody to condone what you're doing. The only problem is that when the crop comes in, it's you that harvests it. The guy that condones it is a thousand miles away. When payday comes, he's in another county, denying everything you told him he told you.

"Thy testimonies are my counsellors; they are my safety; they are my surety." I know how to walk because God has left me a more sure word of prophecy (**2 Peter 1:19**). He has given me His testimonies of what He will do, of the way that I should live, and if I live this way, He will do this. But we reverse it and we say, "Lord, give me this, and I will do that." And God says, "No! I will not change My testimonies; I will not change My statutes. The promises of God in Him are yea and in Him Amen to you (**2 Cor 1:20**). These blessings shall **follow** you; they won't go before you." His testimonies are an assurance to me, but they are not only that, they are my Counsellor. Glory to God!

"I don't know what God is doing." That's your fault. I know exactly what He is doing. It says in **I Cor 2:9-10** that God hath revealed them to us. If I do what I'm told I know what the outcome is. I don't have to pray to be blessed. **I AM BLESSED.** I don't have to pray to be rich. **I AM ALREADY RICH.** His testimonies are true to me. I don't

have to pray for my needs to be met. I need to seek the Kingdom of God and all of them will be met (**Matt 6:33**).

We are taking men's testimonies rather than God's testimonies. Why don't we take God's testimonies? Why don't we encourage the church, as counselors, to begin to take the counsel of God? We should say, "Look, I don't care what man says, I don't care if an angel tells you, it's a lie from hell and they're to be cursed" (**Gal 1:8-9**). He said, "This gospel that I preach to you is true; it's real. Don't receive another one." I'm telling you now that the testimonies of Christ are real; they're true and sure, and they will be your counselors.

As we go into these seven Spirits of Christ - counselling, might, knowledge, wisdom, understanding, judgment, and burning - you will find out that your whole life is going to change in every area: your spirit, soul, and body. You are going to find out His testimonies are all true; they are counsellors to guide us into all truth.

This chapter has simply given you the foundation. Next we are going to start on the Spirit of wisdom. Notice in the diagram that everything is snugly fit together. You can blame anybody you want to, but if you slip away far enough, you are going to turn. I know that from being a mechanic. If you get one of those gears off, you're not going anywhere. What you want to do is to be fitly joined together - compacted. You want to be in there so tight that nothing could happen to you, except the blessing of God to be all over your life. Somebody can look at you and say, "Hey, praise God, there's a Christian. I can tell by the way he lives; by the way he talks. I went over to him the other day because I had all kinds of problems; he had the answers and everyone of them worked."

You can tell what kind of a tree it is by the fruit. You don't have to guess about an apple tree being an apple tree. When you eat an apple, you don't have to worry about it being an orange. When you eat a lemon, you don't even have to think twice about it being a peach. They don't taste anything alike. The fruits you bear today through the seven Spirits of God, you are manifesting. The question is, WHAT? The creation is groaning for the manifestation, not manifestations, but THE manifestation of the sons of God (**Romans 8:19**).

Everything Jesus did, He did through counsel. He sought the Father early in the morning. He said, "I just do the things He showeth me to do." Everything He did, He took counsel with the Father and the Father showed Him what to do that day. He showed Him how to do it. He showed Him what He needed to know. Isn't that great? If the Lord needed to make a statement like that, "I do always the things that please the Father. The things I do, I do those things that my Father has shown Me to do" (**John 14:10**), then don't you think we could walk out anyplace and begin to manifest Christ?

The next time that people want to draw you into a place of being afraid, don't reject God's counsel. Offer it to them. Just say, "It's well with me, friend." I love to get to a place where people are worried to death about things, and I just

tell them, "You know the kingdom that I'm from is just beautiful. I don't have to worry about anything. I'm taken care of." They wonder what country I'm from and why I speak English so well since I'm from a foreign country. Then I have the beautiful opportunity to tell them, like Jesus did (**John 18:36**), "This world is not my kingdom, and that is why I'm not concerned about it. I'm concerned about the people in it, but not the world."

We're here to set the captive free. We're here to loose those that are bound; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. We're here to let the testimonies of God be our counselors.

Isa 61:1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 2

"SPIRIT OF WISDOM"

I want you to look today at the diagram of the wheels. You will notice the three gears are still there, but there is a case around those gears and when you work in complete harmony with God, you are no longer seen. The Bible says in **Col. 3:3** that "your life is hid", and in **2 Cor 1:22**, **Eph 1:13** and **Eph 4:30** that you are sealed, that you are put away. What God is doing in this great day is beginning to manifest Christ to the world. When we are in harmony with the Lord, it is not OUR ministry, it is not OUR work. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that is seen through us.

We are sealed with this case and in this case is the anointing oil of God. It doesn't run through the gears; it covers the gears. If you are a mechanic, you know what a sealed bearing is. It means, for the life of that bearing, it needs no other fluid, it needs no other grease. It is self sufficient of itself for the lifetime of that bearing to operate and lubricate it without any outside help.

God builds you to live a whole lifetime in this earthen vessel without any outside help. He made you complete in Christ (**Col 2:10**). We are not to seek the knowledge of the Lord outside the body of Christ. It isn't there. We are not to seek for our source to be anyone but the Lord Jesus Christ. So we are a sealed unit, and we are hid away in Christ. When we work where God wants us to work, all there is going to be is a manifestation of Jesus Christ. That is what we are totally looking for today, is to begin to come into such a harmony with the Lord that everything is synchronized. We don't need any outside help; **everything is OF God and BY God and THROUGH God.**

The Lord is trying to reveal something to us about wisdom. The Kingdom of God was lost because the Israelites rejected or did away with the key of knowledge, so He turned the kingdom over to other nations, to someone else that would bring forth the fruits of that nation, but He continually tried to reveal to us the things of God.

Luke 11:52 Woe unto you lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

He is talking about the Kingdom of God. Now for us to operate in the Kingdom of God, we are going to have wisdom of the Kingdom. The world cannot teach you about the Kingdom of God. The world cannot give you the wisdom of a Kingdom that is spirit, for the things of God are spiritual and must be spiritually discerned. The natural man does not receive the things of God (**1 Cor 2:14**). The natural man is an enemy with God (**Rom 8:7**), so for us to go to unregenerate people to try to teach us about the Kingdom of God is foolishness. We become like the lawyers. We take the key of knowledge and continually put it away. The knowledge, the understanding, and the wisdom is all in Christ.

Matt 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

It isn't a statement; it is a question. What He is saying here is that the work of God, the Kingdom of God, was not marvellous in their sight.

Matt 21:43 Therefore I say unto you, the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Matt 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone (this word of wisdom, this truth of wisdom) shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Jesus is not talking about Himself here. He is talking about the Kingdom of God and that Kingdom was not marvellous in the sight of the Israelites. Because of that, it was taken from them and given to us. But if we do not cherish the Kingdom of God, that stone will fall on us. The Lord showed me that if we try to mess with God's program, it will grind us to powder. We will be caught through the gears and absolutely be ground to powder. If we do not understand what God is doing, let's not put our hand against Him.

Uzzah was going to help God's program. When David sent down to get the Ark of the Covenant to bring it back, it was a little shaky, and Uzzah put his hand to it. There was a commandment that had already been given that no man was to touch the ark. No one was to carry that ark except the priest of God to whom it was appointed. But Uzzah reached out in the natural, desiring to help God, and he was struck dead. The threshing floor of the place where it happened is called Perezuzzah or "the breach of Uzzah" to this day (**2 Sam 6:6-8**). So if you do not understand what God is doing, don't work against it. Just say, "Lord, give me understanding." If you fight against this movement of God, you will be ground to powder in the gears of it's working. God wants us to know what is going on and He said the first spirit is wisdom.

Prov 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding.

You cannot get understanding until you get wisdom. **Wisdom is the principal thing.** When you counsel people, you must have wisdom; not the wisdom of the world, but the wisdom of God. In **I Cor 1:30** we find out that Christ has been made unto us wisdom. So wisdom is not a thing, is it? **Wisdom is a person. WISDOM IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!** When He came from heaven, He became everything to make us complete in Christ Jesus. He became the door back into the presence of God. Paul said that there had to be an entrance to the Kingdom of God. He says in **John 10:9 "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."** I want you to get this into your hearts. **Wisdom is not a happening. It is not a thing, something that you can attain of your own ability. It is a personal relationship with a person - Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

We begin to see then that if wisdom begins to work in us, a portion of our life is already covered up. He has become our wisdom. He covers the wisdom of this world and takes it out and puts in **HIS** wisdom. That portion of Christ begins to work in us. John the Baptist said, **"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).** It will not work differently in our life. If we are still trying to hold worldly wisdom and mix it with God's wisdom, it will not work. They are two different kingdoms. They will not mix. They will not coexist together. You can only have one or the other in your life. If we choose the wisdom of God, then we are accepting all that God is and all that God has for our life. He said, "Wisdom is the principal thing."

I want to share with you something that really amazed me when I first saw this. The word **"wisdom"** appears approximately 232 times in the Bible. It must be important. He begins to teach something here in Exodus and show us by revelation truth some things that are happening.

Exo 28:1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

Exo 28:2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

Exo 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the SPIRIT OF WISDOM, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

I want you to notice something. They could not even make the garments to clothe the priests unless they were filled with wisdom from God. The deacons in **Acts 6:3** could not be deacons unless they were filled with wisdom. Isn't that something?

We are talking about trying to counsel people and bring them out of bondage when they couldn't even make the priests garments without wisdom. You are kings and priests (**Rev 1:6**). How much more then should you be full of the wisdom of God. Even in the beginning, He separated the priests unto Himself. There were those that waited on the priesthood, but they couldn't unless they were full of wisdom. They couldn't get the wisdom themselves; they couldn't appoint themselves to the job. God had to do it for them.

You haven't chosen Him; He has chosen you (**John 15:16**). You haven't made yourself a minister, but He has made you able ministers (**2 Cor 3:6**). If we are able ministers, shouldn't we be filled with the Spirit of God in such a way that wisdom is just an automatic outcropping from us? Not the wisdom of this world which is foolishness in the sight of God (**1 Cor 3:19**) but the wisdom of the Lord.

Exo 31:1-2 And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

Exo 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.

Exo 31:4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

Exo 31:5 and in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

Exo 31:6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee.

Verses 3 & 6 are the key verses. They could not even build the temple or work in the presence of God without being filled with wisdom. Now think about it for a minute. This was in a time when they were building a type and shadow ministry of all that would later come in Jesus Christ. They had to be filled with wisdom to even know how to build the temple. Now you are the temple of the Holy Ghost (**1 Cor 6:19**). You are not a type and shadow anymore. You should be filled. You should be able to do anything that God asks of you because the wisdom is in you to show you how to do all manner of things whatsoever He would ask of you. **Don't you realize that when you say you are a Christian that you are saying, "I'm everything that God says I am. I AM filled with wisdom. I HAVE wisdom, I DWELL with wisdom."**

Exo 35:26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goat's hair.

Exo 35:27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;

Exo 35:28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

Exo 35:29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

In this section, there is neither male or female. The women as well as the men worked toward the completion of the temple. In Christ there is neither male or female (**Gal 3:28**). We are all one in Him. God did not separate them here. God stirred their hearts up, didn't He. But what did He stir them up with? Wisdom!

Do you know what will make you love the Lord more than anything? It is when you become wise in the ways of God, when you begin to have wisdom in the understanding of His love towards you, His kindness towards you, His mercy towards you. He had stirred the women up with wisdom. Their hearts were touched, and they knew how to make things, didn't they?

Exo 35:30 And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the Lord hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

Exo 35:31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

Sounds something like Jesus in the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, doesn't it?

Exo 35:32 And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

Exo 35:33 And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work.

Exo 35:34 And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

Exo 35:35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart (NOT HEAD) to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet,

and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.

Any work that you are going to do for God, the first thing you need is wisdom, and you cannot get it yourself. It has to come from God, so you may as well begin to abide in the calling whereunto you are called (**1 Cor 7:20**). You are not going to be able to get into someone else's calling. You are not going to be able to be another Jimmy Swaggart, or another Katherine Kuhlman, Oral Roberts, or whomever. It takes the same wisdom for you to even be in the body of Christ. When you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, you receive wisdom. If you do not avail yourself of the wisdom, it is certainly no one else's fault.

Exo 36:1 Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord had commanded.

Exo 36:2 And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it.

There is a call that's going to the church today and it is just as it was in Nehemiah's day. He said, "Come and let us build again the walls of Jerusalem; let us restore again the breaches; let us again build a dwelling place for the Lord; let's cause a habitation for God to be in our lives." Certainly if a man could not build a physical temple, if a man could not work and wait upon a physical priest, if a woman could not even spin goat's hair for the tabernacle without the spirit of wisdom being in their lives, how much more do you think the Spirit of the Lord has to be in you and me who are the temple of the living God.

If wisdom, the principal thing, does not appear in our lives, then understanding is void too. Counselling can never be ours. Might cannot be ours. Knowledge cannot be ours. Judgment cannot be ours and surely the Spirit of burning will be void in our lives. We'll be the same empty person because we are void of wisdom. Once wisdom begins to work in your life, you will seek understanding.

Prov 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

In this scripture the meaning of the word Wisdom means to teach (**Conc.# 7919**). Now who is the teacher? The Holy Ghost. It is the Holy Ghost working in you that teaches you wisdom. If you have Christ in you, you have wisdom in you, but the problem is, we have not allowed the Spirit of God to take away OUR wisdom that Christ's wisdom might be revealed. Somehow we want to let people think that we're smart, that we have wisdom of our own natural ability; something we have attained. But the wisdom of God cannot be made manifest as long as your wisdom stands. The Holy

Ghost must be allowed to teach us God's wisdom to reveal through us the wisdom of God.

Deut 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Now underline this 6th verse in your Bible. It is the key.

Deut 4:6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations...

If you tell me you have wisdom, somebody ought to be able to see it. It should be made manifest in the sight of all the nations into which you go.

Deut 4:6 ...which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

Deut 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Deut 4:8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Deut 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy son's sons.

If God said to these people through Moses that "your wisdom is going to be seen," then how much more should it be said of us that wisdom should be seen among us. Wisdom should be manifested among us. God has really dealt with my heart about this. We talk about having a lot of things but nobody is seeing anything, and the Lord said if you have anything, it will be made manifest. If you don't have it, you can talk about it all day but it won't be manifest. We are talking about a manifestation, the manifestation of the sons of God (**Romans 8:19**). The first thing that is going to be made manifest through Christ is wisdom. The choices you make determine the wisdom you have. The decisions you make determine the wisdom you have, and if your decisions are wise decisions, then they are decisions that are made by the Spirit of God through you.

Deut. 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses.

The reason Joshua got to be a leader was because he submitted himself to the authority of a man of God. When the Lord spoke to Moses, Joshua did it. When God sets you in a body, He causes you to be under elders. If you are an elder already, then you're submitted unto God anyway. As an elder, wisdom can be seen in your life. Because of the the decisions that you make, people can say, "Yes, I can believe that. I will do that, because I've seen your life. I've seen the wisdom of God manifested in your life."

If there was one thing that was manifested in Moses' life, it was wisdom. He had many opportunities to prove otherwise, but he continually sought the wisdom of the Lord in all the choices he made. So Joshua was going to become a leader; God's hand-picked leader. But what did he do? He put himself under Moses. Moses heard from the Lord and Joshua received it. So wisdom gives you power to submit yourself to authority. If you cannot submit yourself to authority, you will never be a leader. That's right!

The centurion in **Luke 7:6-8** said to Jesus, "I know that thou art a man under authority for I am one also." Jesus wasn't a lawless person; He was under authority. He was under the authority of the Holy Ghost of God, and He did whatever the Holy Ghost told Him that the Father showed Him. It's the same way with us; the Holy Ghost is in us, the wisdom of God comes to us and we just do it.

Deut 34:9 And Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hand upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses.

They listened (or hearkened) to Joshua because he had listened to Moses. He had the call of God, the anointing of the Lord, poured right on down through him. Where is Moses in this picture? He's not there. Where is Joshua? Where are any of us? We aren't there. When people look at us, they should see Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father" (**John 14:6**).

The church is not walking in submission to the Lord because they are not wise. The wisdom of God indicates to me that if I'm wise and submit myself to God, He will meet all of my needs (**Phil 4:19**). If I can live that way, which I can, then I can say to other people, "Look, God will supply all of your needs, not only because it's written there, but because I have tasted and seen that the Lord was gracious. I have walked in His pathways and I know He will not fail you."

As Moses imparted wisdom to Joshua, so did God impart wisdom to Paul, and Paul imparted wisdom to others. He said, "Follow me as I have followed the Lord" (**1 Cor 11:1**). Wisdom is more than just words. It's a way of life. Could you say to someone, "Come live with me 24 hours a day and do everything I do?" Are we that wise in God that we could say to anybody, "Do what I do and say what I say." We are

afraid to because we are still in that area of our flesh doing this or doing that. God wants you to bring your flesh under subjection and keep it under.

You have decisions to make. Wisdom indicates that you don't need to give a word of anger, jealousy, strife, murmuring, complaining. Wisdom indicates that you are to be like Jesus. We don't like that too well because it means that we have to do something. We have to mortify the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit of God. But wisdom indicates to me that if I put away the flesh I will prosper in God. I will be able to work and be in good health. I will be able to have the needs of my life met. Joshua received from the Lord and the people saw it and were obedient.

I certainly don't want to be under a man or a woman who has no wisdom. And I certainly don't want to be under people that have to seek the wisdom of this world before they can preach a sermon, or before they can make a decision. I want men and women to be able to make a decision based totally upon God's wisdom. If anyone has something to add to this, I have no use for him in a work of God. If you can exhaust these 66 books in your lifetime, you don't have the right Bible. The wisdom of God is manifold.

Let's go to **I Kings 3:27-28** and see the wisdom that Solomon had.

1 Kings 3:27 Then the king answered and said, give her the living child and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

1 Kings 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to do judgment.

Now notice: one of the spirits of God is judgment, but it does not operate without wisdom. Israel **SAW** it! They **SAW** the wisdom of God. They **SAW** the love of God in a man called Jesus. They **SAW** the word made flesh in Jesus. They **SAW** the wisdom of God in Him.

We can say we have a thing but until people see it, don't talk about it. I mean that! Don't talk about having anything until you can manifest it by the power of God. Solomon didn't say, "Look how wise I am." He showed the wisdom that God had granted to him. He showed the righteous judgment that came from that wisdom. Let's read it again: ***"And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king; for they SAW that the wisdom of God was in him to do judgment."*** A person that has wisdom is a person of justice.

Sapphira and Ananias (**Acts 5:1-11**) came before the apostle Peter and said, "We're going to give you all of this money. We're going to give it all to God." The wisdom of God was to do judgment right there. Through the word of wisdom that God had given to him, Peter spoke the judgment of God and said, "You lied to the Holy Ghost, not to man. The money was yours. You didn't have to give any of it to God."

Why did you lie and say you were going to give it all to God? God didn't want any of it to start with. You lied to the Holy Ghost. You're dead!" The word of wisdom moved in Peter's heart and because of that wisdom, judgment came.

Every one of you has the same wisdom. You have the same Christ moving in you and He speaks a word of that wisdom to you, and because of that wisdom, judgment comes through you. You might say, "Well, I'm afraid to judge." Don't you realize you have to judge, but it isn't flesh judgment. It is the judgment of God; it's a spirit of judgment.

Judgment was pronounced on Sapphira and Ananias and they died and were buried. Then what happened? The country heard about it, and they said that no man dared join themselves to the church for the fear of God. People come into our churches all the time. They are afraid of nothing. Something is missing, isn't it? Wisdom is not there anymore. **When wisdom is missing, you are void of everything else.**

We invite people into the house of God who have no intention of ever giving their life to Christ. The church was not designed for sinners, but for the righteous. The church was a place where they who were washed in the blood of the Lamb could come together to sing praises to the Lord, so that if sinners came among them, they would become convicted in their hearts and they would give their lives to the Lord. The assembly of the saints is precious in the sight of the Lord and wisdom ought to be in there. Wisdom ought to be there until the fear of God is so real that no man dares come into the house of God unless he wants to get his heart right with the Lord.

1 Kings 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

1 Kings 4:30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

1 Kings 4:31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

1 Kings 4:32 And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

1 Kings 4:33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

1 Kings 4:34 And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

First of all, God gave him wisdom but He didn't limit him. He gave him exceeding wisdom, and understanding. How much wisdom has God given to you? ALL wisdom, not exceeding wisdom, but ALL wisdom. **In Christ is ALL wisdom, ALL authority, ALL power. And God has given unto us Christ, and He has given us the mind that was in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5).** You have all wisdom delivered into your hand today.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me...

How many can REALLY say that? Then if the Spirit of the Lord God is upon you, **Isaiah 11:1- 2** have to come into your life. **Isaiah 4:4** has to come, because in the Spirit of the Lord there is counsel, there is might, there is wisdom, there is understanding. The Spirit of the Lord doesn't come upon you unless God anoints you. You have to be chosen of God to have the Spirit of the Lord come upon you.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isaiah 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that HE might be glorified.

To do all of that, you have to have wisdom. You have to know who is bound and who is not bound. You have to know who is not at liberty. You have to know who God is talking to.

Then in **Isaiah 60:1-3**. (Remember, all the nations came to him, even the kings.)

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee (the Spirit of the Lord is upon me and he hath anointed me) and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

It sounds a little bit like Solomon. You say, "Well, who am I? I'm nothing." Solomon had some reason and some sense. He told the Lord that he was a child. He didn't want riches and long life. He wanted wisdom and knowledge, and because his desire was for the Lord and for the people of God, God granted it to him. **EXCEEDING KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING; God granted it to him.**

Now God has granted unto us **ALL** wisdom. Where are the people who should be coming to us seeking wisdom? Where are the phones ringing off the walls and people saying, "Hey, I know you have wisdom. I've seen your life." It's going to happen. You see, when this first one gets in gear and God begins to move in your life, you're going to move, and the anointing is going to cover you. The Spirit of the Lord is going to cover you and all that is going to be seen is JESUS.

When they saw Solomon, they saw something. The Queen of Sheba said, "The half of it hasn't even been told"(**1 Kings 10:6-7**). Why? Because it was wisdom that was upon him. God gave Solomon wisdom. God had granted it to him out of His judgment. How many people have seen our wisdom? That's the trouble; they have seen OUR wisdom too often and not God's wisdom.

So the kings are going to start coming. They are being drawn by the Spirit of the Lord, but they are being drawn to people that manifest something. **WISDOM!** There is no need for someone to come to a person who is just going by in a bus and who will give him more problems than he already has. The church was designed to be the answer for every man's problems. It was designed to be a holy place that the presence of God could dwell in continually, and people could come and see the wisdom of God in you and me.

1 Kings 5:12 "And the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him..." Has the Lord promised to give you anything? **2 Cor. 1:20 "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."** The promises of God are yea and Amen to them which are in Christ Jesus. Thy testimonies, you see; the promises of God!

God promised Solomon wisdom, didn't he? He didn't say, "Solomon, if you're a good guy, you're going to get it; now if you can merit it, you're going to get it.? NO! You see, Solomon knew something. He was void of God's wisdom. He knew that Israel had been in trouble, and he knew that Israel had all kinds of problems, even under David. David was a king after God's own heart, but here was a man who desired one thing from God. Isn't that something sweet? Oh, that our hearts could get like this. They **CAN**, they **MUST**, get like this.

1 Kings 5:12 And the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

He gave Solomon wisdom as He promised him and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon and they two made a league together. When wisdom is there, there is peace. Did you know that? There's peace! When a man is wise in God, the Lord even causes your enemies to be at peace with you (**Prov 16:7**). And here the Lord is saying that Solomon's wisdom was not his own wisdom. **It was wisdom that God gave him.**

1 Kings 7:13 And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre.

1 Kings 7:14 He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to King Solomon, and wrought all his work.

If you read on down to the 40th verse, you will find he knew a lot of things. But look at it. First of all, God told Moses that he had filled men with the spirit. Now here, Solomon looked at this man and he said, "He has the Spirit of the Lord," so he called him.

Do you realize that in the book of Acts it wasn't God that appointed deacons? It wasn't God that set the elders in. It was the leaders. They were told by God to pick out among them seven men, but they had qualifications. We go around picking out people who look good, or sound good, or have a little reputation, or something. And here God said, "That's not what I'm qualifying men on. I'm qualifying them strictly on my Spirit."

If a man has the Spirit of God and is yielded to the Lord, he is able to work in God's work. But no matter how educated he is, and no matter how good looking he is, and no matter how many things he can say, if he does not have the Spirit of God in him, wisdom and understanding are void in his life, so don't let that man do anything. We pick people to be counselors on phones because they can quote a few scriptures. NO! A man or woman who counsels on the phone or by letter, personally, or any other way, should be able to pray and seek the Lord until an answer comes, and then through the wisdom of God, give them an answer.

1 Kings 10:24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

1 Kings 10:25 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

Here they not only saw and heard but they began to thank him for his wisdom. You don't have to take care of yourself. In Christ everything is sufficient. As you begin to walk where God wants you to walk, in the wisdom of the Lord, you don't have to seek any longer after anything. God will take care of you. Solomon was not only **HEARD**, but the wisdom he had was **SEEN**. There was a manifestation of his wisdom that God

had granted to him. When you touch people's lives, you are going to have favor in their sight. I don't care who they are, God is going to give you favor with them. He said it was wisdom that men and women sought of Solomon.

What is the world seeking today? Why do they send children to higher education schools? The answer is always education, isn't it? Think about it! Everything is programmed to education. Higher learning; better education. Everything is education, education, education! They are close but they are running parallel in the natural kingdom to a parallel in the spiritual kingdom. The word of God says study, so they study. The word of God says get wisdom, so they get wisdom. But it is always the wrong study, the wrong wisdom; **only the church has the right wisdom.**

The governments are going to seek the church out before long, and if you do not have the wisdom of God working in you, they are not going to seek you out. They are going to bypass you, and God is going to send them to somebody else. I'm telling you something: the church is on the greatest breakthrough it has ever seen. The focal point of it will be the wisdom of God showing us how to operate so we can take that wisdom and have it applied to them, so they can begin to understand that the church has the only true and wise God.

1 Chron 23:13 The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things...

Now remember that wisdom indicated to us that we should not touch the unclean thing, but to separate ourself, then the Lord would receive us unto himself (**2 Cor 6:1**). Wisdom indicates that for that wisdom to be made manifest, we are going to have to walk in God's sanctification in such a way that this is seen: that our conversation is holy, that our life is holy, everything about us is holy. It's like two married people. If one of them is a believer, then the children are sanctified in that marriage because of the one believer who is separated unto God.

1 Chron 23:13 ..and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the Lord, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name forever.

I want that kind of wisdom in my life - to know how to bless in the name of the Lord. But it's going to take a separated life. It's going to take a life that is not like the world. How can the world tell the difference today between the church and the world? They think the church is a group of people who meet in little buildings, and doesn't do any fun things; in fact, they don't do anything. They are just a nice, dead people. Yet the only ones alive are the church.

The church ought to be shaping them up. The church ought to be out there living in such a way that, praise God, men are scared of them, afraid of them. Instead the ones in the world just walk around and live with us. No fear of God in them at all. Why?

Because they don't even know what the wisdom of God indicates. They don't know what the wisdom of God is all about.

Let's look at the prayer that David prayed for his son Solomon.

1 Chron 22:12 Only the Lord give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the Lord thy God.

THE LORD MUST DO IT!

1 Chron 22:13 Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the Lord charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

Do you want to prosper? Get the wisdom of God working in your heart and you'll never have to seek it again. Once the wisdom of God is in your heart, you're going to know that judgment is there, and when the wisdom of God works, the judgment of God will work in your life. Counseling will work in your life. But if you're void of wisdom, you are void of understanding, you're void of counsel, you're void of might, you're void of knowledge, you're void of judgment, and you're void of burning.

If we prayed for our children like he did, wouldn't that be something? We could pray for our children like Paul prayed for us in Ephesians, that the spirit of wisdom and of revelation might be in us. We pray, "Oh God, get our kids out of trouble. Oh Lord, keep them out of this and keep them out of that." We ought to say, "Lord, just do whatever it takes, that they might begin to get their eyes open to see wisdom and revelation." I prayed for my three daughters and my son that the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ might enlighten their eyes. Once they had that revelation working in them, then wisdom would begin to draw them.

2 Chron 1:10 (Solomon's prayer) Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

I want the people to see what God is like. I want the people to see a life that can go out and come in before all men.

2 Chron 1:11 And God said to Solomon, because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

2 Chron 1:12 Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

Jesus said, in Luke 11:31 "... there stands one among you greater than Solomon." We settle for seeking after long life, or this, or that, and the Lord said, "Don't you see the pattern that was set before you. If you would only seek wisdom and knowledge, I would grant to you everything." And He DID it. In Jesus Christ, He gave it to you - the world, the fullness thereof, and all that dwells in it. He made you an heir of everything with God (Romans 8:17). He gave you the Kingdom of God. That's why He said in Matt. 6:33, "***Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness***" because His righteousness is wisdom. In His righteousness is understanding. In His righteousness is judgment. In His righteousness is counsel and might and judgment and burning. All of this is in His righteousness.

Do you want to counsel people? You're going to. You **HAVE** to! The only problem is, we've counseled in what we've seen and what we've heard, and the people are ten times worse than when they came to us. We are going to have to begin to counsel in such a way that they are set free from all the bondages that afflict them.

2 Chron 9:1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

2 Chron 9:2 And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not.

Sounds again like Peter talking to Ananias and Sapphira, doesn't it?

2 Chron 9:3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built,

2 Chron 9:4 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her.

All of her questions were answered. There was no more doubt, confusion and unbelief. She had heard of this wisdom and now she had seen the wisdom of Solomon. Isn't that great?

Now just think, as great as the wisdom of Solomon was, you have greater wisdom. People ought not to be able to gainsay you, for **the Lord said, "I will give you**

a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist" (Luke 21:15). The queen of Sheba had come with many questions and every question was answered. Nothing was hidden from Solomon. Peter knew exactly what the heart of Sapphira and Ananias was really all about. He had passed judgment on them. Now, there are people coming to you and me that need to have the same kind of wisdom applied to their lives. When they ask a question, they will get the real answer. When Jesus was asked a question, He told them what they were really needing to know.

Ezra 7:25 And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.

Earlier I said that the elders or presbyters of the church were to set elders in the church, and they were to set them in because of their wisdom in God, because of their knowledge in the things of God. And here, a king that really didn't know God, began to set Ezra into a place that he could teach and set up other judges and magistrates to judge.

Do you want to have favor in the sight of other men? Begin to walk in wisdom. Begin to have wisdom portrayed in your life. **When people come to you for counsel, let them SEE the wisdom of God, let them HEAR the wisdom of God, let them KNOW the wisdom of God. Let all your judgments be based upon the pure wisdom of God. Let's look at Proverbs 2:1-11.**

Prov 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Prov 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

Prov 2:3 Yes, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

Prov 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Prov 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Prov 2:6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Prov 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly

Prov 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Prov 2:9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Prov 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Prov 2:11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.

The Lord is saying through this man of God, in a prayer for his children and in his instruction to his children, to seek something. It was to seek the Lord that they might know the fear of God. How many of us instruct our children to know the fear of God? How many of us really say, "Fear the Lord." Without the fear of God, there is no wisdom. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, beginning of knowledge, beginning of understanding. Here he said, "I want you to seek after The Lord to find wisdom, understanding and knowledge, to know the things of God."

Prov 3:13 Happy (to be overjoyed, a consuming happiness) is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Prov 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Prov 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

In other words, wisdom has no price tag on it. You cannot buy it. You cannot even compare and weigh the world against the wisdom of God. The wisdom of God is far above all of these things.

Prov 3:16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand, riches and honour.

Wasn't that proven of Solomon. He sought wisdom and got length of days, and long life and riches and honour. We're seeking the wrong things too many times and then we counsel people to seek things rather than to seek God. We cannot counsel them contrary to our own heart. If our heart is locked into things, we have to counsel people to seek things.

Prov 3:17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Prov 3:18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

Prov 3:19 The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

No matter how many colleges you go to and how many thousands of dollars you pay for man's wisdom, they never founded the earth. God's wisdom is available to you without price, without money. It is available to you, and when you finish this study, I pray that you have found wisdom and retained that wisdom. It will be a tree of life to you. It will be peace to you. It will be the same wisdom that founded the earth; by understanding, hath he established the heavens.

Do you want to be a happy people? There it is. Do you want to be a happy counselor? Let wisdom reign in your life! Do you want to have a tree of life living in you? Have wisdom reign in your heart. But it's not the wisdom of man. It is not a carnal wisdom; **it is an eternal wisdom.** The wisdom that was there before you even existed and before the worlds were, was there in the beginning with God, called "**THE WORD.**" The wisdom of God.

You have something that the world can't get; you have something the world cannot give. You have the only answer to all of man's problems. You have the wisdom of God available to you to be used to answer man's needs today.

Prov 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Prov 4:6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Do you want your health preserved? Get hold of wisdom. Don't make your own choices anymore; make your choices based on the word of God. When you counsel people, make your counsel with the wisdom of God. When you admonish people, make it the wisdom of God. When you walk the way you're supposed to walk, let it be the wisdom of God that guides your footsteps.

Prov 3:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

He tells you, "I have given you an order; here are the things I want you to get. I want you to let Jesus become real in your life, in every area." The principal thing that any man must get is salvation. When he gets salvation, that is Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ has been made our wisdom.

I Cor. 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...

So the minute a man absolutely receives Christ as his personal saviour, he gets a storehouse of wisdom open to him. We need to walk in such wisdom today that men will come and hear our wisdom. They will come and see our wisdom and they will give their life to the Lord.

Prov 8:11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Prov 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

There's something else that dwells with wisdom; it's prudence. A prudent man is what I want to be around. That means one that's not slothful, one that is uncompromising; a prudent man, a diligent person, a person that has the best interests of his master at heart. When wisdom comes, it brings prudence into your life, and where you once were slothful, you'll begin to be a person that is diligent. Where you were once lukewarm, you begin to be a person who is "on fire" for God. Wisdom will teach you these things.

Prov 14:33 Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding; but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

In other words, wisdom has some secrets to it. It doesn't blab everything it knows. **James 3:13 "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."** This talks about the meekness of wisdom. When a man really has wisdom, he doesn't have to prove it. Solomon never had to prove he had wisdom. Peter never had to prove he had wisdom. The Holy Spirit proved it. He gave them the answers they needed. Solomon had the wisdom he needed because it was God's wisdom, and it was seen and heard. When we get the wisdom, we get understanding.

Prov 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Prov 14:35 The king's favor is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

Do you want God's favor towards you? Be a wise person; be more quick to hear than you are to speak. Let all your judgments be based upon wisdom, but wisdom of which you have understanding. Otherwise just because you think you have wisdom and you try to do a thing, it brings division or a schism in the body, and the wrath of God will come against you because you are disobedient to the things of God.

I love the way God does things; it's always a two-sided deal. "If you do what I tell you, the blessing of God is on you; if you don't do it, the curse of God will be upon you." It's that simple. **Wisdom then indicates that I am going to do what HE wants so I can receive the blessing of God in my life.**

Prov 12:8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.

The word "commended" is the same word we use for recommended. If you wonder why no one really comes to you for counsel, it's because God hasn't recommended you. God is not sending people to those who have no wisdom. The more wisdom you allow to work in your heart, the more God will recommend you to people.

He recommended Phillip to the Ethiopian (**Acts 8:26-39**). Why? Because he had wisdom. You want to be used of God? You want to go out and minister the gospel of Christ? God will recommend you to people by the wisdom that you have. "Well, I want to be used of God." All you have to do is get wise; let the wisdom of God be in you. You won't have to look for some place to be of service; your phone will ring or somebody will be on your doorstep because God is recommending them to you. They will say, "I don't know how I got over here." See, you know that God recommended you.

God recommended Solomon to the queen of Sheba and she came to him. God recommended Peter to Cornelius of Caesarea through a dream because of his wisdom toward God. If you have wisdom, God will recommend you. He will commend you to others. He will bring you into places of authority that you never thought you would be in. You will be counseling people that you never thought you would be able to counsel. You will be counseling people that, in the natural, seem so far out of your range that there would be no way to reach them. And all of a sudden, they're in your house, or you're in their house; or you're in their presence, or they're in your presence - somewhere you come across them. God recommended you, and by His Spirit, He drew that person to you. Then right away, we want to give him some of our wisdom. Right?

Prov 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

Prov 16:22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

A man who is wise in heart shall be called prudent because he learns to keep his lips; he keeps his mouth. He has a watch set over it and when he speaks, it's wisdom that comes out; not the wisdom of men but the wisdom of God.

You couldn't buy all of this. If you owned all the silver and gold in the world, you couldn't buy one ounce of God's understanding. It has become a free gift through Jesus Christ our Lord, and it is available to all of us. I have found out that the more of God's

wisdom that I allow to work in me, the less I care about anything else. It takes all the sweat out of it. Praise the Lord!

Micah 6:9 The Lord's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.

The man of wisdom. How many of us are men of wisdom? "...the man of wisdom shall see thy name..."(be acquainted with the name of the Lord.)

Prov 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

In other words, the wise man doesn't fear evil because he has a strong tower. He doesn't fear the time of famine because he has an abundance in God. He doesn't fear depression, because he has the life that is sufficient in Christ Jesus. The wise man knows that his substance is not of the world; it's of God. He knows that His strength is joy, it is peace; it doesn't depend upon worldly conditions. Everything that he has need of is in Christ.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

That is what wisdom is. You can tell whether you have it in your life or not. How much peace do you have? The amount of peace you have is determined by the amount of wisdom that you have.

The more you **study this**, not just try to memorize it, the more wisdom comes. Even though Christ is in you, there is still that "old man" wisdom that doesn't like to give up. He doesn't mind changing his wisdom a little bit because he still gets a little glory out of it. **When you come to a place where it is no longer you that lives but Christ lives in you, when it is no longer your wisdom but His wisdom, you are in TOTAL peace.** There is nothing that can stir you up anymore. The only thing that shakes you now is the Spirit of the Lord and your heart is stirred up by that wisdom.

Romans 11:33 talks about the depths of the riches of wisdom and knowledge in God. They're unsearchable, past finding out. We act like we've exhausted everything about God. We became Christians and now, "Oh, I'll be so glad when I get to heaven. No fun living here anymore; just gotta hang on." You don't have wisdom. Wisdom tells me that once I was without joy and now I'm full of joy. Once I was outside of peace and now I'm full of peace. One time I was in sickness and now I'm in health. Once I was in poverty and now I'm in abundance. Everything is reversed and now I'm enjoying it. I'm wearing this hide but all the emphasis is not on it, but on the inward man.

1 Cor 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

He said, "I didn't come in my own wisdom or in the men's wisdom of speech or of the excellency of that speech, but I came to declare unto you - **THE TESTIMONY OF GOD!**" Remember **Psalm 119:24 "Thy testimonies are my counsellors."** In other words he said, "I have come to declare unto you the counsel of God." In **Acts 20:26-27** he said, "I am blameless of the blood of any man, for I have not failed to bring unto you the whole counsel (or testimony) of God."

1 Cor. 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Cor 2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

1Cor 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

There are a lot of people that can speak and we call them preachers, but they always build around worldly events or things. But Paul said, "I don't want to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified." Here he said, "I didn't come with man's wisdom but in the demonstration of the Spirit and the power, that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." When a man is really preaching the word of God, there will be signs that follow him. If all a man does is talk about it and you never see it, forget it and go somewhere else, because the wisdom of God is not only seen, it is manifested.

We've already read many times that the wisdom that Solomon had was not only seen; it was manifested. When that wisdom is made known in our lives, that portion of Christ will be made manifest in our lives. The signs that follow are miracles, signs, and wonders. But what He wants you to manifest is wisdom. Wisdom will get the job done every time.

1 Cor 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1 Cor 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world...

The perfect person does not want the wisdom of this world. I don't care about what is going on in the world. I don't care about how much money our President is making or if he's making anything at all. I don't care how much you're making a year. What I want to know is Christ among you and Him crucified, because if you identify with

His crucifixion, then you're dead to the world. You're not going to want men's wisdom. You're going to want to speak the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 2:6 ...nor the princes of this world, that come to nought.

Isn't that something; all the wisdom that you could accumulate in this world will come to nothing. **ZERO!** Just think about it. You spend years getting wisdom of the world and things, and you've got to leave it all, and it comes to nothing when it's added up.

1 Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

The wisdom of God is a mystery to the world. This Corinthian church was carnal. They were as carnal as they could be. Their desires were all flesh and lust, after the things of the flesh, and he said, "It's a mystery to you." But he said, "When we speak wisdom, we speak to them that are perfect... But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery,"

Here we are, going out and trying to counsel people by what we see or hear, when we have the wisdom that was before the world. The wisdom that formed the world; "which God ordained before the world unto our glory." **Jesus said in John 17:22, "Father, I have given them the glory which thou gavest unto me."** We are trying to get so religious and so pious about counseling people that they are going to think we're some kind of tremendous spiritual giant. Let me tell you something: a person that has given his life to Christ and totally sold out to God, that man has WISDOM. It isn't anything that you can merit, but it's **HIDDEN WISDOM**. It's wisdom of mystery. It's a wisdom that has glory with it. Remember what he said, "Wisdom has honor and riches and long life."

1Cor 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The world doesn't receive it; they don't know it. Princes of the world, powers of darkness, don't have this wisdom. All the wealth of the world doesn't have this wisdom. I have wisdom because my Father gave it to me. You have wisdom because your Father gave it to you, and it has to be the primary principal thing in your walk with God.

Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in ALL wisdom and prudence;

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.

That little word "all" is in there, isn't it? We read it, "toward us in wisdom and prudence" not "**ALL wisdom and prudence.**"

The wisdom that Solomon had was great, but it was limited even though it was an abundant wisdom. You have an unlimited source of wisdom. There's not one problem in all the earth that you have not the power to solve, through the wisdom of God. When a man or woman comes to you and needs counsel, you have all the wisdom of God available to you. Yet we take our wisdom and go by what we see, what we hear, or what we feel, even though All the wisdom has been given to us: the wisdom that was before the world, the wisdom that was ordained to bring you glory, the wisdom that is a mystery to the world, the wisdom that is hidden and reserved for us alone.

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Now watch how he prays.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

I am one of His saints. I have a right to believe that this spirit of wisdom and revelation will enlighten the understanding of my eyes. God is saying, "Here is a way to pray right. Here is a way to pray for one another." When we begin to be concerned about one another's spiritual life, when we really get down to the point that our whole prayer life is wrapped up in building the inner man, you won't have to worry about the outward man. He will be taken care of. I'll prove it to you when we get to the spirit of might.

Paul prays that the **INNER** man will be strengthened, that the **INNER** man can see what God is doing, that the **INNER** man can receive wisdom from God. It's not a worldly wisdom; it is the wisdom of God hidden from the foundation of the world. If somebody comes to me and wants to be counselled, I'll just say "It is written", and they can do with it what they want. They don't need to go out and try to get five or six different answers. "It is written." That will do it every time. It only takes you a few minutes to say that.

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ;

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

The word "**manifold**" in this form only appears right here. It is a beautiful word. Conc #4182 means "much variegated" like a diamond with many facets, so that no matter what the need is, there is a facet that will meet the need. It shines in all directions; it glows and glorifies God, but it is a mystery. The world does not want the answer - the church has the answer.

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, our Lord;

Eph 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

The Lord is saying, "I have made known to you that the church has wisdom, the hidden wisdom, the mystery wisdom, the wisdom with glory. It's yours." Are we going to go out here and counsel with some profound theology that men would teach us, when the Holy Spirit of God would speak through you, to teach all men the things of God?

Col. 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Col. 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Col. 2:3 In whom are hid ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

ALL, not some of it. **ALL** the treasures are hidden in him; the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. You cannot buy this. You cannot go to school to get it. The only way you can get it is by giving yourself more and more to the Lord - yielding to the Lord, to that wisdom of God.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in ALL wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The word **LET** is here, and this word **LET** is not optional; **it is a commandment**. Above anything else, **LET** this word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; not **WITHOUT** wisdom, but in **ALL** wisdom. When the wisdom of God's word is made known to you, you no longer fear. You no longer walk in areas of condemnation. You

walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. You see, it is something that you can walk in; **it is Christ. It is walking in Jesus, with the same mind that He had (Phil 2:5).**

The world can see that kind of wisdom, friend. The world can see when you are at peace and they're troubled. They can see when you are not worried about famine and they are. They can see when they are trusting in medicine and you're trusting in the Lord. When you're trusting in God and they are trusting in the world, they can see it. They know that wisdom is real and from the Lord.

Let's look at the word "**wise.**" Do you feel like you're gaining a little wisdom. Do you feel that by the end of this study you'll be able to counsel somebody, and know that they'll be free. Nicodemus came to Jesus and Jesus told him to get saved (**John 3:1-18**). We would have told him to join the church and practice worshipping. He just told the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well to worship God (**John 4:7-26**). We would have told her to get saved. See, the wisdom of God works so contrary to the natural man. He never looked on either one of their outward appearances. He told them exactly where they were and what they needed. That wisdom is yours today.

Prov 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

The man that has this wisdom is going to inherit glory.

Prov 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

There is an old saying (not in the Bible) that you are known by the company you keep. I had a Pastor friend who helped me more than any one man. He would always counsel me at night after we had preached. We were talking one night about the power of God not being evident in the church. He said something that was really profound to my heart. **He said when men and women clean up their act and speak only the word of the Lord, then the power will come; but if God allowed people to have power for every word they speak, they would destroy one another.**

That was wisdom to my heart, so I have had the Holy Spirit set a watch over my lips (**Psalms 141:3**). I do not want to say things that are powerless; idle words. I want to say things that have power. I want to say things that set men free, heal the sick, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive. So you see, **"he that walketh with wise men, shall be wise..."** I received wisdom that night from that man. He was wise in the things of God. **"...but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."**

Ecc 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). You and I are the light of the world (**Matt 5:14**). Then our conversation ought to be in wisdom, hadn't it? The conversation that we have ought to portray the wisdom of God in our lives. There ought to be so much wisdom in our heart that we don't talk of darkness or in darkness anymore because it is not prudent and it is not wisdom to deal continually in folly or foolishness. If you want power in your life, begin to have powerful speech, a speech that only portrays Christ.

Ecc 2:26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous (**Prov 13:22**). Everything added up in the book of Ecclesiastes is vanity and vexation. He said, "If I get wealth and get me a great kingdom built here, how do I know the man that will come behind me is not a fool and will blow it all?" You need to read the whole book of Ecclesiastes. It's full of wisdom and strength and honor.

If God takes me out of here today, I've invested all that I have in the Kingdom of God. I told my kids not to look for anything except a good inheritance, and that's the name of the Lord. He said that God giveth wisdom to a man that is good in His sight. God gives the wisdom and the knowledge.

Ecc 7:11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

If you have wisdom, you're not going to worry about anything anymore.

Ecc 7:12 For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

He is saying that there is a certain comfort in the worldly goods, but real knowledge tells you that wisdom gives life; money doesn't. Things do not. Prestige does not. Position does not. **But wisdom giveth life to them that have it.** God is going to raise up some people that are going to be so full of wisdom that money will be all around them. Things will be all around them. They'll just give it away to the ministries. They'll give it away to the poor and to feed the hungry. They'll have more than they can handle. That's what God says they'll do. But He says that there is no substance in it. The only true defence is that which will give life, which is God.

Ecc 7:19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

Wisdom is a strengthening factor, isn't it.

Ecc 8:1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

There's something joyful about having wisdom in your life. You know, when you're **wise**, anybody can say anything they want to about you and you don't get upset, and you don't try to get even with them. You just say, "Thou sayest. Praise the Lord!" and the smile doesn't leave your face and the joy doesn't leave your heart.

We are talking about coming into a counseling situation. If a man is going to counsel me, I want him to be consistent. I don't want him to be up, out, in, under, or down, because when I need help, I'm going to need some help from a man who is walking consistently. He is saying, "A man's wisdom maketh his face to shine. It's a continual peace. It's a defence."

Ecc 9:13 This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:

Ecc 9:14 There was a little city, and a few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

Ecc 9:15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Ecc 9:16 Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

Ecc 9:17 The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

Ecc 9:18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

2 Cor 10:4 tells us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. Wisdom tells you how to make war through the counsel of God. Wisdom instructs you. When a person really wants to know something, he's going to find that quiet place, and he's going to seek out a man that has wisdom regardless of his stand in life.

"The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools." There's a time when we want to be associated with people who seem to have a lot of charisma and they're making a lot of words, but the words don't mean anything. The words are just words; they fill up air. No matter how many jokes

you tell, no matter how much attention you get in life, you're going to leave it and you've profited nobody. **But the man who has a quiet spirit, which is a great price in the sight of the Lord (1 Peter 3:4), that man has wisdom.** He's going to be sought out, recommended by the Lord, and he's going to be heard.

How about Elijah in **I Kings 20:11-13**. Here he was, looking for the presence of the Lord. He finds an earthquake, a fire; he finds everything in the world going on and God wasn't in it. But when he simply walked into the mouth of the cave, put the mantle around him, he heard that still, small voice in his ear! See, wisdom is a beautiful work of God through Jesus Christ. **WISDOM DOES NOT DRAW ATTENTION TO ITSELF. WISDOM IS JESUS CHRIST!**

Ecc 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

Ecc 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

The first thing that you will find out from a wise man or a man of wisdom, he teaches knowledge.

Ecc 12:10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

Ecc 12:11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

A word fitly spoken puts things together, doesn't it, and they can't be broken apart.

Ecc 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecc 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

If you counsel out of your own wisdom, it's going to be brought into light. It may seem at the time the right thing to do because you don't want people to think you don't have an answer. Right? There's something about us human beings. We don't want people to think that any area of our life doesn't have all the answers. That's why we're a body. That's why there is a multitude of counselors.

If I'm having a really difficult time in giving a right answer to a person, I'm not going to give him a wrong one just to fill up the space. I'll say, "Brother, there's a problem here. I want you to talk to this brother." Or, "Sister, there's a problem here; I want you to talk to this sister," instead of me saying, "Well, it's my considered opinion," and then "blah, blah, blah." That's the word of fools, and the only problem is, I have spoken it and there's an idle word there, you see, and it will be brought to light one day. We need to watch what we say! We need to watch what we do! Wisdom indicates that we would be quick to hear but slow to speak (**James 1:19**).

He is saying that it's all vanity, there is nothing his. It will all be brought into the light anyhow so why not take the wise things of God, so when they are manifested they will be to the glory of the Lord.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

Remember in Proverbs it says that his countenance would shine. Here Daniel says that the wise man, the man of wisdom, would shine as brightness. We need to begin to say, "Lord, I want to be the light of the world." Now when you say that you're the light of the world, God expects you to shine, doesn't he. Kings are going to come to the brightness of your rising. Isn't that what it says in **Isaiah 60:3**. If we are everything that God said we are (and we certainly are) then it is time we begin to live there, isn't it. It's time that wisdom began to be in our lives.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Everything will be made manifest, no matter where you put it.

Prov 23:1 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee.

Prov 23:2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

Prov 23:3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

Prov 23:4 Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

The Lord is showing us something about wisdom. We're not to labor for the things of this world even though the word of God (**2 Thess 3:10**) teaches us that if a man does not work, he doesn't eat. There is no such thing as God having a welfare program. If a man is healthy, he works. Here he is saying that we are not to labor or concentrate all our efforts on being rich to attain things of this world, because that is

MAN'S wisdom. Paul uses this revelation of truth later on when he said that many have gone in error thinking that gain is godliness, but he said that real godliness is contentment. **Godliness with contentment is great gain (I Tim 6:6)** Great gain isn't having things. Great gain is having godliness with contentment; then whatever God adds to you, if it's wealth or whatever it is, you can use it in the right perspective.

So he said, "I want you to realize that there is a wisdom that is a counterfeit wisdom. It's the wisdom of the natural mind." That wisdom is what got Eve in trouble in the beginning. That wisdom is what gets you in trouble. When God had proclaimed wisdom to them, He said to Adam, "You can eat of every tree in this place that I have put you in, but of the one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." That was God's wisdom. Satan came along with sensual wisdom. **James 3:15** calls it sensual and devilish; the wisdom of the world. Everything of the wisdom of this world is sensual and devilish. If it appeals to your flesh, it is of the devil. **If it appeals to your spirit, it's from God.**

Satan said to Eve, "Hath God really said?" The first thing that wisdom of the world does is question God's wisdom, and it begins to elevate you into a position equal with God in your natural mind. She had to make a choice. If she had made her choice based on the wisdom of God, she would have been the mother of a race without sin. But she took the natural wisdom which said, "It looks good" and it was desirous to make one wise. She partook of wisdom of this world and died. Since then man has been in sin. The enemy comes to all of us just as he did to Eve and says, "Look, think about this. Reason it out in your own mind and surely you can come to a right answer." Without God's wisdom, you have no right answers.

"Labor not to be rich; cease from thine own wisdom." That helps us, doesn't it? The word "**cease**" means to stop it, get out of it, quit it, don't pay any attention to it anymore. I want you to underline that word.

In **Psalm 57:4-5** let's see what the wise man is like. David is speaking here and a revelation of truth has come to him.

Psa 57:4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

He didn't say his BODY but his **SOUL**.

Psa 57:5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

If you go on and read, you will find out that David found himself in a sorry circumstance. You know how he got there? Decisions that he made. Wisdom that he had even given himself over to. Not the wisdom of God, but the wisdom of his own

flesh. When he desired to sin against God, to fulfill the lusts of his flesh, he automatically separated himself from God. Where he had once known the peace and absolute tranquility of God, he began to know trouble and sorrow and vexation on all sides of him, simply because he took the wisdom of God and set it aside so he might fulfill the lusts of the flesh. He gave in to sensual wisdom.

When we have a problem in our life, nine times out of ten, we have created it. When people have a problem in their life, what we do nine times out of ten, is create more problems for them by the counsel we give them. It's a dangerous thing for any of us in the body of Christ to say to a man, "The Lord has shown me," or "The Lord has said," when it is not written. You see, this is the more sure word of prophecy. If I walk according to this word of God, that is His wisdom. But if I come up to you and say, "Brother, the Lord has shown me," and I can't base it scripturally on the word of God and make it sound counsel, but I have told you what I see and hear, then I'm responsible to you and to God to make it come to pass. If I don't then I'm a liar.

The wisdom of this world is sensual. Just because you're a Christian, just because you're a disciple of the Lord, doesn't mean you can't give over to sensual wisdom. There's a warfare in you and will be until the day that the Lord changes this vile thing.

Here is what God is saying to you and me: That wisdom that cometh from above is first of all pure. Now if the wisdom you get is not pure, then it's not of God. If it is not peaceable, it is not of God. If it is not easily entreated, it is not of God. If it is not full of mercy, it is not of God. Choose today. Don't be like Eve. Do you want to be like Jesus? God is giving us choices today, isn't he? I LOVE HIM!

Matt 11:16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

Matt 11:17 And saying, we have piped unto you and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

Matt 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, he hath a devil.

Matt 11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

If you really have wisdom from God it will produce children. It will bring forth of an end that will justify what you've done, but it will be a justification through Jesus Christ. In other words, the works that are produced will be the justification of that which you have done.

Now when you give wise counsel to people, 99% of them will not accept it immediately. They don't want to hear it because it kills the old man. IT does the work. The Spirit of God just mortifies the old man, and the counsel that God gives doesn't come to the natural, it comes to the spirit man. That which is first is natural, so the natural man is very strong to start with, and his wisdom has always been a block against anything.

Here the Lord says that when that wisdom comes into your heart, if it's the wisdom of God, it will be justified by the product. When wisdom is really of God, it produces godly lives and you don't have to worry about people saying, "Well, he's a great counselor; he's this or that." Jesus didn't have to justify himself. He was justified by the product. Your life is really products, and whatever products are produced out of your life simply show where you've been living. If chaos and confusion are the children you have produced, if bondage, etc. are the things you have produced, it means you've lived in the flesh. **If you live in the spirit, wisdom will cause the children of that wisdom to be righteous, holy, pure, and godly.**

Jesus was justified by the work that He did. The wisdom He had, produced, didn't it? Now ask yourself for a minute, "How much of this do I really have working in me? How much of this wisdom is producing something?" Look at the work that has been produced in your life; has it been works of righteousness, holiness. Has it been works of the pureness of God? If it hasn't been, friend, you've simply been in the wrong wisdom. That's why He says to get wisdom, which is the principal thing. But to get wisdom of this type, you must get rid of the wisdom of this world.

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

He had to grow. Nobody comes overnight and BANG! there you are. First of all, there seems to be a lot of trial and error. You try a lot of things and find out you are in error 90% of the time. Right? He said that the child grew. Now, if the Lord had to grow, I've got to grow. I must be honest with myself; there are areas in my life in which I must still grow a lot. Like I said, I don't understand the love of God. I accept it, but I don't understand it. I don't understand the Garden of Gethsemane but I do accept it.

Here he says, "The child grew and waxed strong in spirit..." There had to be something happening; there had to be a changing of His own will and life to become that which God had for Him. If you think you're going to make it overnight, forget it. If you don't get wisdom first, you're not going to get anything. You're going to have to grow up in the spirit. All of us have to grow in the spirit. Nobody has been born mature yet that I know of, not even the Son of God. He was born as a baby and He had to grow up in the things of God and He had to be taught by the Father.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

He didn't have **ALL** wisdom. It was all available to Him just like it is to you and me, but He didn't have **all** wisdom. He was a man born without sin, born of a virgin. His Father was God, but He had the same kind of a will that you have. He had the same kind of a mind that you and I have, and He had to make choices and He chose to increase in wisdom. **He had to make a choice.**

Now you have to make this choice. A lot of us though, come to a place and say, "Well, I'm smart enough; nobody is going to teach me anything." And that's true; they're not. Unless the Holy Ghost is able to penetrate your heart, He's not going to teach you anything. He only teaches a man with a teachable spirit. He doesn't try to teach people. He's not even interested in trying to teach people. He only teaches His own and His own have a teachable spirit.

Jesus, the very son of God, had to increase in wisdom. Isn't that good? People look at Jesus and see the wrong thing altogether. They think He never had to make any choices. They think that all He had to do was just be there and it was all over. No, He had to grow up, to come to a point in His life where He wrestled. He had to make decisions every day of His life, just like you do. He had to look at it and say, "Well, is it worth it all? They're rejecting everything I'm telling them. They are saying "yes" with their mouth but their hearts are far from me. In their heart they want to kill me while they're saying they love me." He had to grow up and He increased in wisdom and stature. The word "**stature**" means age or maturity (**Conc. #2244**).

Every one of us is going to have to grow up where it is no longer we that live, and there's not a bunch of people, but only one that is seen. There are many members but one body and we're working in the same mind and the same heart and the same spirit. We have to make a decision to do it. We grow up together in wisdom. We grow up together in the things of God.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

The first thing you are going to have to do is begin to increase in wisdom. The thing I like about this wisdom is that it always glorifies Jesus. That's why Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:16: "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more."** Therefore, if that's true in your life, then you're in Christ. That's wisdom. I can't look at you and judge you after the flesh. **"He that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man" (1 Cor 2:15).**

The Lord is saying through Paul that you have to have a conversion from the wisdom of the world to the wisdom of God. You cannot take the wisdom of this world and apply it to anything of God, for the things of God are spiritual. You must have spiritual wisdom; not earthly wisdom. You must have wisdom that knows man now after the spirit and not after the flesh. The flesh is supposed to be dead and not have any

rights anyhow. You just wear it around. It's a garment, the temple of the Holy Ghost. It's built to glorify God. **The word of the Lord said that's your job, to glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God (1 Cor 6:20).**

My body doesn't get to do what it wants; it likes to stay in bed. I say, "Get up, we're going to church." It likes to sleep. I say, "Get up, we've got things to do." When it comes time to pray, it doesn't want to pray. It's still just as ugly today as it was the day it got saved, and it still wants to do it's own thing just as bad as it did back then. But I don't walk after the flesh anymore. It can't do what it wants to do anymore. **It's going to glorify God whether it wants to or not.** Wisdom would indicate to me that I'm no longer my own, but I'm bought with a price. My body is not to be used for the lusts of the flesh but it is being used now to glorify God in every word and every deed. That's wisdom! Now if I say I have wisdom and still sow to the wisdom of this world, I'm a liar. What I need to say is, "Lord, grant to me the wisdom to put away this wisdom of the world."

Luke 2:52 Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

See, the wisdom of God will give you favour with man. When they picked the deacons they said the deacons had to have a life that was the same good report, both within and without the church. God is saying to you and me that wisdom is something in which we must increase, but for me to increase in wisdom means I must decrease in self. I must become like John the Baptist. That's wisdom when he said, **"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).** I must become nothing that He becomes everything; that He can take this vessel and do with it what He wants.

That's what Paul kept trying to write to the Roman Church. He said that you are a servant to whoever you yield your members, whether to sin or whether to righteousness (**Romans 6:16**). Now wisdom indicates to me then, that I've got to walk in such a way that my life is godly. **My hands are laid on the sick, not pointing fingers of condemnation. My tongue is to glorify the Lord and not to curse men. Everything about me and about you also, must be to glorify the Lord.**

Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. The Lord said, "I will give you favour in the sight of all men" (**Prov 3:4**). I don't have any problem with that. When I have to take care of business or something, the Lord gives me favour. I don't have to beg for it. I don't have to plead for it. The Lord has already gone before me. That guy's heart could be as hard as a rock but He gives me favour with him. He said, **"I'll cause men to give unto your bosom" (Luke 6:38).** I've had rank sinners, when God's people wouldn't give, walk up or send me a check and say, "I just feel like I ought to give you this." They don't have to know why. I know why!

Luke 21:14 Settle it (to get it down on a firm foundation, not shakeable or changeable) ***therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer.***

Luke 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist.

When a man has a wise heart, he has a wise mouth. When a man's heart is filled with wisdom, the words of his mouth are wisdom. For whatever is in the heart will surely come out of the mouth.

Prov 3:4 Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

Prov 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

That which defiles you is not what goes into you. What defiles you is what comes out of you (**Matt 15:11**). How often, if we would listen to what we're really saying, would we find our temple defiled? Unless God gives this to you, you will not receive it. The natural man cannot receive it (**1 Cor 2:14**). It belongs to God's people, those that are born of the spirit.

Luke 21:15 ...which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. There was no man that could gainsay or resist Jesus Christ. He had wisdom. When He opened His mouth, He wasn't trying to prove He was the Son of God. He was speaking the words that the Lord had given to Him. The Father had given Him a word, He spoke it, and it was a word that nobody could answer. **Matt 22:46** says that no man dared ask Him any more questions after this, because there was no reason to ask Him any questions. They had no answers. When a man has no answers for what you're saying, he's not going to talk to you much anymore.

"Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist." Isn't that beautiful? Doesn't this just make you want to shout? The world can't get this. There's a lot of counterfeits running around. They are speaking men's wisdom; they're speaking a lot of things.

Someone asked me once, "Brother Krider, what's the MEAT of the word?" That bothered me for a long time, because the Lord had just told me to get back to the simplicity of Christ. I said that I really didn't know. I thought I knew, but I didn't know. I thought the Kingdom of God was the meat of the word. The Holy Ghost said, "If you read my word, I'll show you what it is." He took me to the Samaritan woman, and it came back to eating, bringing some meat to give to Jesus. **He said, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34).**

The Corinthian church could not have the meat because they were carnal; they could not do the works of God (**1 Cor 3:1-2**). Paul said, "I've got to give you milk to barely keep you going. You have every gift going. You have miracles, signs, wonders, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, but you can't do the meat of God." The meat of God is simply to do the will of the Father. That set me so free! All I had to do then, to

be in the meat of God, was to do His will. **"WHATSOEVER HE SAITH UNTO YOU, DO IT!"**

The wisdom of the natural man wants to get a mystery. He wants to get something so mysterious that no one but him and a select group can tell what is going on. Wisdom is justified of her children. If I do the will of my Father, I am doing all the meat that I can ever do. We settle for a little realm called the gift realm. We want a word of wisdom when we could have all wisdom. We want a word of knowledge when we could have all knowledge. We want to prophesy when we could have the prophet living in us. We want a gift of healing when we could have the healer living in us.

This set me so free that I don't have to worry any more. I can simply do the will of my Father, and that is the meat. That is all there is. **John 2:5 "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."** Do you tell me that those servants who were carnal over there could do the will of God? They were doing the meat of God and didn't even know it, and they were the only ones who knew where the wine came from. God is trying to get us to a point where we are out of our wisdom. **God's wisdom doesn't TRY to prove itself. It WILL prove itself.**

1 Cor. 1:17 has to be one of the most powerful scriptures in the word of God, and Paul gave it to a carnal church, because they were always into men's wisdom. They loved men's wisdom. In Bible history it is said that the Corinthian Church had over 60,000 members in that area. They didn't all meet in one building, but they were in that one area, and probably 59,999 were all carnal. It must have been frustrating for Paul to come with the revelation of truth, and say, "Look here, all you have to do is what God wants you to do," and they began to seek men's wisdom.

1 Cor. 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

If a man preaches just words, it won't get the job done.

1 Cor. 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

The devil hated that cross. He hated that blood that was coming out of there. He hated that life that was leaving that body. He knew! He could feel the defeat of that power of that blood as it began to run. He felt it already. When you get too big for the cross, you are into foolishness.

1 Cor 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

He is talking about the prudent and wise of this world.

1 Cor 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For us to get up in our wisdom, and try to make Jesus Christ look like what we want him to, is foolishness because God will never draw real men and women to that kind of Christ. The Spirit of God will draw only to a true Jesus. The wisdom of this world will draw flesh to the kind of Jesus that you want to make, but it will come to nothing. "...hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

1 Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...

You see, the world wanted to know him, but because they continually rejected him, He said, "No, they will not know me after their wisdom." In **Romans 1:25** He said that they worship the creature more than the Creator. The wisdom of this world could not reveal God. So what happened? In their wisdom they began to build idols, worship trees, worship this, and worship that. They began to worship men. They began to worship things. They began to worship hand-made creations and turn from the living God. Why? Because the wisdom of this God that we love was hidden - the hidden wisdom of God which was revealed to us; the wisdom which had glory to it.

We are doing the same thing. We worship personalities, or flesh, or revelations, or doctrines, more than we worship God. I can sing without a piano. I can shout without it. I love to hear someone who can play on it and glorify God. That is beautiful, but if I don't have anybody, the wisdom of God says to me, "Dance before the Lord. Make a melody in your own heart."

If you know God, you should be so humble and thankful. You should fall on your face every morning, and say, "Lord, I love you. I just love you." All the wisdom of books, all the wisdom of theology, all the wisdom of Bible scholars teaching did not reveal Christ to me. When Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus said, "Flesh and blood, or wisdom of this world, did not reveal it to you, but my Father which is in heaven" (**Matt 16:15-17**). You can seek everywhere for God, and you won't find Him. Only through Jesus Christ are you able to find God.

I wish that you would underline this in your Bible: **"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God (they couldn't), it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."** When people say, "Man, you are foolish to go over there and spend your nice Sundays in church when the sun is shining and you could be out boating, or fishing, or you could be doing anything," don't get mad at them. They don't have the wisdom that you have. Just say, "I love you, brother. Go ahead and have your fun. Go ahead and enjoy yourself for a season."

Don't condemn them. They are coming against you because you look like you are in a strait jacket. To them you look like you have lost all of your marbles. You

know, you don't even drink or smoke, run around dancing, cursing, swearing, screaming and hollering and doing all of the things that you used to do. I used to do all of those things, but now I have more fun just raising my hands and saying, "Praise the Lord!" I have more fun getting together with the saints than I have getting together with these earthly relationships that are not serving God.

1 Cor 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1 Cor 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1 Cor 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Who in his right mind would have had another man killed for something that he never committed? But God ordained that His son would die, and it pleased Him to bruise Him. It was in His plan to bruise Him for us (**Isaiah 53:10**). The Jews couldn't understand that. They wanted some kind of a sign. There are a lot of people like the Jewish people; they want a sign. "Lord, if I can see it, I can believe it." You aren't going to believe because you can see; you are going to believe because the wisdom of God has been revealed to you through the spirit of the living God.

When we minister counseling, we had better get hold of that wisdom. If we counsel after what we see or how we feel about an individual, or anything else affects our counsel, friend, we are not counseling in the wisdom of God; we are counseling in worldly wisdom.

1 Cor 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

When you feel like dancing when the Spirit of the Lord is upon you, it looks foolish to a lot of people, but do you know what happens? God begins to rejoice with you. He begins to dance with you. He begins to sing over you (**Zeph 3:17**).

It is foolishness for you to be studying this according to the world. But the problem with the world is that they don't realize that what you are doing is you are getting everything right so you can fit into the kingdom of God when it is made manifest. That your office in the kingdom will be made sure, that your calling and your election is being made sure (**2 Peter 1:10**).

I don't care if everybody leaves me, I will not change the teaching of the word of God. A man is going to have to do in his own heart what he is convinced of God to do. I am telling you that the word of God will never change. If the word of God ever changes, then we are all through. **IT WON'T!** Because ***"the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."***

1 Cor 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

1 Cor 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

1 Cor 1:28 And the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1 Cor 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Look at that! Our wisdom would indicate to get the people together that look nice. Get a people together that have gone to college, are educated, and really know their stuff. But do you know where Jesus went to get his followers; the fishermen and the tax collector. If you had seen the renegades that He chose, you would never again be choosy about those with whom God set you. Jesus went out and got a bunch of stinky fishermen, a tax-collector that had the worst reputation in town. He got a couple of brothers that wanted to fight over who was going to sit at the right hand of God; got a couple of guys that wanted to call down fire from heaven all of the time, and a guy that had a sword and was cutting off people's ears. And you worry about who God set you with!

You didn't have anything to qualify for this thing at all. You were just a foolish thing. You were weak; you didn't have anything to offer, and God reached down in the pit and grabbed you out. You had nothing, and all of a sudden you are going to get something from God? No! You were just as dead as a doornail when He got you, and He breathed into you the breath of life, and your soul became alive. My body is just as rotten now as it was then, just as corruptible now as it was then, but hallelujah! I have one made in heaven, reserved for me, not made with hands (**1 Cor 15:42-49**).

You had better study Corinthians. Those carnal people had more revelation than the church has today, and they were carnal. "Well Brother Krider, I am a little smarter than this." You've passed the cross somewhere. They were so carnal they couldn't even stand up straight, and God gave them more revelation than He gives us today.

We are talking about wisdom today, so when you counsel people and they are going through the lion's den, just encourage them. Just say, "Go on! Praise God! Go on!" Don't take them out of it. Walk with them and pray that God will strengthen them through it. They have to go through it. If you pray them out of it, they will have to go through it again. My wisdom would indicate to get them out of it, but they would probably get into a deeper one the next time. Oh, how we do counsel after what we see and hear.

When Jesus came walking on the water, He didn't tell the water to be still first. He just walked on it. The only reason that Jesus had to calm it, was because His disciples were scared to death that they were going to drown. The man who walks in the wisdom of God isn't worried about what is going on around him. He just walks through it.

2 Cor 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

I look in the mirror every morning and I see my outward man perishing, yet my inward man is renewed day by day, thank God. This is where He is concentrating.

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Your natural body could not contain the weight of glory. He said that no flesh shall glory in the presence of the Lord. Wisdom indicates to me that I had better start feeding the inner man. I had better start growing up in the inner man. Now read it with me again: "For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

2 Cor 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

God is trying to show us some wisdom. He said, "I don't care if you are ten feet tall, I don't care if you are male or female, I don't care what kind of physical body you have now, because you are all going to be like Him when He appears." The physical body that we have now will disintegrate at the presence of God. If He were to walk into this room, manifested in His body, we would come all to pieces. John the beloved could not even receive the revelation that Jesus Christ had on the Isle of Patmos, as wonderfully as he walked with God. He had to be in the Spirit, not in the flesh.

I have a new body. When you get this wisdom, it will help you a lot. You won't care about what is happening to this one. We get offended because people say things about our appearance. Don't you realize that you have one in heaven that is just like His, that can bear the exceeding weight of glory that will be revealed in it. This old body couldn't handle it. It would come apart at the seams. That is why Paul said, "Man, I want to get out of this thing. I am willing to be absent from this body, so I can be present with the Lord" (2 Cor 5:8).

Luke 11:45 Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

Oh mercy, you would think He would have enough sense not to hit the upper crust, wouldn't you. I mean, after all, He is trying to build a ministry. No! Thank God, Jesus wasn't worried about a ministry.

Luke 11:46 And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade man with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.

Luke 11:47 Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

Luke 11:48 Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

Luke 11:49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

"Therefore also said the wisdom of God..." See, the wisdom of God is able to speak for Himself if you will let him.

Luke 11:50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

All of these people didn't live in that generation, but that isn't the generation that He is talking about. It was the generation from the beginning of the knowledge of God until that moment, and that generation was at least 2000 years old.

Here He said, "The wisdom of God says..." I love this. "Therefore also said the wisdom of God..." God has seven Spirits, seven beautiful working spirits, and through those Spirits, He accomplishes every purpose that He accomplishes, and here wisdom declared; wisdom spoke.

When we open our mouth, it should be an oracle of God that speaks; it should be wisdom that comes out of our mouth, that no man can gainsay or resist. These lawyers were trying to justify themselves because of their position, and Jesus brought them all equal, didn't he. That is one thing about the cross: it will bring us all equal. Jesus said, "Woe unto you!" Any man who tries to justify himself, wisdom says the same thing, "Woe unto you."

1 Cor 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

Don't try to bring the wisdom of this world into focus with the wisdom of God. It will not work.

1 Cor 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, he taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Cor 3:20 And again, the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

Any wisdom outside the wisdom of God is vanity, it is vain, it has no power in the Kingdom of God. Therefore we cannot judge after what we intellectually know. We cannot judge by the seeing of the eye, or the hearing of the ear. We must judge by, "**It is written.**" If you don't find it written, then don't counsel people on it please, because you are just digging yourself into a deeper pit.

2 Cor 1:11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

2 Cor 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

This is where I want to walk, with a good conscience and simplicity and godly sincerity. If any man could have used worldly wisdom, it would have been a man named Paul, Saul of Tarsus, educated under the law with Gamaliel, the greatest teacher of the law at that time. When he persecuted the Christians, he believed in what he was doing. He believed that they were blaspheming against his God, and therefore justly they were to die. But when the conversion came to his life, it was no longer Saul of Tarsus; it was Paul the Apostle. He had a revelation that the wisdom of this world could not reveal to him, even though it was a wisdom through the law. Religious wisdom will not reveal the things of God to you. It takes wisdom that comes from God alone.

Col. 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Col. 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Col. 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Col. 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Paul, first of all, prays for the Ephesians that they will have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation working in them. Here he prays for the Colossians that they will be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. You want a word of wisdom when you could have all wisdom. You want a word of knowledge when you could have all knowledge. Only to one church did Paul have to divide Christ up. He divided Him up into a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, a healer, right on down the line. But the Lord that we know, if we will walk in all that He is, will be everything; and through that wisdom, we can touch every life that we minister to.

We are going to close this chapter with this scripture in **James 3:13:**
"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

Jesus was a meek man. Moses was the meekest of all men, but he showed out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. When you really have wisdom in your life, there is a meekness that comes with it. You don't try to prove that you are right because the children of that wisdom will justify you.

In this chapter on wisdom, God is telling us that wisdom doesn't come from men. It comes from God. James 1:5 says that if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God. You can have all wisdom because it is given to you.

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 3

"SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING"

Today we are going to begin to study on the second step in counseling. There are seven spirits of God. In **Isaiah 11:1-4**, one of those spirits is **UNDERSTANDING**. If wisdom is a spirit, which it is, and the only way you can get wisdom is from God, then the only way you can possibly get understanding, is from the same God.

If you are a mechanic, as I was for years, you buy books on certain cars. That book gives you wisdom on that particular car. It gives you understanding of that wisdom on how to repair that car. It comes from the factory that built the car. Now God has built you a new creature in Christ. He has given you His wisdom and from that same factory, by the hand of the Holy Ghost, He has delivered you wisdom and understanding of the product of which you are. First we are going to look at the book of Nehemiah.

Neh 8:9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, this day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

Neh 8:10 Then he said unto them, go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Neh 8:11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.

Neh 8:12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

Just hearing the word isn't enough; you must **understand** what you hear. You must **understand** what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Rev. 1:6 says, "And hath made us kings and priests unto God,"** so you are priests. You

have the same commission to say to the people of the Lord, "Be joyful, rejoice, be glad." **UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD IS SAYING.**

They were sorrowful because they heard, but when they understood, they were joyful. No man that drinketh new wine straightway preferreth it (**Luke 5:39**) The natural man still wants to understand in his own understanding what God is doing so he can put God on his level, but God is not on our level. **The only way we can come to know God is to become one on HIS level, through HIS Spirit, by the blood of HIS Son.**

Here he's saying that it's not enough to just sit down and read the words of the Bible; **the words must become spirit and life.** They must give you understanding. All the wisdom that you have here is not enough; you must understand the wisdom. The only one that can give you understanding is the Lord, so we see, then, that understanding is necessary. Being able to quote scriptures won't do anything for you. Just going around speaking things won't get the job done. **Jesus said, "Believe in your HEART, and then you speak with your mouth."** If you believe in your heart, then you'll have whatsoever you say if you doubt not (**Mark 11:23-24**). When you counsel people, don't just tell them to quote a scripture. That's not going to get the job done.

The devil isn't afraid of scripture quoting; he quoted a few himself. He got with Jesus and quoted scripture to him - took it out of what we call the **91st Psalm**, but at that time it was a letter written by David of the goodness and the mercy of the Lord. Satan tried to tempt Jesus Christ and it did not work, so he went to the one thing he thought would work; he began to quote scripture to him. He said, "Isn't it written that the angels have charge over you to bear you up in their hand lest you dash your foot against a stone. Go ahead, cast yourself off the pinnacle here." Jesus said, "It is also written, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (**Matt 4:6-7; Deut 6:16**). He called his bluff! Satan doesn't mind getting you in a tight spot by quoting scripture to you.

Your natural man can be filled with scripture and still be in bondage. Scripture can become a straight jacket to you, if you do not have the Spirit of the Lord to quicken that scripture to you. I know too many people who are quoting scripture and they are going deeper and deeper in bondage. They might say, "Well, Brother Krider, I'm quoting scripture." I say, "Do you believe what you're quoting?" "No, I don't know if I do or not. I'm not sure if it's going to work." Don't worry about it; it's not going to work. It only works by faith.

Understanding is what we must have then, if we're going to counsel people. Here it says that the priests caused the people to know and to understand the word. When they got it, what did they do with it? They started rejoicing, didn't they? They started having a party. You can always tell a person who understands the word; he's having a party all the time. He has enough to give somebody else; he has a portion prepared for those who don't have any. He has a mouth that no one can gainsay (**Luke 21:15**). He has wisdom and understands that wisdom. When you see a man

that has understanding, you'll see a man that is happy, full of joy, and full of peace. God wants to change our minds; get it out of our mind and into our heart.

2 Chron 26:1 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

2 Chron 26:2 He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

2 Chron 26:3 Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

2 Chron 26:4 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did.

2 Chron 26:5 And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper.

"And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God." Zechariah, a man of God, a prophet of the Lord, understood what God was trying to show to the nation. He understood it, and because of the presence of Zechariah being in that area, this king began to understand that he should also do the things of God. But later he went beyond the understanding of God; he went in and took incense which was not lawful for him, even though he was a king, and he began to burn it (**vs 16**). Did he please God? **He did NOT!** He became a leper and was separated to a very certain house and died there (**vs 21**).

When you try by your own understanding to please God, you're going to become a leper. Nothing you can do in your flesh will ever please God (**Romans 8:8**). You must understand in your spirit that the body is absolutely profitless; it is a garment which you wear for a season, but in that garment is the vision of the Lord. You see, this king would have been wise to have sought after Zechariah, and asked him to give him some understanding.

In **Hebrews 7:1** we read that Melchisedec was king of Salem, and priest of the most high God. This man was God, manifested in the form of a man. But since that man, Melchisedec, there was never a man that was ordained to be a priest and a king until Jesus Christ came. When Jesus Christ came, He was made after the order of Melchisedec (**vs 17**). He became both a priest and a king. He became the head of the church and brought us into the place where Melchisedec walked. Our understanding is so limited. We try to apply natural understanding to God and we say, "Well, it looks like!" and "The way I understand it!" **GOD ISN'T INTERESTED IN HOW YOU UNDERSTAND IT!** God isn't interested in how you understand anything. You are not God's counselor. God said, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (**Isaiah 30:21**).

There are many things I do not understand but I believe them. There are many things I'm seeking understanding after, but I am not seeking after men's understanding. I want God's understanding. I want that mind that was in Christ. I want that mind that caused Jesus to grow up in stature and in wisdom. I want that mind that will reveal understanding that is perfect. Understanding of the natural man will never get it.

For a lot of you though, your kings may not make it. If you revert back to your natural understanding, there's a good chance that you'll get spiritual leprosy and die with it. The fear of the Lord has to come back to the house of God. A man doing his own thing isn't going to get it; he's going to get himself killed.

When they brought the presence of God back in the ark, Uzzah's understanding was that God needed help, and so in the natural, he did what would be the natural thing to do. He reached out to touch the ark, which only the priests could touch. He wasn't a priest and God killed him immediately (**2 Sam 6:1-7**). You don't touch God's program. You don't walk in your own understanding. If something doesn't look good or sound right, don't worry about it. Until God gives you the understanding, you're not going to understand it anyhow. You're going to try to deal with it in your own natural ability. If you're a priest of God, then you have to have understanding. You ought to be able to make the word of God plain and simple to the people, not to put them under bondage but to set them free.

Psa 107:38 He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

Psa 107:39 Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.

Psa 107:40 He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.

Psa 107:41 Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.

Psa 107:42 The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

Psa 107:43 Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.

I don't have the fulness of the understanding of His loving kindness, but I understand enough of it to know that it's real! So when you counsel people, you must counsel them with understanding. You must be wise, and if you're wise, then you'll begin to have understanding, won't you? You'll begin to understand what God is doing.

Israel rejected God's understanding and God's wisdom. They wanted to satisfy the flesh, and God said, "If you'll just follow me, I'll satisfy your flesh; I'll take care of it." But they reversed it, didn't they? In their own understanding they quit seeking God and began to seek their own things, and they died in the wilderness.

The wise man will seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. He will not make choices based on what he sees or hears but he will have understanding that God's wisdom is best. So when you counsel an individual, don't counsel them about what you see, or feel, or hear. Counsel them on "It is written". You may find that your counseling time is cut down a lot. When you counsel people after the wisdom and understanding of God, there are not many who want that, but you **MUST** counsel that way.

Job 12:12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

Job 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

What a testimony of faith this man had. He understood that God was faithful; he understood that God was real and God was true. You cannot get understanding of God outside of God. You cannot understand the things of God except by God. Here he simply says, "With the ancient." Sounds like Daniel a little bit, doesn't it; sounds like some of God's prophets of old. They knew that in God there was all that they really needed, but they could not get the nation of Israel to understand the Kingdom of God so they rejected the Kingdom.

God is saying to us, "I want you to have understanding, but understanding will not come through your efforts. It will come through your yieldedness. It will come when you lay before Me and have a heart that is right; when you will humble yourself, and you will ask and you will desire and study. Then, and only then, will understanding come. You can't purchase it; you can't go to school long enough to get it. You must obtain it from the Lord."

Psa 119:97 Oh, how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psa 119:98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

Psa 119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

In **Psa 119:24** David said that God's testimonies were his counsellors; today the testimonies of the Lord are his meditation. No wonder Isaiah could say in **Isa 26:3** "**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he**

trusteth in thee." David had understanding, didn't he? He understood that there were no answers for his problem outside the word of God.

Psa 119:100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

If you want to understand anything, keep God's precepts. "It is written!" Don't interpret it by your own wisdom.

Psa 119:101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

Psa 119:102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

Psa 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psa 119:104 Through thy precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Sometimes your spirit will come into a place where it is angry and you feel like you've sinned. Many times my spirit becomes angry with the spirit that is being manifested through a person's willingness to manifest that spirit of uncleanness. I've even been known to tell them to shut up, right in the church service. I don't believe in letting unclean spirits run around. If you don't love God's precepts and get understanding, you're not going to hate anything. God hates evil and sin and iniquity. He hates the unjustness. If you really love people, you're going to hate the things that bind them. God is a God of balance. You're not going to hate people, but you're going to hate the unclean spirits that continually harass them and bind them.

Let's return to **Verse 99: "I have more understanding than all my teachers for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients because I keep thy precepts."** **Verse 104: "Through thy precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way."** What we need today is understanding. We have to get wisdom which is the principle thing but we had better understand that wisdom. That wisdom does not allow ungodliness, sin, or unclean spirits. It does not allow man's spirit to be manifested in the presence of God. It only wants this: that Christ be glorified among us.

David said he would shout and praise the Lord and sing unto him. David knew something: if you talk long enough, you're going to bring a snare to your feet. The only thing you're safe talking about is the word of God, but only as, "It is written." **Ecc. 5:2 "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."** The simplicity of God's word is so beautiful it staggers my imagination.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Let that sink in a minute. Do you want to let people know you have understanding? Depart from evil. "Well, Brother Krider, it's not that simple." **It IS that simple because God said it.** If I still live in sin and evil, then I don't have understanding; I'm void of it. God is saying to us that He wants the world to **SEE** our wisdom and understanding.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

He's not talking about the flesh or to flesh men; the flesh man is dead to sin. If he still goes along in sin, he isn't alive to God. The Lord is trying to reveal to us that anything the Spirit says, He says to the spirit. There is a communication placed in man. Even the unregenerate person has enough spirit from God to realize that he needs the Lord. That's where God speaks to you.

Here He says He is going to talk only to the spirit man and "I will give him understanding." When He gives him understanding, the outward man doesn't want to receive that understanding. If the outward man totally says, "Well, I'm going to receive that understanding," then he has to die to his understanding. But what usually happens is that the outward man says, "I understand this," because he puts it in an understandable place. Then when he comes along to teach or counsel, he reaches for the understandable, natural wisdom and brings it in, and the person he just gets through counseling is in havoc.

He says, "But I got it from the Lord. It was written right there; I quoted it. I just added a little bit to it to make it a little easier to get in, you know." Have you ever had that thought come to you? "This is going to hurt, Lord, so I'll just ease it around and then I'll give it to them." By the time you've eased it around, it wasn't anything like the way God gave it to you.

There's a beautiful example in the feeding of the 5,000 men, not counting women and children. When the Lord gave them the fish and the loaves, they gave it just like they got it - that's understanding. When I give you something, I'm going to give it to you just like it is written. I'm not going to add to this word. There's enough there to do the whole job by itself; but we want to kind of make it easier, make it a little more acceptable, sugar-coat it just a little bit.

Do you think Jesus ever sugar-coated anything? He had perfect understanding didn't he? He knew that when He gave them wisdom, if they would accept it, they would live. If they rejected it, they would die. He had that perfect understanding. Don't you realize that when you give people true counsel, it is imparted to them with the understanding that they can live if they accept it; they will die if they reject it. It's that simple.

Prov 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Prov 2:6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Prov 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Prov 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of the saints.

Prov 2:9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Look where it comes from. It comes out of His mouth (**vs 6**). Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (**Matt 4:4**). If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God (**1 Peter 4:11**). When a man speaks under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, it is still the mouth of God speaking. No man should ever get behind a pulpit or be in a teaching situation if he is going to propagate his own doctrine. "The Lord giveth wisdom, out of **HIS** mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

If we are going to get up and propagate a doctrine of men, don't blame God for it. Just be honest and say, "This is just what I think." Then God will really be impressed to find out that you can read better than He can write. We have a way of reading between the lines something that's not there and I'm sure it impresses God! No! What really impresses God is that which "is written." I understand that and therefore I can counsel you with it. I want that kind of understanding.

I have to have a living experience with God; I have to be able to **HEAR** what He's saying. "He that hath an ear, let him hear. My sheep know my voice and another they will not follow. They will not **HEAR** another voice." This understanding is not gotten at college or on paper. It comes from a personal relationship with God - sitting and **HEARING** what He is saying, hearing the voice of the Lord. Understanding comes by His personal inbreathing or inspiration. ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God (**2 Tim 3:16**). Inspiration means divinely breathed it (**Conc.# 2351**)

Adam was not the only man that God breathed life into. He breathed it into me, and every day He breathes that scripture into my heart. He breathes it in by His living Spirit, by His breath, and breathes it into my heart. He writes on my mind and upon my heart the understanding of God's laws and words. Understanding doesn't come through carnality, but by a personal hearing of the word of the living God.

Romans 10:17 says that faith cometh by **hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**. The important thing there is not faith; it's hearing. God is the one that gives the hearing. If you cannot hear the voice of God, you'll never have faith. Faith is the end

product of being able to HEAR what God is saying. Understanding is the end product of being able to HEAR what God is saying, not what men are saying. Forget what men say. No wonder Paul got so angry. He said, "If another man or an angel come preaching any other gospel that this which I have given to you, (you have received of me) let him be accursed" (**Gal. 1:8-9**). Don't pray for them, just let them be accursed. They're already off on a trip somewhere.

Go back to **Proverbs 2:6** and underline that in your Bible. **"For the Lord giveth wisdom. Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."** Not out of books; out of His mouth. I wouldn't give you ten cents for a trainload of preachers that preach their own wisdom, their doctrine, or their word. When I go to church, I want to hear a man preach, "Thus saith the Lord." I want a word that will zap me right through my heart and spirit, and if I'm wrong, I want it to nail me to the wall. When I leave that room, I want to be whole. If I have something hanging on me, I want it left. I don't want some panty-waisted outfit telling me how nice and good I am, when I have it coming. I want it right where it hurts. Do you want to be healed?

Start counseling people with some counsel that hurts them. Start counseling them where they live. Quit giving them fantasy-land prophecy. We're a bunch of Disneyland people anyhow. We live in yesterday, tomorrowland or some frontierland, or somewhere other than the NOW land. It's always, "tomorrow, down the road somewhere." Do you know what that does for you? That puts you in a place where you have no responsibility. **God is a God of the NOW.** He's willing to give you so much understanding that you'll be so much in love with Jesus Christ that nothing matters. No matter how many storms, no matter how many fiery furnaces, no matter how many lions dens are there, you'll just walk through them all.

Prov 8:5 Oh ye simple, understand wisdom: and ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

It's the simple, not the learned; not you that are wise to the word, but you that just don't have anything going for you. You don't have to be able to read to understand. Where does that put us when we go around saying, "I don't understand." If I just recognize something, that even a simple fool can understand, then that puts me even further down than it does them.

There are a lot of things that I'm working to understand. I'm still getting the voice of the Lord on the **HEARING** of it. I know that when it comes, it's just simple; even a child can understand it. One night in a meeting in Victorville, Calif. two boys came running down to be saved. The one who was about ten years old said, "Preacher, you preached it so simple, I could even understand it." A child could understand it. There's something to that; it's God working through a vessel.

Prov 8:6 Hear, for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

Prov 8:7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Prov 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

Prov 8:9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

Let's look at **Proverbs 16:21-22**

Prov 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

Prov 16:22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

Understanding is a wellspring of life - it sounds a little bit like Jesus. He said, "If any man will believe on me as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. He spoke of the Holy Ghost for He had not yet been given" (**John 7:38-39**).

Here He said, "Understanding." He puts it in the Holy Ghost. Everything is in the Spirit. You must seek understanding. You must desire understanding, but when you find it, look what it is: **understanding is a wellspring of life**. When you understand that, there is not one thing in this world that can harm you or have any effect on your life. You're at peace, totally free. Praise God!

Job 38:36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

IT'S THE LORD! You do not get this wisdom by your goodness or your merit. You come in the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. When you read these words and study these pages, they are not just ink and paper; they become life in the Spirit. They become a wellspring in you, and God puts it in there. If you want **ALL understanding**, all you have to do is just die. Sure, get rid of that guy you call "self". Old King Self! Pretty soon all that is left is Jesus. Even the life that you now live in the flesh, you live by the faith of the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you (**Gal 2:20**). All you want to talk about is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. All you want to do is tell people about the Lord. You're not interested in things of the world. Your total desire and understanding are of the things of God. Thank God!

Psalm 47:1-9

"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the Lord most high is terrible; He is a great King over

all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom He loved. Selah. God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness. The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: He is greatly exalted."

He said, "I want you to sing praises with understanding." Understanding of what? **OF GOD!** You cannot sing praises to someone you don't understand. How can you sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord if you don't know it? How can you sing of the sure mercies of God if you've never tasted them? How can you possibly sing praises to the loving forgiveness of God if you don't know what forgiveness is? You can only sing praises to the amount of understanding you have.

That's why there are not many people who can praise the Lord. They do not understand him, therefore they cannot sing to Him. I'm talking about people who are sitting in church that PROFESS to know the Lord, but they cannot sing praises with understanding because they do not KNOW him.

I can sing about His lovingkindness, His mercy, His forgiveness, His keeping power, and His love to me in the spirit. I understand that, and so I sing with understanding. I can praise Him all day long because I understand that portion of God. When I was first saved, I couldn't sing with a lot of understanding. I could sing about the salvation of the Lord because it was real; I understood that. I was dead and now I am alive. I was a sinner and now I'm a saint. I could understand that and I sang to that portion of understanding.

Then the Holy Ghost came into my life. OH, PRAISE GOD! He began to open up the whole thing to me. I could begin to praise Him for His excellent mercies, for His goodness, for His greatness, because the Holy Ghost began to magnify Him to me, and began to bring understanding into my heart. So when we sing praises, don't get discouraged because the person next to you is not praising God. They can't! They don't understand.

If you think people are going to understand you because you're a fanatic, forget it. If you get fanatical over the love of God, and they can't understand it, don't criticize them. We just expect people to join right in and praise our God because we understand that He loves the praises of Zion, but they can't enter in to the praises of Zion. They don't know where the gate is. They don't know they have to come through the gate of thanksgiving into the court of praise. You don't just come in to praise. You thank Him! You love Him! You understand all that He has done and you thank Him for His

goodness and automatically it just flows into praise. I can be thanking the Lord for the salvation that He gave, then all of a sudden I'm praising Him for His excellent greatness.

That understanding must come to you before you can really praise Him, and before you can ever counsel anybody with any results, you're going to have to have understanding. You cannot counsel beyond your understanding of God. That's like telling people they are healed if they don't understand that God WILL heal a person. It's beyond their understanding. I KNOW that He'll heal, deliver, save, and keep me. I understand that.

Counseling cannot go beyond your understanding, because then it becomes a theory to you, even though it's reality. If you've not tasted and seen that the Lord is good and gracious, if you don't understand that area of your life, there's no way you can sing to God **with understanding**. You're just singing to Him. David says that it's okay to praise Him, but he said that **the real praise that God wants is praise with UNDERSTANDING**.

Let's look again at **Proverbs 8:8-9**. I want to put it right down deep in your heart. **"All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge."** He says, "You're going to sing praises with understanding."

When a person comes among you that doesn't understand what you're doing, do not become discouraged. Do not try to convert that person up to the realm that you're praising God in; they cannot praise God in that. They don't know what you're talking about, going into the presence of God and praising him and loving him. To them salvation is IT! They hang on and hope so, and maybe so, and all that good stuff, and just FORGET about enjoying it. See? And YOU come in with this liberty of praising God because you understand it, and you worry about what they are doing. Forget it! They will praise God as much as they understand Him. That's all they can praise Him. Our job is to impart understanding to them that the reason we praise God as we do is because we understand our God.

We're going to be counselors to many, many people, not only in the church but in the earth. Kings are going to come to the brightness of our rising (**Isaiah 60:3**). They are going to want to know why we have the joy that we have, the peace that we have, and we are going to have to begin to give them an answer for it.

Psalm 49:1 Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world:

Psalm 49:2 Both low and high, rich and poor, together.

Psalm 49:3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

He said, "I will understand what my mouth speaketh." I KNOW that we should never speak of those things we do not understand in the areas of counseling, because when you get to the place where it is "my opinion" or "I think", God is not impressed. If you do not understand the words of your mouth, ask God to give you understanding of the wisdom. Get wisdom, which is the principal thing, but with all of your getting, get understanding. The lack of understanding in the body of Christ is tragic, and they are trying to help the world.

Prov 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom and findeth it not:...

You don't get wisdom just because you want it, if your attitude is not right. If you want to prove you're right in an argument, and you're looking up scripture to prove you're right, did you ever notice how that page becomes blank where you found it fifteen minutes ago? I've done it. I was going to prove it to somebody and couldn't even find the book, much less the page. It became blank because I did not have the right attitude.

Prov 14:6 ...but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

If all I want to do is glorify God and not prove my doctrine to you, it's easier for me to find the scripture. But when I'm going to hang my doctrine on you whether you like it or not, I'm not going to find that scripture. Isn't that beautiful! You thought your memory was gone, didn't you. You looked for a scripture you knew you had read a hundred times and couldn't find it, and you knew exactly the page and the corner it was in. All of us have done it; that's part of growing up. We were in our own wisdom.

The Lord began to show us here that the scorner is not going to get it. Unless your heart is pure, you will not get wisdom from God. I don't have to prove anything you see; it's up to God. It's for me to plant the seed, or to water the seed. That's it! The Holy Spirit will come through me and give you the understanding, or He will come upon you and give you understanding; or He will move through you and cause your heart to be increased. I love the way God set it up, don't you. Jeremiah has a revelation of truth here, if we can receive it.

Jer 9:23 Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

Jer 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

He said there is a place wherein we can glory. Our glory is not in things that we are able to do, but we can glory as we understand that God loves judgment; that He delights in these things. Now if God delights in these things, what ought I to delight in? **Understanding.** I cannot boast in what I have in the natural. I cannot boast in my

wisdom. I cannot boast and neither can you, in anything you have. But we can glory in this: for some unknown reason, He chose us to reveal understanding of Himself to you and me. Isn't it amazing!

Of the thousands or millions of people that pass through your life, maybe only one percent of them will ever understand God. Never take the work of God lightly. Nothing you could pay Him could purchase it. Nothing you could give Him could make Him bargain with you for it. It is a gift from God. The amount of that gift which you have today is not dependent upon God, a preacher, or anyone else. It is totally dependent upon you and your willingness to take the word of God.

Let's look at **Exodus 31:1-3** again. We read it in Chap. 2, but we need to read it again. *"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."* Now we are the temple of the living Christ; therefore there ought to be a fulness in us, a measure more than they had. There ought to be the stature of the Son of God in us in such a way that understanding is a portion of our life (**Eph 4:13**).

I want to show you some understanding today. Before the foundation of the world, in God's counsel, He chose you (**Eph 1:4**). You did not have anything to do with it. **HE CHOSE YOU**. While you were dead yet in your sins and trespasses, He died for you (**Eph 2:1; Col 2:13**). Before the foundation of the world, you were chosen in Christ Jesus. That does not mean that you will make it. That simply means that you were chosen. **Hosea 6:3** says we must follow on to know the Lord. There are no automatics in God. There is condition. Read the word of God; the small word **"IF"** is in there. **If** thou shalt do this, the Lord will do this. The fear of God departs from a person when he thinks he has it made.

Paul himself had one fear that I can recognize. He said, "I fear lest having preached this gospel to others, I myself become a castaway" (**1 Cor 9:27**). I personally have never known a man like Paul. I mean, a man who lived and preached like he did and suffered what he suffered, was fearful in his own heart that he himself would become a castaway. Now that's understanding.

When you begin to understand the Lord, you are going to fear God. You are not going to make God a God of "granted." "Well, it's just granted to me that I'm going to do this and that." NO! That's when you become lukewarm. The things of God no longer really stir you and you don't have the fear of God. You begin to cool off and just begin to become slothful in the things of God. The Lord said in **Revelation 3:16** **"I will spew you OUT of my mouth."**

Understanding, with which we must counsel, is understanding that will cause the fear of the Lord to begin to grow in an individual's heart. It's a **PRIVILEGE** to know the Lord. He **CHOSE** me and He **CORRECTED** me. But I have a will and you have a will.

I can walk out of this thing anytime I want to; that's understanding. Now, it is God that fills you with wisdom; it is God that fills you with understanding. You did not do it, but God did it for you. You had to yield your vessel to the Lord, and He began to cause understanding to come into your heart.

He said that He chose those even to work in the building and construction of His tabernacle. He chose men that were filled with wisdom and knowledge and understanding. Do you think He's going to let you build in the Kingdom of God with any less measure? Do you think a man or woman should build in the Kingdom of God in their own understanding or in their own wisdom or in their own works? NO! I tell you, the Kingdom of God is Spirit, and they that are going to work in this Kingdom will be spirit people. **They will be a people that have mortified the deeds of the flesh and taken on the very likeness of Christ in their spirit until their body will manifest the Lord.**

Here we see that God is going to move in a new direction in our lives if we let Him. Today you're manifesting one or the other. We keep talking about a manifestation; it's already happened. It isn't GOING to happen. You are manifesting either the Son of God or you're manifesting self, one of the two. One day you'll get a glorified body that can handle the weight of the glory, but right now you're manifesting one or the other.

The creation out here is waiting for someone to come along and speak the word of the Lord to them, but our understanding puts us off in a future date. Our understanding puts us way out into limbo where we're not responsible for anything today. You are presently manifesting somebody. Either you're manifesting the understanding of God or you're manifesting your own understanding. You're manifesting either the wisdom of God or the wisdom of men. You're either manifesting the knowledge of God or the knowledge of yourself.

That puts a great responsibility and a fear in my heart today. I'm not worrying about what I'm going to do later. The understanding tells me that it's a **NOW** thing with God. I may never see another tomorrow. I may not even see tonight. I had better do all that I know to do now, and with understanding. I had better begin to counsel people to fear the Lord and to come back and conform to the word of God. It's that simple. He said that your understanding comes from the Lord. He fills you with that. Let's see what Moses said to the people of Israel:

Deut 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Deut 4:6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

This is manifested understanding. When a man keeps the statutes of God, it is understood that he is a man who fears God. You don't tell people that you fear God and then live like the devil, because you DON'T fear God. Moses said, "You will keep the statutes and the commandments which God gave me. I'm passing them on to you so that whatever nation you go into, they will **SEE** it."

The Israelites were a holy people. They were a people set apart and dedicated to God. If they had followed on to do what they were supposed to do, the blessing of God would have been so rich in their lives, but because they chose to go the way of all flesh, they died without the blessing of God. If you think a natural people could not inherit a natural land because they would not adhere to the commandments of God, how much more can you be certain that you will not inherit the spiritual kingdom if your life does not line up with the spiritual things that God has commanded of you and me? You see, understanding begins to show us something: that there should be a reverent fear of God in our hearts. When somebody tells you to do your own thing, say "That's a lie from the pit of hell. I understand that doing my own thing will bring me into condemnation."

Gal 5:16 tells me that if we walk in the spirit, we shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. If I walk in the flesh then I sow to the flesh and I will of the flesh reap corruption (**Gal 6:8**). I don't need 150 counselors to tell me that. The word of God gives me understanding so I have an option of walking either place I want to. One will bring the blessing of God, and the other will bring the wrath of God. It's that simple.

When you counsel people, you have an option of any way to counsel them, but you will be responsible. When you counsel a person and you condone what they do in the flesh, my friend, you're telling God that He did not know what He was talking about and that this word does not mean what it says. **If you counsel a person to mortify the deeds of the flesh and walk after the Spirit of God, then you're giving true counsel. If they reject that, you're free.**

No wonder Paul said, "I have not put the responsibility that God gave me away from me, but I'm free from all men's blood because I have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God unto you" (**Acts 20:26-27**). Part of the counsel of God is understanding. People want to live in the flesh and make it. They won't do it. The word of God clearly teaches that no man, no flesh, shall glory in the presence of the Lord (**1 Cor. 1:29**). That's understanding from the word of God.

Why has the church been so messed up for all these years? They've tried to mix flesh and spirit. It's like trying to mix oil and water - they will not mix. **FLESH AND SPIRIT WILL NOT MIX.** The Kingdom of God and the kingdom of man will never mix. There has to be one choice in your heart - either flesh or spirit. Don't try to mix them because you're deceiving yourself, and sooner or later you will be the loser.

If you choose the Kingdom of God you say that this is what God saith and I'm going to do it because I understand it. I'm going to be a joyful people, a people of

righteousness, a people of abundance. I will be a people that God will bless. **"Keep therefore and do them: for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."**

God doesn't need any more religion; we have plenty of that. What God needs is a saved people; a people that can walk on the street free from the power of the flesh, free from the power of carnality, and walk in the spirit. People can look at them and say, "Yes, I can trust in that counsel because I know it is the counsel of wisdom and the counsel of understanding." I wouldn't go to a man or woman that was living in sin to get counsel from God. I don't care how many churches they belonged to, if their lives weren't lined up with the word of God, I surely wouldn't want counsel from them.

God expects your life to line up with His word, so wherever you are, the world and nations see you and say, "Look, it's manifested." You're going to have to perfect holiness in the fear of God (**2 Cor 7:1**) without which no man shall see the Lord. You put a strait jacket on yourself when you try to live differently from the word of God even though you use scripture. When you use the scriptures of God as they are, with real true understanding, they will set people free. The word causes men to be free.

We need counsel like that, don't we. We need counselors in the body of Christ who live what they talk. Talk is cheap; living is what costs you. It doesn't cost you anything to talk. It doesn't cost you a dime. It didn't cost Paul anything to talk about the Lord, but when he started setting the captives free, they threw him in jail. It's the life that will cost you something. I want somebody to be with me who is living what he is talking. I want a person who's living separated so that when I talk to him, I know he is talking to God. He doesn't have to pray through his flesh every five minutes to find out where God is. He is already walking in the spirit in understanding with God.

God said He wanted some manifested wisdom, some manifested understanding - a **MANIFESTATION**. What we think about manifestation is just miracles, signs, and wonders. Those are beautiful, but they just follow the ministry. They're not anything to preach on or brag on. He said, "Those things are subject to you but your name is written in the Lamb's book in heaven; that's where you ought to rejoice" (**Luke 10:20**). There should be some people able to know that we have a new birth because of the life that we live and the understanding that we project to them.

You see, it doesn't do any good for you to come into a church and do a lot of little things. The captives, the mission field, the battlefield is out there where you need to stand and say, "Thus saith the Lord. It is written," just like Jesus did. Many times when a man has a problem he comes to the church and has more problems when he leaves than when he came. He's trying to sort out all the things he's seen and heard. Where are the people that can speak plainly and give the understanding of what they're saying? They're here. God's bringing them forth, because their desire is only to serve and glorify God.

One of our problems is that we want to serve God without it costing us anything, but for me to get God's understanding, wisdom, and knowledge, I have to get rid of mine. There has to be a trading, a conversion. It's a continual conversion; conversion from flesh to spirit, from natural foolish wisdom to God's wisdom. There's a continual process of conversion through our lives in every area. Some have been converted in one area, but they need to be converted in other areas. It's a continual process and one day, thank God, we are going to be converted right out of this skin. **GLORY!**

Let's look at **I Kings 3:11-15**:

1 Kings 3:11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

What do we pray for? THINGS! That's right. And yet Jesus said in **Matt 6:33**: **"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."** We walk around saying, "I wish I had this. I wish I had that. If I had that, I'd do something for God." When you start doing something for God, it will all be there. God has never asked me to go anywhere in the world that He didn't make a way for me to go. He has never asked me to talk to somebody that He hadn't already talked to. Here He said that Solomon had wisdom; he only asked for an understanding heart to judge the people, and knowledge to discern between good and bad (**vs. 9**).

1 Kings 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words;

God wants to give you understanding. He wants to impart to you understanding, but if you ask for riches, or for things, God cannot give you wisdom. He cannot give you understanding. You have to desire understanding to be in your life. You can't buy it; you can't bargain for it. You can't trade anything in. **You just open your life and say, "Lord, give me understanding."**

You become like Solomon. You realize that one of the spirits of God is judgment, and how are you going to hear judgment if you don't have understanding? You cannot **DISCERN** the judgments of God unless you **UNDERSTAND** the judgments of God. Isn't that simple? Most people that get into trouble today just don't have understanding. When a man has understanding, that man walks in the righteous ways of God.

1 Kings 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

1 Kings 3:13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour; so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

1 Kings 3:14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

1 Kings 3:15 And Solomon awoke; and behold it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

There's something that happens when understanding begins to work in you. You want to have a feast. You see and understand the judgments of God. You begin to realize that the judgments of God are righteous altogether (**Psalm 19:9**), and you begin to desire others to join in with you in understanding. If you're void of understanding, then you're going to be void of counsel, might, knowledge, judgment, and burning. If you do not have understanding, you surely shall not have the judgments of God in the right perspective.

1 Kings 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore.

Solomon only got it **exceeding much**. We get **ALL** wisdom when Jesus comes into our life. Isn't that great? You see, there was no natural king again like Solomon, but I'm not a natural king. I am a king born of the Spirit. The Kingdom of which I am, is the Kingdom of God. It is not of this world, even though I am in this world. I have more than Solomon had.

A greater than Solomon is among us (**Matt 12:42**). He is the head of the church and I'm a part of the church, and **ALL** wisdom is available to me today. Solomon had a portion of wisdom and understanding and even though it was exceeding much, it wasn't all. It wasn't **ALL** wisdom and **ALL** knowledge, and you and I have the availability today to **ALL** understanding, **ALL** wisdom, and **ALL** knowledge. Instead of asking for things, ask the Lord, "Just give me wisdom, give me understanding, give me knowledge," and don't limit Him to a portion of it. Study in the Bible those little words, "**ALL**", "**AND**", and "**IF**". They're little words, but they are powerful.

1 Kings 4:30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

I want to impress this fact upon you today, that Solomon was a man and he only received exceeding wisdom and understanding. You and I have received ALL wisdom and ALL understanding because we are in Christ Jesus and Jesus Christ is the wisdom

of God. I'm a part of the living Christ, and there is nothing that I have need of that He will not supply (**Phil 4:19**). If I need more wisdom, He will give it to me (**James 1:5**). If I need more knowledge, He will give it to me. If I need more understanding, He will give it to me. I am not limited except by that which I limit myself.

Psalm 119:33-34 Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law: yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

When a man has understanding, he observes all of God's word. Every portion of it becomes precious in his sight. He will not add to it nor take away from it. He will bring the pure word of God just like it is and you can decide what you want to do with it. I like people to preach the word of God to me. When I read it in the word of God, that's the way I'm going to live it. That's understanding. If I allow Him to give me that understanding, I'm going to live His word with my whole heart, not just part of me. Everything about me is going to love the word of God - my spirit, my soul, and my body are going to glorify the Lord.

Psalm 119:104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

There are many teaching today that say we don't need the Bible. That's a lie from the pits of hell! How are we going to get His understanding without His precepts? **2 Peter 1:19** says, "We have a more sure word of prophecy now." It is written! I know what God will do. I have a locked-in guarantee here. I know that if I do this, His word declares He will do that. Therefore, if I keep my portion of that commitment, He will begin to bless me and keep His portion. He said in **Jer. 1:12**, "**It is my word and I will hasten to perform it.**" If we would just get back to the word of God and the simplicity of His word and love His precepts, understanding would come to us. If we would love the laws of God, and love Him and love His word, the precepts would begin to teach us the understanding of God.

Psalm 119:129 Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.

Earlier he said that His testimonies were His counselors.

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

I don't have to go to Bible College and get a four-year degree to understand God's word. All I have to know is the author of it. This book is locked to a man unless he knows the author of it. Only the author can explain the contents of this word of God and He will explain it to a three-year old just as quickly as He will to a 60-year old. He will explain it to a child just as quickly and as suddenly as He will to a person that has spent his whole life with God. I mean that!

You see, we need that word to enter into our hearts to bring life. We need that word to enter into us to give us understanding. You have no more understanding of God than you have the word of God in your heart, because God doesn't change (**Malachi 3:6**). His word is always the same. If David had to study the precepts of God, we do too. Jesus also spent time in the synagogues daily studying the scripture. Isn't that amazing, that He would have to study scripture too.

It's hard for us to visualize the man Jesus. The thing that makes Him so beautiful and so wonderful is that He had to go through everything you went through. He had to overcome everything you have to overcome. He had to grow up. He had to make choices. He had to make decisions in His lifetime, just like you have to make. Continually He sought the will of His Father (**John 6:30**) and He increased in stature and wisdom (**Luke 2:52**), and He grew in the understanding of the scripture.

I think we have a hard time with that, don't we. We think that all of a sudden, there's the man Jesus and He didn't have to do anything. He just all of a sudden was there with everything going on. **No!** The Bible said He studied. The Father showed Him the things He needed to know (**John 5:19-20; John 8:28**). He took the scripture of Isaiah, Ezra, and all the prophets and studied them. He studied, even though the God that was in Him gave the scriptures to those men. The same God that was in Him was the God that gave Moses the ten commandments, yet Jesus, the son of God, had to study like any man. He had to overcome His own will.

I could say, "Lord, I don't have time," and God isn't going to listen to me at all. Jesus was busy about the Father's business. He healed the sick, raised the dead, opened the blind eyes, and early in the morning He went out and prayed (**Mark 1:32-35**). First thing He did was seek the will of the Father for the day. He didn't start doing something else. He went out and did what God showed him He was going to do that day.

How many of us get up like Jesus and go out early in the morning, deny ourselves the sleep that we think we need, and go out and really seek the Lord for the day? Most of us get at least three-quarters of the day through and say, "Okay God, what are we going to do today?" The Lord says, "You have it so messed up now, there's nothing to do but get it straightened out. You don't have time to do anything for anyone else."

Jesus had to grow up. It was like the little baby that had to be taken care of. He had to grow up, but His heart and His mind were always toward the things of God. That's where our heart and mind ought to be - toward the things of God. There are no "cop-outs" in God.

Psalm 147:1-5:

Psa 147:1 Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

Psa 147:2 The Lord doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.

Psa 147:3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psa 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

Psa 147:5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

Now, how much is infinite? That means unbounded, unlimited; everything, everywhere, and all things. That is what is available to us. He stretched forth the heavens with His understanding. The understanding that brought forth the heavens is right here today, and we're chasing after little theories and doctrines. What we need today is to come to the place of saying, "Lord, I accept everything you've given me. I give up. I'm not going to try it in my wisdom and understanding anymore."

I want to know what judgment is all about. **I MUST** have understanding, and I'm not going to have a limited understanding. I'm going to have the infinite understanding of God and so can you. Isn't it amazing? You think, "Well I'm not a preacher, not a teacher, I'm not this or that." Have you seen anywhere in the Bible where He said, "Well, to the preachers and the teachers I'm going to give all of this." **He said He's made you heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). If we suffer as Christ suffered, we shall also reign with him (2 Tim 2:12).**

You ought to get that in your heart, and when you see "**joint heirs**" it means that whatever He has, you own it equally. You own just as much as He does. Isn't that great? It's not a 50-50 proposition, friend. It means that whatever Jesus has, He has given to you an equal amount. That's what joint heir means - it means that together He and I own the joint. That's it - everything! Paul said it too, "The world is yours **(1 Cor. 6:1-2)**. Use it wisely" **(1 Cor. 7:31)**. The understanding we need is infinite. You don't have to be confounded. He said, "I will give you a mouth and wisdom that no man shall be able to gainsay **(Luke 21:15)**. I will give you the understanding that is infinite."

We've sure been short-changed, haven't we, and guess who did it to us? **SELF!** We won't read this, or study this. We won't go out and seek the Lord, then we want to be everything that God says we are. We **ARE** everything God says we are, if we ever get out of diapers. The little baby has to be changed and burped and have a bottle in his mouth and loved on.

Paul had a Corinthian Church that was so carnal he had to do the same thing to them all the time. They wanted to live in sin. He said, "I've turned that old boy over to

the devil for the destruction of the flesh that his spirit might be spared" (**1 Cor. 5:5**). You don't see many preachers doing that today. If they did, we would excommunicate them because that's hard on the flesh. **I'll tell you, the word of God isn't hard on the flesh; it will KILL it.**

God is saying, "I want to pour through you infinite wisdom. I want a manifestation of the wisdom and the understanding of God." Our trouble with manifestation is that we think it's a miracle or a sign or a wonder. That's what religious people would seek after. The Greeks seek after wisdom of this world, but they that are born of the Spirit of God will manifest on the street the understanding, the wisdom, the counsel, the might, the knowledge, the judgment, and the burning of God until people are set free right where they are.

Jesus came to a Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob and He knew all about her. He knew what her need was, didn't He, and with complete understanding and wisdom, He set her free right there at the well. He didn't say, "Well, come on to the church. We have a big time preacher over there, and we're going to have a seminar." All the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of God was right there exactly like you are.

We keep buying books trying to understand the Bible. He gave us 66 books and a teacher. His name is Holy Ghost. "Oh, but Dr. So-and-So sounds better than Holy Ghost." Instead of being filled with the spirit anymore, we've become charismatics because that doesn't offend people. That invites everybody in. It was Holy Ghost in the beginning (**Acts 1:5; 2:4**), and it will be Holy Ghost at the ending.

God is saying here that He is great and His understanding is infinite. Now if you're a joint heir with Him, shouldn't you have infinite wisdom with Him? Where's the limit? We want to educate this 'peanut' to contain all the wisdom of the universe, all the knowledge of the universe, all the understanding of the universe. Well, we're not going to; we're going to have a mind that's in Jesus Christ (**Phil 2:5**). That mind was hooked to the Father, and that mind knew what the Father wanted Him to do and did it! And that's just the way the church is going to become in these last days. It's going to be a glorious church without spot, without blemish, without wrinkle (**Eph 5:27**), and instead of the world affecting it, it will affect the world.

Proverbs 1:1-4:

Prov 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

Prov 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding.

Prov 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Prov 1:4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 2:1-5:

Prov 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Prov 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

Prov 2:3 Yea, if thou criest after knowlege, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

Prov 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Prov 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

When your real desire becomes to have understanding, you're going to apply yourself to it. You're not going to apply yourself to find God's understanding by watching television, reading every news report that comes along, listening to all the gossip in town, all the phoney-boloney that's going on in the name of the Lord. You're not going to get His understanding when you do that. **When you apply your heart to KNOW Him, when you apply your heart to UNDERSTAND, when you seek after UNDERSTANDING, THEN you're going to find it.** Jesus didn't go out early in the morning and read the stock-market report of the Jerusalem Gazette. He went out to seek the Father.

It is humorous sometimes the way we act. We respond to things like they affect us. Things ought not to affect you; you ought to affect things. When fear tries to grab you in the heart, the peace of God ought to come against it and knock it out of there. When doubt comes, understanding ought to knock it out. When unbelief comes, faith ought to jump up and destroy it. It's simple to realize something: that whatever you have, whether stock markets or banks or trusts, whatever it is, if you've given it to the Lord, He's well able to keep it. But if your trust is in the stock market or in the banks, one of these days you're going to be so disappointed. You see, that's flesh and when you lean to the arm of flesh you will fall (**Jeremiah 17:5**).

God doesn't need anything to perform His work except a willing heart. I can tell you from experience that all God needs is a willing heart and a willing spirit. God can send you around the world to preach this gospel, but He's not going to send you to preach another gospel. He's not going to raise you up to preach YOU. If He raises you up at all, it will be to glorify Him, and to bring understanding to people that they need not be afraid of the signs of the times, but they are sent forth into a darkened world to bring

light and understanding to those that are bound and held captive by the powers of darkness. It's exciting to be in an army that never loses. It's exciting to be on the side of one who has never lost and will never lose a battle, let alone lose the war. Praise the Lord!

Prov 2:11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee;

Prov 2:12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

Prov 2:13 Who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness;

Prov 2:14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

Prov 2:15 Whose ways are crooked and they froward in their paths:

Prov 2:16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;

Prov 2:17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

There is nothing that understanding won't keep you from. If you will really allow an understanding to come into your life and apply it to your heart, then you'll know the way of the Lord and you'll understand His paths. Then when you sit down to counsel somebody, you're not going to counsel with worldly wisdom that will fail them, but you're going to counsel them with wisdom that will deliver them. We don't need a temporary solution. We need the eternal answer for them.

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

That may sound simple but it's a little harder than it seems. Eve failed because she leaned to her own understanding. There are many examples in the word of God. Demas, who had been a co-laborer with Paul, worked in the wonderful work of the gospel of Christ, and later Paul said, "And Demas hath forsaken me for the love of this present world" (**2 Tim4:10**). It's something you must do day by day, the choices that you must make every day, applying understanding every day of your life to every situation of your life. Today I cannot make my decision for tomorrow.

So here He said, "You don't trust in your own understanding." We say, "But it looks right; it sounds right; it feels good." You show me one scripture where it says if it sounds right, and it looks good, and it feels good, do it. **NO!** That's not what He says.

That's why we get in trouble, because we've leaned to our own understanding. We've judged ~~Prov 3:6~~ ~~in all thy ways~~ ~~acknowledge him~~ ~~and he shall direct thy~~ ~~paths~~ with the word of ~~paths~~, even though we blamed it many times.

I'm not worried about tomorrow; I'm HERE today. God is directing our paths by His understanding.

Prov 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Prov 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Look at it for a minute. The Lord says here that He wants us to be happy. "I have made happiness available to you, but you keep taking the wrong understanding. You think that things or people or situations or conditions bring happiness. They do not! Happiness, true happiness, comes for the man who has found wisdom and the man who has gotten understanding."

You don't have to ask a man who has wisdom and understanding if he is happy. You can tell by looking. Happiness is one thing that is manifested. It's pretty hard to tell me that you're full of joy when it looks like you've been sucking on dill pickles all week. It doesn't work that way. The man that is happy is happy. The man that is joyful is joyful. The one who is rejoicing is rejoicing. But the man that has found wisdom, and gotten understanding of that wisdom, is a truly happy man and it doesn't make any difference what circumstance he is in.

How about the three Hebrew children? You talk about understanding. The fiery furnace was real. It even killed the guards that threw the men in there because they heated it up seven times hotter. They understood with perfect understanding one thing: **THEIR GOD WAS ABLE!** They understood that they would not bow down and compromise their testimony of God. With that understanding, they walked into the fiery furnace fully aware of what they were doing. Three happy fellows! They weren't in a hurry to come out of that furnace. They weren't in a hurry to jump out of that test. Why? Because they understood the work that they had worked, the paths they had trodden, was a just path. It was right, and the reward for that was the presence of the Lord (**Daniel 3rd chapter**). It takes a little understanding, doesn't it? You say, "How can I be happy with the world, the shape it's in?" That is because I understand that the world is judged and it's in the shape that God said it would be.

Prov 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Prov 4:6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Prov 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Someone asked me "Why is wisdom called 'her'?" Because this is a picture of the bride. The bride will be without spot, blemish, or wrinkle. Every time you trust your own wisdom, that's a spot, blemish or wrinkle in your righteousness with God. Every time that you go to your own understanding, it is a spot or a blemish. The bride will be without spot, blemish, or wrinkle and will have understanding. In **Rev 22:17** the bride says, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus." The only desire the bride will have is to see the Lord's return; not to get wealth, not to be a person that is famous, or anything else, but who will have one objective in mind, and that is to get married. The bride is going to be one that has totally committed her life and everything about her to the Lord, and is not trusting in anything but the Lord. She has committed her ways to God and has understanding and wisdom of the Lord.

Can you imagine that wedding? No expense has been spared. All of heaven will be there; every saint of God will be there. Everything is taken care of. I've never been a bride before, but I'm going to be one! No one has ever seen a wedding garment like I'm going to have. I can boast in that, because He has done the work. As long as I stay away from my own understanding and my own wisdom, there is no spot or blemish. It's only when I'm drawn away to my own wisdom, drawn away into my own righteousness, or drawn away into my own understanding, that I have any problems.

If you begin to get that wisdom and understanding in your mind, when you begin to counsel people, you're not going to counsel them with something that is a remedy for a few minutes. You're going to sit down with them and give them perfect understanding that by the word of God the heavens were formed and the worlds were made. You're going to bring them into a realm so the answer will take care of the source of the problem as well as the problem. The natural man says, "Just get out of the vice and you'll be all right." The spiritual man says, "Hang in there; stay in there. Let the sifter come; let the crank come. Shout the victory; you're going through it!" The natural man has understanding that "OH, it hurts my flesh!" The spiritual man understands that he needs to die to self.

Our serving God is under the understanding of how it will affect our families. I thank God for Joshua; he had understanding. He had the Spirit of the Lord - wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in him. **He said, "As for me and my house, we're going to serve God" (Joshua 24:15).** When the Lord called me into the ministry, I was at least 2,000 miles away from my wife; in an airplane, flying over Mexico. He called me to the ministry, told me to quit my job and go preach the gospel. I said, (as I had heard other evangelists say, and God may have done it for them) "Lord, now I believe you called me; you go tell my wife." He said, "No! I told you. You tell her."

We have so little understanding of the fact that God expects us to stand up and be counted, not crawl off and hide in a corner. He expects us to manifest the wisdom,

understanding, and light of God's love to this world. He expects us to manifest Jesus Christ to the world while we are yet in these earthen vessels.

Prov 8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

Prov 8:2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

Prov 8:3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

Prov 8:4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

Prov 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom; and ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

That is what the bride is going to do. That's what the bride ought to be doing today. Wisdom is crying out; understanding is desiring that you be a partaker of it, but the bride isn't doing much today except being religious and practicing her religion. But thank God, God is going to cut off all religion. There are going to be a lot of people getting tired of supporting religion, and we may see a lot of empty churches in the next few years. You see, every other god that you have, you have to support; but the true and living God will support you.

Prov 8:6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

Prov 8:7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Now remember, the bride is without spot, or wrinkle, or blemish.

Prov 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

Prov 8:9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

When the Lord says, "Walk in the spirit; if you live to the flesh, you will die" (**Rom 8:13**), that's very simple. I don't have to get a book on it; I just read that and see that it's what it says. That's God's understanding. I want that understanding. I want the understanding heart that will cause me to stand up and say, "Look, here's understanding. Get wisdom, get understanding, get these things because they're going to glorify Christ in your life."

When you finish this study, your life will not be the same, but I'll guarantee you one thing: you won't be quick to counsel anybody either. The fear of God will be in your heart and you'll wait until the Lord moves in your heart and gives you the right answer, then you'll speak the word. That word will give wise counsel; it will be the counsel that will set the captives free. It will be the counsel that is built on wisdom and understanding, the heart being right with God. Before you start counseling you've got to see how Jesus counseled some people in the word of God.

Prov 8:14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

Who? The Lord! We found out He's wisdom; now He's understanding. Everything is in Him, isn't it? Then why do I need anything extra? Why do I need all the other things people keep trying to add onto me to make me look religious. I **DON'T** need it. **I DON'T need a form of godliness (2 Tim 3:5) I need the power of God. I need the presence of the Lord. I need to commit my life so entirely to Him that it is no longer I that liveth but Christ liveth in me (Gal 2:20).** I don't need this flesh body to be able to dictate to me any longer, but I dictate to it. I tell it what to do.

"Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding. I have strength." There is a certain strength in understanding. When you understand a thing, you no longer wrestle with it. You don't need to seek the answer; you have it. People of small understanding are continually wrestling with themselves, with other people, with doctrines, trying to prove either they're right or their way is acceptable. When you walk in God's understanding, you walk at rest. You enter into the rest of the Lord (**Heb 4:1-11**), and you begin to let **HIS understanding** pour out through you.

We have counselors today who are men appointed counselors, not God appointed. People get hold of them and they are in worse shape in a few years than they were when they came to them, because they gave short term solutions. God's solution is eternal. It puts a man at rest in Christ.

Prov 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Do you know how to tell if a man is wise or not? Just give him a little instruction and see what he does with it. If a man is wise and the instruction comes from the Lord, he receives that wisdom, but if he's not, then he'll reject it. A wise man will increase.

Prov 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

How do we get the knowledge of the Lord? We get it through the study of His word, through revelation and wisdom of God. I cannot have understanding of God unless I know Him. I cannot guarantee to you that my God will heal you unless, with

understanding, I know that He will. I cannot say that my God will save you unless I have knowledge that He will save you. A lot of us are trying to work understanding without knowing the one we're trying to understand. Knowing God means you don't know **about** Him, but **KNOWING HIM**; knowing that His word is true and whatever He has caused to be written here, **HE WILL PERFORM IT**. I can understand that, and that understanding comes from **KNOWING HIM, KNOWING WHAT HE WILL DO AND WHAT HE WILL NOT DO**.

There are some things God will not do as well as do. God will not lie: **Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?** God will not sin: **1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.** God will not withhold His promises, His good things, from them that walk uprightly before Him: **Psa 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

Many of us do not know God in the way that we ought to know Him. Our understanding is very shallow, isn't it? You cannot talk about a person you don't understand. It's terrible to try to introduce someone whom you don't know to another person. There's a difference in being acquainted with a person and knowing the person. Now when you **KNOW the Lord**, understanding is beginning to come into your life.

Prov 9:11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Isn't that what He promised Solomon in **1 Kings 3:11-14**. "Because you have asked understanding of Me I have given you long life; I have given you riches; I have given you everything that ye have need of."

You see, when you begin to know God, you're going to seek the Kingdom of God. You're going to begin to seek what God is like and when you begin to seek **HIM**, you're going to have understanding, and when understanding comes, God is going to multiply you. I don't have to worry about being rich; I already am. There's no accountant in the world who knows what I'm worth. They've never been able to weigh the gold and silver yet. They've never been able to place the value of the cattle on a thousand hills. They've never been able to tell me what the earth and the heavens are worth.

I don't know what I'm worth, but I'm worth a lot. I'm wealthy beyond man's comprehension, and it has nothing to do with my position in life. It was given to me by my Father through my brother Jesus Christ. I have need of nothing. My Father will supply all of my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (**Phil 4:19**). There is nothing in my life today that I need that He will not supply. What I desire now is more of His understanding to be applied to my life and that will come through the knowledge of God.

Prov 9:12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

We need to have some wisdom, don't we? We need to have understanding of what God is saying today. The amount of your growth is only limited by you. It's governed by your ability and desire to apply understanding to your heart. God called me to preach a year after I was saved. I only knew one thing, but I knew it well. I knew that He was the Lord, and if He called me, He could perform it. I understood that perfectly. I didn't know a whole lot of anything else but still at the same time, if God calls you, it doesn't make any difference if you've just been born again. When God calls you, **HE** will equip you to do the work.

Prov 9:6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Jesus said, "I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me"(**John 14:6**). The way of the Lord is righteous. The path of the just is righteous. All we have to do is come into Jesus (**John 15:4**) and that's the way of understanding: **HIS way**. He is understanding; He is the truth; He is the life; He is everything. What I need today is less of me and more of Him. I just need to die a little more and let Him live a little more in me. It's up to me. It isn't up to you or to anyone else where I live in the Kingdom. It's up to me! I have to figure it out in my own spirit and heart that that's where I want to live. "Forsake the foolish (that's the flesh man), and live; and go in the way of understanding."

Prov 16:20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good; and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

Prov 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent; and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

Prov 16:22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

We have spent a lot of time instructing fools. We've studied on understanding being the wellspring, but too often what we have tried to do is talk to people to whom God is not talking. We are trying to impart understanding into a generation of people that doesn't want understanding except in their own flesh realm. If people come to you and they have been given counsel of men and women, they are going to come to you bound. Your job is not to counsel a fool. You're to loose that individual. Your job is to counsel wise people with wisdom.

Do you remember the case of Lazarus who had died? (**John chap.11**). Jesus comes to his tomb. Martha is weeping and crying. God has already given her understanding. He had given her wisdom, and He said to her again, "Did I not tell you

that if you only believe, you would see the glory of God?" "Oh yes, Lord, in that last day." The **LAST** and the **FIRST** day was standing there. The beginning and the end was standing there. She didn't understand because she didn't have the Spirit of God. **He said, "I am the beginning; I am the ending. I am Alpha and Omega. I am He that was and is and is to be" (Rev 1:8).** She didn't understand the last day and yet she was quoting a scripture; quoting her own heart, saying religious things. "Oh, in the last day, in the day of the resurrection, he is going to live again." **Jesus said, "I am the resurrection. I am the life. I am the last day. He that believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?"**

We are looking for a certain day, aren't we? We are always looking for a sign of the times and seasons. We're worried about earthquakes and famines and all of these things. We go out and preach, "Oh, the end is near; that's a sign of the end." You had better read again the **24th chapter of Matt.** It doesn't say that. He said it is the beginning of sorrows (**vs.8**). He said the gospel of this kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto every nation, and then shall the end come (**vs.14**).

So Martha said, "Oh yes, in the last day," and the **last day** was standing right there. The **first day** was standing right there too. A new generation was coming into being, the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the peculiar people (**1 Peter 2:9**). A holy nation was being born right before her eyes and she didn't know it. Jesus went to the tomb and He said, "Lazarus, come forth." I don't believe in my heart for a second that He doubted it. He told them to get the stone out of the way. He spoke the word of life and Lazarus came out. He said, "Loose him and let him go."

Your job is to loose people. Only God can give life; that is the prerogative of Jesus Christ. He gives life to whomsoever He will. The church's job is to loose them, to get them out of their own natural understanding and their carnal ways, and get into the mind of Christ and the understanding of God. We are to loose them from all the bondages of religion that have bound them for years; bring them out of that tomb by the power of Christ and give them perfect understanding.

He is telling us not to be foolish in our counsel; not to be foolish with our understanding. Don't hang around with foolish people that do not want to serve God or a bunch of dead-heads that are still in the tomb back there. Don't fool with those people. Get in there where the life is. Get in that last great day; get in the resurrection. Begin to live for God and show them perfect understanding.

Prov 19:8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

I don't expect evil to befall me. I expect good to be the law of my life now! I expect **Psalm 91** to be a reality in my life. **"A thousand shall fall at my side and ten thousand at my right hand but it shall not come nigh me."** I expect good things now. Do you know why? Because once I was dead, but now I'm alive. Once I was bound, but now I'm free. Once I was in darkness, but now I'm in light. I expect good

things of my Father; either that, or this scripture does not work. If I keep understanding, I will find good. Isn't that what it says?

We preach such evil gospel that people can't even enjoy being a Christian. They're looking for numbers all over the walls now: 666, 666. They're looking for everything in the world. Every time they get a little tremor in the earth, they haven't thought about Jesus in a month and "He's coming!" The Bride will be watching! Remember when Jesus went away in the clouds, and the angel appeared to the men there. "You men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing in the heavens?" We have a lot of gazing Christians. They're not doing anything, just going around gawking. They have no understanding.

We're to have enough understanding to know that the coming of the Lord is nigh at hand, but we're also to understand that we're to be busy about the Father's business. If I am busy and keepeth understanding, I will find good. The coming of the Lord is not going to be a surprise to me. They're not going to have to put it on television or announce it over the radio for me. I'll know it a long time before the world knows it, because my spirit continually is crying out, **"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."**

There's nothing in this world I want. I've done everything I've wanted to do. I've been every place I wanted to go, except the garden of Gethsemane, and I'm going to make it. We must begin to keep understanding once we get it, not just get it, and say, "Well, I got it." You're going to have to diligently seek wisdom and understanding every day of your life. Keep it, then you'll find good.

Prov 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Prov 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy in him.

I want **Zeph 3:17** to be fulfilled every day of my life, that He rejoices over me with joy and singing.

Here He is saying, "I want you to **buy** it." "But I thought it was free." NO! Everything that God did cost somebody something. **Salvation is a gift but it had to be paid for somewhere. Jesus Christ was the price tag for salvation, and we take it so lightly. Everything that accompanies salvation costs you something.** You cannot operate in God's understanding with your own understanding. You cannot operate in God's wisdom with your own wisdom. You cannot operate in God's instruction with your own instruction. You must get rid of (and **you** have to do this) those things that hinder you, and you must put on the new man (**Eph 4:24**).

You might think it's not going to cost you much to serve God, but start serving Him and find out. If you can tell me it hasn't cost you anything to serve God, then you're not serving God. You want to get in that realm where you can have full understanding,

don't you? There has to be a big 'sell-out' somewhere. Old self is going to get sold out, praise God, and you're going to purchase the things of God. The word **buy** means 'barter for'. **Conc. #7069** = to purchase, recover, redeem.

Do you realize that God bartered for you when He looked at your sin and said, **"It will take the greatest price tag ever written - My Son, Jesus Christ."** He hung on the cross. The Father looked at the blood He shed and said, **"The price is acceptable. Paid in full."** How much did it cost the men of God to serve the Lord? How much did it cost Paul? How much did it cost men that followed the Lord, and women that followed God? It cost them their lives. They sold out to self and purchased for themselves a great reward.

Isaiah 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.

As He is now, so are we to be in this present world. The word **"quick"** is a funny word. It means "alive, fresh, strong" (**Conc. #2416**) . How much strength of understanding do we have? How much living understanding do we have? How much freshening understanding do we have? A lot of our understanding just doesn't seem to have the newness to it, but the blessing of the Lord is new every day. There's a freshness in this understanding of God. There's a quickening, making alive, when you begin to understand God.

"And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes..." The spirit of judgment right here. Why? Because He had understanding. You do not know how to pass true judgment by the Spirit of God unless you have understanding of God. You must understand the judgments of the Lord. ***"...neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:"***

Isaiah 11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

That's the same kind of an understanding you must have: alive, fresh, strong. This reminds me of the manna that came down from heaven. If they gathered it up for two days except on the sixth day, it became wormy (**Exo 16:20**). A lot of our understanding is wormy. We try to give it to people and they get sick on it; it binds them. It's just stale; it has no freshness about it. There ought to be something new and vital in our lives. There ought to be such a refreshing presence of God in our lives that our understanding is not with what we see and hear but our understanding is quickened to us by the fear of God.

Jeremiah 51:15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding.

That's infinite understanding. I can trust that kind of understanding - understanding that can stretch out the heavens. But I cannot understand, nor will I trust understanding, that's only been in business for a few short years. **The Bible is proven understanding.** The heavens have not failed yet, and they will not fail. He stretched them out. He brought the stars in focus; brought the sun and moon into it's being and all the planets into the heavenly orbit and they have not failed. Eons of time ago, God brought it into existence and He brought it there, stretched it out, by His understanding. That is the same understanding that is available to me.

If I am going to have to pass judgment, I want that kind of understanding. I want a proven understanding that through time has never changed. The most precise thing in our universe is the orbit in which the universe is set. It is minutely on time. Why trust man's understanding, because when he goes to the grave, it goes with him. I want to trust an understanding that was able to go to the garden of Gethsemane, through the judgment hall, through the cross, into the grave and came out again. He never lost track or trace of the moon or the sun, but kept them all in their perfect orbit while He suffered and died as a man. We have that kind of understanding available to us and we want to get some man's understanding? I'll take **HIS** because I know it will be here a long time after we're gone.

Someone said I do a lot of teaching in the Old Testament. What I'm reading you isn't Old Testament. That is what man called it. Isaiah is still alive today. Some of the things Isaiah saw are still coming to pass now.

Mark 12:33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Do you want to please God today? Start loving Him with your understanding. You say, "Well, I can't know God." Yes you can. He made Himself known to men; He revealed Himself in the man named Jesus. He gave you the Spirit of God to know Him. If you don't spend any time to KNOW Him, you're not going to please Him. The real love that He desires is that we, even in our understanding, would love Him. That's what He wants: our understanding love. He isn't looking for a bunch of idiots. We quote things like, "Ignorance is bliss." If a house is on fire and you are ignorant of it, that isn't going to be bliss. You're driving a car and a bridge is washed out, and you don't know it; that isn't going to be bliss. We quote a lot of funny things that have nothing to do with the word of God and use them for cop-outs.

God expects you to be intelligent. Do you realize He gave you the mind that spoke everything into existence (**Phil 2:5**). Ignorance is ignorance and it's DUMB! We

go to school to get educated in every field and all those fields will pass away, but how about getting educated in Jesus Christ. How about understanding Him? How about knowing Him? I thank God today that I was so old when I got saved they wouldn't take me in Bible College. They rejected me because I was 33 years old. Thank God men didn't call me. **Thank God, HE CALLED ME!** I don't have to preach men's theory. I can tell you what the word says and you can do with it what you want.

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

Unless the Lord opens the scriptures to you, you will never understand them. Unless you allow the Holy Spirit of God to open the word to you, you will not understand the word of God. You can look religious and quote a lot of scripture; you can do a lot of things that look right, but unless the Holy Ghost opens your understanding, you will never understand one thing God is doing.

Isn't it amazing how we think we have to be ignorant of what God is doing, yet He said, "I call you My friends and I will show you the things that I do. I will make them known to you. I don't call you servants anymore. I call you My friends, for a servant doesn't know what his master does; but you're My friends and I will show you things to come" **(John 15:13-15)**.

Understanding is available to us but we've been trying to get men to open it. We've listened to every preacher that's come along trying to get him to open up our mind. We've read every book that was written trying to get our mind opened up. All we had to do was go to the Lord and say, "Lord, open up my understanding." "Oh, but that's too simple, Brother Krider." I know, that's why we missed it. Just come to the Lord humbly and say, "Lord, please give me understanding." We try to get so smart in God by our own efforts, when all it amounts to is just giving up, dying to self, and coming alive to God, and saying, "Lord, whatever is good, just let me have it."

1 Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

1 Cor 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

The Lord wants you to understand what you're doing. Remember He says, "Sing praises with understanding." Know what you're doing; understand what you're doing. I can talk to the Lord in English just as well as I can in the prayer language He gave me. There used to be a time when I had to rely on the prayer language, but now I like to pray with my understanding. I like to know what I'm talking to Him about. God wants to talk to me like He did to Abraham, in a language he could understand.

When you grow up, you're going to put away some of the childish things. You're going to find out that there's something beyond the little gift realm which is so beautiful. You're going to find out there's a place you can walk with the Lord with understanding, when you can understand what you're talking about; and when you pray in the spirit, you will also pray with understanding. When you sing in the spirit, you will also sing with understanding.

1 Cor 14:16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

There's a time and place for the gifts to operate. There's also a time and a place when understanding ought to operate in the natural. I was over in India not too long ago, and they speak a different language than I speak. They would ask me to pray over the food, and I would just pray in English. Some of them didn't know what I was saying, but they could say "Amen" because they had the same spirit I had. But there comes a time when people not filled with the Spirit of God come among you. There comes a person into your home that may be just a brand new believer. He has never received the gift of tongues or any of these beautiful gifts, and here you are, praying in tongues. He won't know what you're doing.

We need wisdom, don't we? We need to understand the wisdom we have. There's a time and a place for everything. There's a time for the gift to operate, for the giver to operate, a time and a place of understanding for everything we do. Sometimes when I'm loving the Lord, I just want to love Him, and I want to hear what I'm saying. Our problem is that we become so super-spiritual that we miss God. We leave the simplicity of what God wanted us to be in the beginning; a people that could manifest wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, judgment, and burning to the world and to everyone else.

God wants a people to manifest everything He is, in understanding. I like to speak in tongues, but sometimes I just want to talk to Jesus. He never speaks back to me in tongues. Every time He's ever talked to me, it's been in a language I can understand. There comes a time when He just wants me to grow up and have a conversation with Him, where I can simply say, "I love you Lord." He says back to me, "I love you too."

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

God wants you to understand. He wants the spirit of wisdom and revelation to work in you so you can have an enlightening understanding of what God is doing. He does not want to do something in secret. He wants to do it openly and He wants the world to know that He's doing it. When you have to announce a revival, you have problems to start with. If there isn't enough fire there to bring the people, and if the word of God doesn't stir the hearts of the few that come at first and begin to draw other people, forget it. Just pack up your suitcase and go on home.

We have become so programmed to man's understanding that God couldn't move if He wanted to. Instead of having prayer and praying for the power of God to move in the congregation, that people be drawn by **His** Spirit, we do everything in the world to draw them to a meeting. "Well, Brother Krider, you have to pay the expenses, you know." Not me! My Father takes care of that. It isn't MY meeting. **It's HIS!** "You know you have to be reasonable." That's our first problem right there. We want to work in our reasonable understanding. When Jesus Christ says to do a thing, just do it; don't worry about what it costs. If you have to pay the bill, then it isn't His meeting anyway.

I want you to get the understanding that you're not responsible for God's work. He's responsible for it. All you're responsible to do is say, "Here am I, Lord, send me, use me, do whatever you want with me." Get the understanding that you're not supporting God's program; He's supporting you. He's taking care of you. He will raise up what He will raise up, and will use whom He will use. What He needs today is some people that have understanding, and who say, "Lord, this is your program."

Isn't it amazing how God had it all in operation before we came along? It really kind of amazes me sometimes how God ever operated without us, but that's where we are. We're in the understanding of "self" realm, and God is saying, "I want the spirit of wisdom and revelation to work in you until you have the eyes of your understanding enlightened." To know not just a few things, but that you might know what is the hope of His calling. I know what the hope of His calling is: **IT'S THE GLORY OF GOD!** It's to live in such a way that He can live in me and I can live in Him, until the world can see it; until there is a manifestation of His wisdom, His love, His power, His joy, His glory to the world.

His inheritance is in me. He isn't coming back for the world; He already owns it. He's going to make a personal appearance one day and the world will see Him. Every

eye is going to see him. Jesus Christ is going to come with all the holy angels of the Father and there will be a wedding taking place. Hallelujah! You know who's going to sit with him on the throne? I'm sure doing my best; I've made a commitment to do it. He's coming back to marry me. Everything that is now in the spirit will be made manifest in the natural. There will come a manifestation that will destroy satan forever with the brightness of His coming (**2 Thess 2:8**). Here will come Abraham, Sarah, Moses; here come all of them. They are all right now with Him, unseen, but just that quick, they will all appear. **ALL** of them will appear, and we shall appear with Him in glory (**1 Peter 5:10; Jude 24**). Hallelujah! I'm going to have to have the mind of Christ to understand that. This boggles the natural mind.

Peter wrote in **2 Peter 3:16**: "**Our brother Paul wrote many things that are hard to be understood, and they which are unlearned and without understanding wrestle these scriptures as well as others to their own destruction.**" They interpret them their way and they're destroyed because of it. No scripture is by private interpretation (**2 Peter 1:20**). I'm not going to tell you a scripture means a thing if I can't read it right here. Why? Because I have passed judgment. I have put my own mind in it, and the Lord said, "All right, if that's the way you want it, that's the way it will be for you; but when I come, you won't be there. I'm going to come the way I said I would come. I'm going to be the way I said I would be." Get back to simplicity; get back to doing the will of God.

Col. 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Col. 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Col. 1:10 That ye may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Col. 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

"**In ALL wisdom and spiritual understanding.**" He said **ALL** of it, didn't He? That's what I'm taking: **ALL OF IT!** Amen! That's like moving into a 20-room mansion and living in the basement, even though you have the pink slip to it. Man, I'd walk up and down the stairs, look in every room, sleep in every bed, eat all the food in the cabinets, because it's **MINE!** He said, "I want you to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." You are not some nimby-namby outfit looking for a rescue team to come. You are the forerunners of the greatest Kingdom to ever be made known, the Kingdom of God. You have good news, power, and all wisdom and understanding to do the things of God. **ALL of it is YOURS!**

Col. 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.

Now there is a full assurance of understanding, when I know that I know, that I know! When I understand that He will not take that which He has given to me! I can throw it away. I can give it away, but He will not take it away from me. I have a full assurance today that everything He said is true. The work He has done is real. I have confidence in that understanding to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, the Father, and of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2 Tim 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

He will give you understanding in **ALL things**. That doesn't mean "some things", or a "few things", or "half the things" but in **ALL THINGS**. Don't come around counseling me unless you understand what you're doing. There are more people being bound today by misleading counsel than anything else in the world. There are more people splitting themselves from the body of Christ through ignorant counsel than anything in the world. Don't expect me to send you to counsel somebody unless you understand what you're doing. If you understand ALL things, you'll understand one thing: **GOD IS GOD ALL BY HIMSELF. HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS WORD FOR ANY MAN. HE WILL NOT CAUSE THIS WORD TO CHANGE. IT IS SETTLED FOREVER IN HEAVEN.**

I've said, "God said it; I believe it, and that settles it." **God said, "You're ignorant. I've said it and that settles it, whether you believe it or not."** His word is settled in heaven forever (**Psalm 119:89**). Whether I believe it or not will not change it. It is settled. God didn't ask me what I thought about it when He wrote it, and He's not taking any votes on how many people want to change it.

"I am God and beside me, there is no other. I have spoken and it shall be done" (**Deut 4:35,39; Isaiah 45:5; 46:9; Mark 12:32**). God has done it by Himself. He's only letting you in on the job. The work is all finished and the party has begun. We're still trying to work our way in. Here's a big door named Jesus, inviting us to the party. And here you are over at the corner, trying to use the jack hammer to get through a 15 foot embankment of concrete. **NO!** Just walk through the door.

Come boldly to the throne of grace and say, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 4

"SPIRIT OF COUNSEL"

In **Rev 1:4** it says that there are seven Spirits of God. We find in **Isaiah 11:1-2** that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus Christ, He had anointed Him, and the seven Spirits of God rest in the Spirit of the Lord. They are the spirits of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, judgment, and burning. They are found in **Isaiah 11:2** and **Isaiah 4:4**.

For us to work effectively in counseling, we have to have a foundation of the spirit of wisdom. We have to understand that wisdom, and when wisdom comes to pass, we begin to be able to counsel people. There's no way that you can counsel without wisdom or understanding. There is no way that you can ever counsel people to any profit unless these first two things are in your life. The Lord said that any man or woman who is born of God has the ability to counsel, but you can never counsel effectively beyond your understanding. Prior to this, we've studied on the spirit of wisdom and the spirit of understanding; now we are going to go into the spirit of counsel.

First we will look at **Job 12:12-13**. Thank God this man had some wisdom. He had enough sense not to listen to all of his friends. One thing you can get cheap and free is advice. You don't even have to look for it. It comes looking for you. Any time you make a mistake or look like you're in trouble, you can get all the free advice you need. It won't do you a lot of good, but you can get all you need and more.

Job 12:12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

Job 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

All the counsel you will ever be able to use effectively is found in Jesus Christ. He has counsel; it doesn't belong to you or me except by His grace and mercy through the blood of Jesus. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, He has made you heirs together with Him through this counsel. It is a spirit of counsel which was upon Jesus Christ. It is the counsel that Job received at the hand of God. It is a counsel that will not soothe the flesh. It is a counsel that will

go to the source of the problem and deal with the source of it, not with the manifestation. It is a true healing counsel.

A lot of counsel we get today binds people up. It makes them feel good in the flesh, then after awhile they come all apart at the seams because the counsel they need is the counsel that only God's Spirit can give them. You can get all the advice you'll ever need and more, just by letting someone know you have a problem or look like you have a problem. You'll have more of "Job's comforters" than you could ever possibly use in a thousand years, and every one of them will bury you. Only the counsel of God will bring you forth. Only the counsel of God will strengthen you. Only the counsel of God will answer your problem, but you cannot give that counsel without understanding of God. If you give counsel out of the wisdom of your own heart, you'll destroy people. The only counsel that will work is found in the 66 books of the Bible. No counsel outside of this works, and no counsel by it's own private interpretation will work either. It has to be by the spirit of counsel to set men free. **He said counsel is HIS.**

We find in **Isaiah 9:6** that counsel is a spirit and it is an office.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Look at the capitalized "Counsellor." It means it's a noun; it's a name. His name is Counsellor; that is His name, it isn't my name. **He is the Counsellor.** When we begin to give our own knowledge and wisdom in counsel, we're saying to God, "Move over, God." When we counsel out of our own minds and hearts, we're telling God, "This is my opinion, Lord; move over." The only problem is that when you make yourself God, you have to make it come to pass. When you prophesy that a man is going to get a new Cadillac, you had better be ready to buy it. If you say a man is going to do this or going to do that, and you prophesied out of the vain imagination of your own heart, you've given that man counsel that he can count on. I've had so many things prophesied to me that if I believed HALF of them, I'd have to be 500 people.

When the spirit of counsel is upon you, there's prophecy in your heart because the spirit of prophecy is the confirmation of the testimony that Christ is in you. When you say, "The Lord has said to me" and He has not said it, you are a liar. I don't want to be a liar. I don't care about people's opinions. When they come to me for counsel, I want it to be **"IT IS WRITTEN."** I don't care how many degrees a person has behind his name. I don't care how many degrees they have obtained in this world. That doesn't make them smart enough to counsel. The simplest one of us can be wise in counsel if we will go to the Counsellor. Go to him and let the Counsellor speak through you. When we speak by the Spirit of the Lord, that's true counsel. When we speak by the flesh of man, it's the counsel of men.

Isn't it a lot easier to let somebody else do the work? **"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord" (Zech 4:6)**. I found the resting place in Jesus Christ (**Heb 4:1-11**). I don't have to struggle with counseling people anymore. As a young minister, I tried to answer everybody and give everybody what they really wanted to hear. I've repented and gotten rid of that thing long ago. When people come to me to know my answer, I say, "It's right here; it is written." They don't want that; they want some fleshly answer to make them feel good for awhile. They have the wrong person, because I'm not giving out fleshly answers anymore.

Num 27:18 And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

Num 27:19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.

Num 27:20 And thou shalt put some of thine honor upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

Num 27:21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the Lord:..."

Moses was directed of God to pick another man and to let the Spirit of the Lord come from him unto that individual. But He said, "I want to do something, Moses. I want you to take Joshua, before I give him charge of being a leader of any kind, into the presence of the Lord, into the priest realm. I want the priests there to find counsel for him." The basic thing any leader has to have is the ability to give counsel. Did you know that about 95% of all problems can be solved by true counsel? In **Rev 3:18** Jesus says, "I counsel thee..."

Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

There are a lot of people today who are Christians who say, "I don't need the body. I don't need you. I don't need God. I don't need the Bible, and I don't need the prayer meetings." Brother, they are blind, naked, and wretched.

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

We need eyes to see, don't we. Paul speaks the same words in **Eph 1:16-18** when he tells them, "I pray for you always, that you have the spirit of wisdom and revelation working in you; having the eyes of your understanding enlightened."

They had a church at Corinth who thought they had everything. They could speak in tongues; they could prophesy; they could work miracles. Signs and wonders were all around them and Paul said, "You ought to begin to mourn and not be puffed up for there is one among you that you have allowed to remain, that wants his father's wife. I'm going to give him over to Satan that the flesh can be destroyed, that his soul can be saved" (**1 Cor 5:1-5**). Our counsel is not to please the flesh. Our counsel is to make men right with God so they can live eternally with Christ and live at peace in this present world.

If the Lord said, "I counsel thee to buy of me...", then I'm going to say, "I counsel thee to look to the Lord and not to man for whatever is wrong in your life. He won't tell you any different than He tells another person, because He doesn't care what your position in life is. He doesn't care if you know the President of the United States. He's not impressed. He made the President of the United States. The Creator is always greater than the creation."

I would rather know the Lord than any other person I could mention. I would rather know Him and walk in His true counsel. When I'm wrong, He will always tell me the truth. He will not lie to me. When I'm in error, He doesn't tell me, "It's all right, son; just continue on in it." He tells me, "I love you; you're wrong."

"But Brother Krider, if we tell people that, we're going to offend them." Who cares? If they are offended for the word's sake, it means they don't love God. If a man loves the laws of God, nothing will offend him. When they become offended, you don't have to judge them. You can very well be sure the word has already judged them. They become offended because the word of God says they do not love God's law. ***Psa 119:165 says, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."*** If you get offended, it's simply because you don't love the laws of God enough. Counsel cannot be given by a person who doesn't love God's laws because he will give out of his own mind and his own heart the counsel that he wants to hear.

He set Joshua in the presence of the Lord, didn't he. Do you want to be a counselor today? You had better sit in the presence of the Lord awhile. You had better get into a place with God, and the anointing of the Lord can come upon you, and God can begin to give you righteous judgment. One of these spirits is judgment. Until you come into the presence of the Lord where the Lord can counsel you, you're not going to

have the spirit of judgment working in your life and you will be void in some areas of your life. The complete Christian who is working with God, and walking in God to any real value for God, is a man or woman that has all seven spirits working in his or her life.

We talk about a manifestation of the sons of God. Our problem is, what we think we're talking about is signs, miracles, and wonders but it isn't. It's going out here with wisdom, with understanding and counsel; manifesting it, bringing the body into unity. In **John 17:21-23 Jesus said, "Father, that they might be one, even as we are one. For when they are one, the world will believe that you have sent me."** The manifesting that you're going to see is a oneness before God and before the world, so they will believe that God has sent Jesus Christ. I counsel you to read the **17th chapter of John** before you start preaching something you don't know anything about.

I'm mad at some devil spirits that run around disguised as knowing what they are talking about and they're preaching something for which they don't have any basis. Paul got on them. He said in **1 Tim 1:5-8**:

1 Tim 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

1 Tim 1:6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

1 Tim 1:7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

1 Tim 1:8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully.

They don't know anything about the law, having no understanding of the law. The law is holy. There isn't anything wrong with the law. The thing that's wrong is a man's heart, but the man that has a right heart can live with the law of God.

We have a hard time with counsel, don't we? We want to counsel after what we want to see and hear. We had better get back to counseling, "Thus saith the Lord. It is written." Before Joshua could ever lead this great nation of Israel into the very promises of God, he had to come into the presence of the Lord and know the counsel of God's judgment. No one will be led in with anything less than this.

We have been taught to just get saved, try to hang around here and there, and it's going to happen to us. NO! You get understanding when you apply your heart to know understanding. You get wisdom when you desire wisdom, when you seek after it with a whole heart. You don't get anything from God automatically dropped on you. That's a lie from the pit of hell. The only way you get anything is by seeking after it. The more you seek after it, the more you receive.

There are some spirits running around confusing people, saying, "You don't need the church. You don't need this." You are an individual out there. If you don't have this, you're disconnected, and all you are doing is going around in circles and you're not connected to the body. You're not connected to God and you're not doing anything but spinning your wheels out there, throwing a lot of mud around and confusing people. When a spirit of confusion comes, God is not the author of it (**1 Cor 14:33**). It is the anti-Christ spirit, the spirit of the devil. He is the father of confusion. He is a liar and the father of liars (**John 8:44**).

God is going to have a people that will manifest Jesus Christ. They are going to manifest Him in unity, in oneness, in the power of His resurrection. They are going to speak the same voice and the same word. They are going to speak the same mind. They are going to begin to preach and teach the Kingdom of God and not the kingdom of man.

Joshua could not lead that great nation of Israel until he was put into the place of a priest. He had to sit in the presence of the Lord and stand in the presence of the Lord until he received the counsel of God's judgment. Do you think you will lead anybody without that? Not into God's promises, you won't. You'll lead them into confusion. You'll lead them into churches. You'll lead them into religion; but you'll never lead them into the depths of God's promises. Unless you know counsel, don't worry about the rest of it; you don't have it.

A lot of funny things have been preached to us, such as "everything comes automatically", but thank God, I have seen the error of that fallacy. Only those that were serving God with a whole heart were able to stand with God without being shaken on all sides every time they turned around. Any time a man blames another man for his failure, he is ignorant of the things of God. None of you have any effect on me serving God. If there was nobody sitting in a class when I'm teaching, I'd still teach. I'm not teaching and preaching because of man or woman but because the Lord sent me. I want to see the body set in the right position and order, so God can make His final great move. I want all of you in it. God wants all of you in it, but it's up to you. It isn't up to God anymore.

If you want it, it's going to cost you everything. He said, "Buy of me..." (**Rev 3:18**). You're going to have to get rid of your self counsel and get God's counsel. You're going to have to get rid of your self knowledge and get God's knowledge. You're going to have to get rid of your self understanding and get God's understanding. You're going to have to get rid of your self judgment and get God's judgment. You're going to have to quit trying to burn out sin and let God begin to burn it out with his spirit of burning.

When the Holy Ghost fire gets next to you, it starts burning you. You can't get comfortable. It's a hot fire. Someone said, "I got the Holy Ghost and it didn't bother me." You didn't get the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost has something with Him when He comes; it's called fire. When the Holy Ghost really fills you, He brings a fire with Him.

He begins to purge you, to burn you. You get where you cannot just sit down when you're not right with God because there's a fire burning in you.

When men can get comfortable living in sin, it isn't the gospel I preach. This gospel I preach will kill the old man, will destroy him, will put him away. If you preach any other gospel than that, you had better get rid of it. There isn't any flesh that's going to glory in the presence of the Lord, mine or anybody else's (**1Cor 1:29**). The flesh is rotten, filthy, and corrupt (**Gal 6:19-21**). I've reckoned it dead to sin; it's corruptible. I have to get a new body. I want you to be wise counselors. I want you to be so wise that when people come to you, you'll be scared to death to say, "I think."

2 Sam 20:16 Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.

2 Sam 20:17 And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, Art thou Joab? And he answered, I am he. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear.

She said, "Hear my words." You should be identified in such a way with this gospel that it is **YOUR** gospel. Paul said, "This is my gospel (**Rom 2:16; 16:25; 1 Thess 1:5; 2 Thess 2:14**). The words I speak unto you are the words of the Lord. Follow me as I follow the Lord" (**1Cor 4:16**). We ought to have that kind of confidence, and we can have that kind of confidence if we're speaking this word. If we have a tendency to blame God for the words we're speaking, and they are **OUR** words, we do have a problem. She said, "I want you to hear my words."

2 Sam 20:18 Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter.

2 Sam 20:19 I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel:...

Remember what we said about wisdom? It is peaceable and pure.

2 Sam 20:19 ...thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the Lord?

2 Sam 20:20 And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

2 Sam 20:21 The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the

city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.

2 Sam 20:22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

Here was true counsel. She used the wisdom God had granted to her and she saved a city. She saved a city through wisdom.

There is a body of Christ in Oklahoma City that has allowed sin to be hidden under the floor; a little sin, a little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump (**1 Cor 5:6-7**). The first thing that's going to happen is that judgment is going to start at the house of God just like it did at the beginning, but it's going to be made manifest. That judgment is going to come through wisdom. It's going to come through understanding and it's going to come through counsel. Here, she saved the city through wisdom and counsel.

God is saying to us, "It's time that the purging or the burning begin to be increased until no sin is left among my people." Achan had a little sin, just a few things (**Joshua 7th chap.**). What could that hurt? The only problem was, God said, "You shalt not take anything from that city." He hid it. That's the trouble with sin; you can't even enjoy it. You can't enjoy sin when you become a Christian; you have to hide it all the time. God knows it is there.

God is sending counselors into the body; He's raising them up. They're not going to allow sin. They're going to tell the truth. They're going to tell a person, "Look, if you're in sin, you're going to die for it if you don't get it out of your heart." Achan just kept it hidden. God revealed it to Joshua. What did he do about it? Did he tell Achan to repent? NO! He said, "Confess it!" He killed Achan, his wife, his children, his livestock; everything he had was destroyed. For everything that Achan did against God, he paid a price multiplied. When they got through with him, they threw stones on him and burned him.

Counsel has a purging effect to it called burning. Whenever you start setting true counsel in order based on wisdom and understanding, it starts to put might and knowledge and burning into a person's life. A lot of people walk away from you because they don't want to get burned. They like to hold on to what they have. If it's sin, just hang on to it; nobody's going to know about it. OH YES, somebody knows about it, somebody WILL know about it.

You see, Achan was killed and he cost the lives of his family and 36 innocent men (**vs 5**). The trouble with sin, it hurts innocent people, so God is not going to allow that to happen in the body. God is not going to allow us to live in the flesh and think

we're going to get away with it; none of us, me or anybody else. God does not condone sin and that which will not glorify God is sin. That which is not of faith is sin.

This woman was wise and gave wise counsel. How many of us give this kind of counsel? She said, "We'll get rid of sin in the midst of us. We'll just throw it's head over the wall." How many of us love the body that much? How many of us really care about the body enough to stand face to face and head to head with sin and call it like it is? No, we just kind of let it run around in the body and think that it won't hurt anybody.

These counselors that are arising today are not going to be counselors that say, "Do anything you want to do, friend." They're going to tell the truth, and tell that individual, "Unless you get rid of this thing, you're going to die like Akin died, outside the camp. You're going to lose your place in the Kingdom of God." The Kingdom of God will cost you everything you have. Everything you have must be turned over to the Lord and left there. I'm dead to self. I don't have to live in it anymore; I'm living in Christ Jesus.

We need a heart like this woman had. She came out to stand against the one that was going to destroy the whole city and said, "No, it's not right to destroy the inheritance of God. We'll just take his head off and throw it over the wall." Get rid of sin. Start counseling in the wisdom and understanding of God. Sin is a reproach to any people, to any nation. We need that wise, understanding counsel today.

"Well, Brother Krider, if I tell people that, this crowd might get awful small." I would rather have one pure-hearted person stand with me whose motives and heart are pure, than to have 10,000 defiled people on my side; because sooner or later they're going to look for their opportunity to build their kingdom. They're going to look for their opportunity to sell me down the river. I would rather have one wise woman like this woman stand with me; to know that the wisdom of God, the understanding and the counsel of God was in that life, and that I was protected because of it.

We've deceived ourselves. Satan could not deceive us. We have deceived ourselves in many areas of our lives, and because of that, we've given counsel according to what we see, what we feel, or what we hear. Do you not know that's all deceit? I go back over and over this because I want to walk in the fear of the Lord. When I get away from the word of God, I'm just like anybody else: I can go off on my own tangent. It's the word of God that keeps me in line. It's the fear of the Lord that keeps me in line. It's the love of God that keeps me where I am.

1 Kings 12:6 And King Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

1 Kings 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer

them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

1 Kings 12:8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men...

We have a tendency to do that; we want something different. We better not forsake the old path, but learn that God's counsel is true and will not change. If you look around long enough, you'll get somebody to feed your mind exactly what you're looking for.

1 Kings 12:8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men (those that had no knowledge) that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

He had his own gang; his own crowd. All of those that had gained wisdom and understanding had been counselors to his father, and had guided him to build the great works and to make that nation like no other nation. But all of a sudden he thought he had a better way.

1 Kings 12:9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

In **verse 4** the people said, "your father put too heavy a yoke on us; let's get rid of this yoke."

1 Kings 12:10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

1 Kings 12:11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

A better way, right? During Solomon's reign, the kingdom was built to the highest portion of it's glory. Here comes along a son and instead of taking the counsel to build that kingdom greater, he took counsel to glorify himself. He did not seek after the wisdom, counsel and understanding that had been attained through the age, but turned to his own ways. That's the way it usually goes. When we begin to seek counsel, we always get people of like mind together. We'll get somebody that says, "Oh that's okay. That's fine." If we want to do something, we'll finally find somebody who will agree with us, but I thank God for the wisdom, the understanding and counsel that has been handed down from ages.

We can never exalt ourselves to any position in God. We must become servants, just like this old counsel had told him. "You will become a servant to the people. If you will help them, if you will speak good things, if you will encourage them, they'll be your friends." A lot of times we get ourselves surrounded by a little group of people that we've cavorted with and they say, "Oh yeah, you're a great person; you're just wonderful. Man, you ought to get more than Solomon ever got. Just pour it on them. You're so much wiser, so much greater than Solomon." What happened? A kingdom went down the tubes. The people became oppressed and they became depressed. The kingdom split.

We don't need to split the church; we need to build it. We need to get busy about restoring the breaches in the wall. We need to have a heart like Nehemiah had: a heart of true counsel to build again the walls; the torn down, the burnt places, the waste places, and build again to the glory of God. Encourage one another in the Lord; counsel them to walk in the ways that are right. The Kingdom of God is spirit. You can't build in flesh; you must build in Spirit - righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

You cannot build in the Kingdom of God on men's wisdom or understanding or men's counsel. If you don't take the same counsel that was from the beginning, you're going to go in error. If you reject the understanding, my friends, you'll go in error. We need to be counselors that counsel out of "It is written." If it was good enough in the beginning for God, it's still good enough for me. If it was good enough in His counsel to declare and predetermine what He was going to do, that counsel is still available to me. That office of the Counselor is still open to me; it has no open and closed doors. The doors are continually open to me.

They rejected that wise counsel and split the kingdom and destroyed the most glorious thing the world had ever seen. The church has been split in so many directions - torn asunder, wounded and maimed, halt and blind. You know why it's happened? Because the counsel of the wisdom of God has been rejected. We have a better way, a better program, a better power now. We have more intellect in our group now; a little group here, and a little group there, and they won't even get together. Isn't that terrible! "I'm independent; I'm Baptist; I'm Lutheran; I'm Methodist. Well I don't like any of those groups, so I'll start my own." We have concrete heads and hearts. We have our own blocks; we're going to build this thing again.

Let's get back into God's true counsel, back into God's true wisdom, God's true understanding. That will make us all equal in the sight of God. There won't be any big ministries, there won't be any big shots; we'll all be God's body working together. When God sends a gift in, whether it be an evangelist, pastor, teacher, prophet, or an apostle, it won't be some BIG SHOT. It will be someone to come along to stir us up, encourage us, and impart knowledge from God to us. I thank God today I don't have to build a ministry. We might as well get happy. God isn't going to change it. Be honest about it; being saved is a lot better than anything you ever were before.

2 Chron 25:14 Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.

2 Chron 25:15 Wherefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet (the word of God will always come to you) which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?

Isn't that something? We go right back to flesh. No wonder Paul got so angry at those Galatian people. He said, "Oh, you foolish Galatians, having begun in the spirit, do you think you will now be made perfect in the flesh?" (**Gal 3:3**).

Amaziah goes over and he slaughters all these people. He gathers up a bunch of dead gods, has to support them, and carry them back. He rejected the God that carried him over there and the God that made him victorious. How often will we reject the counsel of the God that delivered us out of sin and bondage to go back to flesh; flesh, a little god that always got us into trouble. You know very well, as I do, that 95% of every decision you made in the natural got you in trouble.

2 Chron 25:16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldst thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbear, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

We think it pleases God for us to go back in our old ways and try to serve God in our old flesh. God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**). **Phil 3:3** says they are the circumcision which worship God in the spirit and have no confidence in the flesh. We try to serve God in our flesh, and wonder why we're in trouble. We always find a counselor to come along and say, "You poor darling; I don't know why you're in the shape you're in."

I know why you're in the shape you're in. You have the wrong God somewhere over there in the closet. You need a killing of kings. You need to get rid of some kings in your life. Sooner or later the word of God is going to come to you, and if you keep fooling with the word of God long enough, God will determine in His heart to kill you. You read the account later on and you'll find out He did kill him because he rejected God's counsel.

You go around giving people a 'piece of your mind' about your counsel. "I want to give you MY opinion. This is MY revelation." I'm not interested in anything you have. If it isn't Jesus Christ, just keep it somewhere else. I want to know what the Lord is doing in your life. I get blamed for being a mad teacher but I want to get this into your

heart. I want to get this to your spirit until you look at that flesh in the mirror and say, "You're my enemy, you rascal you."

The only one that I have trouble with is me. I don't have trouble with my wife or anyone in this world. The only guy that ever gives me any trouble is that guy I see every morning. He tells me a lot of things. He's given me a lot of counsel that he likes to try to put on me. He tells me, "Why do you want to do this; why do you want to do that? Why don't you just get you a little church somewhere and get a few people together so you can rest your body?" See, he realizes he can't get me out into the garbage field anymore so he gets religious on me now, and he wants me to do MY will; to serve God in MY will, not God's will. But I just tell him, "Shut up, we're going to church." I don't even argue with him. "Get mad at that person!" "Shut up, we're going to church."

We need to come to a realization that there are a lot of gods running around loose. Most of them get into what we call the imagination mind. It exalts itself against the knowledge of God, but He said, **"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (2 Cor 10:4)**. You've got to get into that realm where true counsel has an effect on your life. I don't want God to determine in His heart to destroy me. Do you know what I want Him to determine in His heart? To marry me! He had already determined that. I want to keep His counsel and if you want to get counsel from me, you're always going to get "It is written." You're not going to get anything outside of that because I don't want Him to reject me.

Ezra 10:1 Now when Ezra prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.

Ezra 10:2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

Ezra 10:3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my Lord...

Read that again carefully: "They made a covenant with God." God told them what to do: they made a covenant. "Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them according to the counsel of my Lord." A lot of us have some strange flesh hanging around. We won't separate ourselves from it. We like it. We like people who live in sin who think we're something good. They blow us up and get our head ten sizes bigger than it ought to be because they want us to come down on that particular spot where they're living. God told me to "Come out and be separate, saith the Lord. Touch not the unclean thing" **(2 Cor 6:17)**.

If God was that strong and commanded them to put away their strange wives (that they took out of a strange land) so that even the seed would be put away also, how much more is God saying to you, "You had better get rid of the strange flesh. You had better get rid of that which is joined to you willfully and separate yourselves unto the Lord your God." God has begotten us of the incorruptible seed of the word of God (**1 Peter 1:23**). God has begotten us of the pure blood of Jesus Christ. He will not have it even touched by flesh.

God isn't interested in what I think about this. When he told me to teach this, He didn't say, "Now what do you think about it, Brother Krider. Do you think it'll be too hard on the people? Do you think we could approach this on a little better angle than this; that we might just sneak it in with a little bologna, a little sausage and cold cuts, and people will like it better?" NO! He said, "You give it to them just like I give it to you. You read it just like it is written."

Ezra 10:3 ...and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

Ezra 10:4 Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee; we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

Ezra 10:5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware.

You see, Ezra had counsel from God. Do you think that was pleasing to their flesh? It might have been to some of them who wanted to get rid of their old gal anyhow, but there were some of those boys who were pretty attached. Those were their kids over there. They made a willful covenant with God, after counsel with Ezra. They said, "Let us put them away." No wonder Jesus said later on, "For if any man will come after me and follow me, unless he hates his father and mother, he can't be My disciple; he's unfit for the Kingdom of God" (**Luke 14:26**).

We are in trouble if the flesh relationship we have is greater to us than the Lord Jesus Christ. You're supposed to love your wife as the Lord loved the church. You're not to look continually upon the flesh - the weaknesses and faults thereof. You're supposed to look on the church as Christ looked on her, just like He looks on you. Love them in the spirit, then you won't worry so much about what the flesh is doing.

God made a covenant and then they turned around and established that covenant. They said, "We'll do it, Lord. We'll just put that strange stuff away." We take counsel with our flesh whether or not we can go to church. If it is raining, we take counsel of our flesh, whether or not we're going to get pneumonia. If it's a little cold, we can't go out there; we're going to get sick. I'm too tired to go to church.

This is strange flesh governing the Spirit of God, and then we want to get up and be the greatest thing God ever had. We can't even put down 170 pounds or whatever it is. The only problem I have is 180 pounds of it; it's strange flesh to me. That thing wants to do some of the craziest things you ever saw and it still wants to do it. If I let it for a second, it would do it. The only righteousness any of us has is Jesus Christ.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

We think that anybody that is against God is ungodly; they've just completely gone the other way. However, there are a lot of people who are going to church and are calling themselves Christians, that counsel you against becoming fanatical for Jesus. They counsel you against selling out for the Lord. They counsel you against going all the way for God. They tell you, "You have to keep this thing in the right perspective; you have to get this thing in the right balance."

Have you ever heard that? I don't even heed that kind of counsel. God said for me to love him with ALL my strength; with ALL my might; with ALL my heart; with ALL my soul. With everything that I have, I'm to love the Lord my God. If I expect to be wise in counsel, I must reject all ungodly counsel. **Any counsel that comes from the flesh or comes from another source except the word of God IS NOT GOD!**

Psalm 33:10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought; he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

Psalm 33:11 The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

You see, I don't want to come to the place like Rehoboam, and reject the counsel that stood forever. I want to walk in the counsel that has been proven; the counsel that has brought forth all that I see; the counsel of God that's brought forth all that I do not see.

Isaiah 8:10 Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

God is saying to you and me today: "If you counsel with the counsel of the heathen it will come to nothing. All of man's counseling, no matter how wise it may seem, will come to nothing, but the Lord's counsel standeth forever."

Maybe you don't realize yet the importance of the scripture but He is preparing you to rule in a Kingdom upon the earth for a thousand years; a manifested Kingdom of God, it is called, and it is said that you will judge. You will be kings and priests even in that place manifested in that day, and there will be nations that will come to you. If they

do not come and bow down and worship God, there will be no rain in their land. There will be a famine.

You're being prepared not only to counsel in this world, but you're being prepared to counsel for a thousand years. If you take man's counsel and live by it, it will not go into the Kingdom of God. But if you take God's counsel, get used to it now, it will not be a strange thing to you in the Kingdom of God. I want to be a wise counselor now so that I can live in the room of a counselor then.

In **Rev 3:21** He tells me that if I overcome as He has overcome, He will grant to me to sit down with Him in His throne as He has overcome and sat down with his Father in his throne. That's the bride; that's the part I want to be. I'll be able to use everything He has in that day, even greater than I can now; but if I do not avail myself of His counsel now, it will not do me any good then. God is saying to you and me, we need to begin to understand that the counsel God has IS FOREVER!

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above...

That means **HIS counsel, HIS wisdom, HIS understanding, HIS might, HIS knowledge, HIS judgment, and HIS burning.** That means we're no longer to seek after the natural. We're no longer to counsel after the natural. We're to seek those things that come from God.

Col 3:1...where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

If I counsel out of my own intellect, it's dead counsel; but if I counsel out of **HIS** storehouse, it is counsel that is alive. It will change lives. It'll not only work in this world, but it will work in the world to come. It'll work when the Kingdom is made manifest; it will be the same counsel then that it is now.

I've been asked, "Why in the world will people die in that thousand years?" It will be because man will still have a sin nature, but God will show him for a thousand years under perfect conditions, what it could have been like if Adam had not sinned. For a thousand years, ideal conditions will be upon the earth. The Kingdom of God will be made manifest and those in the Kingdom will rule and reign with Him for a thousand years, and the inhabitants of the world will live in perfect conditions. Yet in the final end, Satan shall be loosed for a season and he shall deceive many. The sin nature will still be in man but then it will be ruled by a perfect government. Isn't that great?

I want to begin to practice counseling here that works there. I want counsel that does not bring condemnation to me or to people. Counsel that will set them free; that will loose people from the bondages of sin. That's what God wants you to have; the counsel of the heathen comes to nothing but the counsel of God will stand forever.

Psalm 64:1 Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

Psalm 64:2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

God wants to hide you away some place. God wants to take you away from the counsel of the wicked. How does He do that? He does it when I desire to be away from it. God will allow me to live anywhere I want; God has given me a free will. I had to make a decision this morning to get up happy. I could have made a decision to get up unhappy. It was up to me. I could have gotten up grumpy or with a song in my heart. It was up to me. If I expect to be hidden away from the counsel of the ungodly, I'm going to have to **WANT** it. I'm not going to seek it; **I'M GOING TO WANT TO BE AWAY FROM IT.** I'm going to be away from where men's counsel has any effect on my life. **I WANT God's counsel to be effective in my life, but it depends upon what I WANT.**

Psalm 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psalm 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Sounds like someone called "Holy Ghost" to me. You might say to me, "I don't know how to walk." You do if you know where God is; if you know the mind of Christ.

You need to go to the New Testament and make a study on the Holy Ghost. One of the jobs He has is to counsel and to guide me (**John 16:13**). Outside the Spirit of God, I'm on my own. In the Spirit of God, I have a counselor to guide me. God is not talking to my flesh; He talks to my spirit. He communes with my spirit. He works in my spirit, in my inward man. He works in the new creation. He guides me and tells me how to take this old body where it's supposed to go, and do with it what is supposed to be done with it; that through it, might be manifested the glory of God, the presence of God, the wisdom of God, the understanding and the counsel of God. The world won't need you when you leave this body. The world needs you now. They need someone they can look at and say, "I need some help."

The natural man is looking for counsel but what have they been getting from religious people? "Join our church and that will help you. Pay your tithes, and that'll get you in." When we begin to live where we're supposed to live in Jesus, we're going to be like Him. We're going to be able to sit down with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well again, right here where we are, and say "The Lord loves you. This is how God wants

you to worship Him; not over in Jerusalem and not in the mountains. He wants you to worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Jesus was a physical man, manifesting the same God, counseling after the same wisdom. I don't have to worry about my feet going astray or getting into some kind of trouble, because as long as I walk in the spirit (**Gal 5:16**), I will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. I will simply be guided by an inner system called the precious Holy Ghost of God and He will guide my footsteps and order them aright. But if I want to go on another trip, He'll let me do that too. I don't want to do that.

Psalm 106:13 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:

Psalm 106:14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

Psalm 106:15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

Even though they were completely outside what God wanted them to be, He gave them their request. I'd rather have a skinny body and a fat soul any day. I want to be fat inside and outside if I'm to be fat at all. I don't want leanness in my soul. I don't want to look prosperous in the flesh and be dying on the inside. I don't want to be walking against God's counsel and getting blessed seemingly on the outside and inwardly I'm dying. Jesus had the problem over there when He came to Jerusalem. He said, "You whited sepulchres, full of dead men's bones" (**Matt 23:27**).

God let them go their way, didn't He. When they wanted bread, they got it (**Exo 16:4**). When they wanted quail, they got it (**Exo 16:13**). Their shoes never wore out; their clothes never waxed old (**Deut 29:5**). But all the time, they were walking farther and farther away from the promises of God. Historians say that within 90 days from the time they left Egypt, three million people could have been in the promised land. Forty years later, the whole generation died and a new generation went in (**Num 14:27-35**). I don't want somebody to take my place. If it's a 40-day journey, I want to make it in 39. I want to be running a little bit. I don't want to be one of those people that look good on the outside but inside there's nothing.

Psalm 106:16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the Lord.

That was before Jesus came. They called Aaron a saint. I'm one of the saints of God. I laugh a little when I see the sign, "Latter Day Saints." When I meet a Mormon, I don't make fun of them. I just tell them that I must be one of them; I'm a latter day saint myself. They say, "What branch do you belong to?" I say, "Heaven." "Who is your chief apostle?" "Jesus Christ." "Wait, a minute, are you a Mormon?" "No, I'm a Christian." Praise God!

I don't want to knock them. Counsel and wisdom tells us there's a way in which to minister to people that are really hungry. Instead of criticizing them, why don't we do something to help them? We don't wait on God's counsel; we just go out and bomb them. God's counsel says, "Wait on the Lord. I'll make a way, and you can witness to them." He loves them as much as He loves you. He loves people that are off in sin, lost, as much as He loves you.

Just thank God today that His counsel came to you, you listened to it, heeded it, and received Christ as your personal saviour. How do you know that God wouldn't send you into a place that is totally messed up if you would wait on God's counsel, instead of trying to do it in your own strength in converting them. We have a lot of zeal sometimes, don't we. Not much wisdom, but a lot of zeal. We're going to win the world, right? We go out and tell them they're all going to hell and everything else, and get down on their case for what they're doing, and then they look at us and we're the unhappiest people in the world. The God I know called him a saint of the Lord, and I just happen to be in that same company with him.

Psalm 106:43 Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

Do you want to provoke God? Start counseling him. Start giving Him some of your counsel. Do you want to see leanness come on your soul? Just start counseling after what you see and hear and feel. You're going to find you're the skinniest Christian in town and if you're not careful, the next wind that comes along will blow you away. The Lord is telling us something there by examples for us, so we would not also miss the rest of God and fall after unbelief, even as they fell in the wilderness because of the hardness of their heart.

Here the Lord is saying that many times He delivered them, continually over and over again. What did they do? Did they glorify Him and thank Him for it? NO! They began to get puffed up. "We're the chosen people of God. We can do anything we want; God's on our side." They began to build golden calves and began to do everything ungodly. They desired to go back to Egypt; desired not to follow God, but to follow their own ways. They provoked God and were brought low for their iniquity.

When you start counseling out of your own mind, your own heart, and your own spirit of the natural man, you're going to be brought low sooner or later. It may take 40 years, but it'll catch you. I want to put so much of the fear of God in your hearts that when somebody says, "I need counsel," you'll say, "Let me pray." When you don't have an answer, you won't be ashamed of it. You'll just say, "I have to pray about this. I don't have the answer right now, but I will pray and read. If I get something, I'll give it to you." We don't want people to know we don't have the instant answer, do we? He said, "Be swift to hear, but slow to speak" (**James 1:19**).

It isn't other people that get you in trouble. It's that thing in your mouth; your tongue (**James 3:6**). The little member isn't very big, but when it gets going, a fire is

set. You try to stomp out the fire and it just keeps going. Have you ever started a fire in dry grass? It's hard to put out without a lot of help. We don't want anybody to know we started a fire, and we're too ashamed to call for help because we wanted to be sure that we were able to counsel. We didn't want people to know we didn't have the answer right then.

If it provoked God then, it will provoke God now. You can get away with it for a while because you're ignorant, but friend, there comes a time when ignorance is not bliss any longer. There comes a time when it takes understanding and it takes wisdom to bring forth this thing called counsel. There are a lot of skinny, burnt Christians running around today. I want you to have a fear of God in your heart; not natural fear, but the reverential fear of God.

Psalm 107:11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

Psalm 107:12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

Whenever you continually go against the counsel of God and condemn it in your own heart and say, "That doesn't really mean that, or it's not for me or for so-and-so," it won't be long until you find out the high place you had with the Lord Jesus Christ all of a sudden becomes a basement apartment filled with woe and sorrow and leanness of bone.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could walk in the assurance that when we gave an answer, it was one that God would say, "Amen!" Wouldn't it be wonderful to walk in that confidence, knowing that when we gave the answer, the Lord said, "So be it!" Well, you can, when you give the answer Jesus gave when He said, "It is written." Don't you know that all the powers of heaven were saying "Amen". He said to satan, "Get thee behind me; get away from me. I have nothing to do with you."

Now if "it is written" was good enough for Jesus Christ, it's going to be good enough for me. If it was good enough to set the Samaritan woman loose, it's good enough for me. If the word was good enough to raise Lazarus from the dead, it's going to be good enough for me. If the word was good enough to heal the sick, open the blinded eyes, and cause the lame to leap for joy, it is good enough for me. If I want God to say, "Amen" on what I'm doing, I must do what the word of God tells me to do. Nothing beyond it and nothing less.

Don't despise God's counsel. If He tells you it's NO, it's NO! We sometimes get like Balaam though, don't we. We're going to have our way; we're going to get the answer that we want sooner or later (**Num chps. 22,23,24**). The king of Moab sent messengers to Balaam to get him to prophesy against the nation of Israel. "We're going to give you some money." Cash register signs started working; dollar bills started rolling in his mind. He thought, "I've been a poor prophet long enough. I've served the Lord all

these years and what do I have? An old cot to sleep on, a room that's not even mine and barely enough straw to keep this donkey alive. I'll go and inquire of the Lord."

The Lord said "No!" "That must have been the devil. I'll go ask again. God doesn't mind me being rich. Lord, can I go?" The Lord said, **"NO!"** Balaam saddled up his donkey and got on it. The donkey falls over on him. He kicks that stupid thing, gets on him again, and it falls over against him again. Pretty soon the jackass started prophesying to him, but he was already deceived to the point that an animal speaking to him didn't change him.

You think many times that your wisdom is going to change people; however there are some people that have deceived themselves beyond the point of being changed. But thank God for one thing: when Balaam got there and went up against Israel, he prophesied the word of the Lord. People looked at him and said, "What in the world is wrong with you? We're paying you good money to bring down an evil curse on them." He said, "I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord." Thank God, even in his backslidden, sinful condition, there was still that conviction, "I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord."

I don't want a jackass to have to talk to me, and when I go to the Lord and the Lord says, "NO!", I'm not going to despise His counsel. I'm not going to try to get God to change His mind, because God will not change His mind. I can harden my heart to where I'll never hear from Him again, but He will not change His mind. The gift that God had already given Balaam was to be a prophet, and God would not recall that from Him. So when he prophesied, as ungodly as he was, the word he prophesied was the word of the Lord.

"Well, Brother Krider, if I get enough people to agree with me, I'm right." Do you think so? I remember a story in 2 Chron. 18th chapter, about a king that had four hundred of them prophesy to him. They told him how great he was, what a great king he was, what a mighty man he was. The other king comes over, a righteous man in God's sight, and he hears those four hundred outfits prophesying, "Oh, great man." He said, "I've heard all of this; don't you have one man of God here?" "Oh yeah, but I have him locked up in jail." "Why?" "Because he never says anything good about me." "Get him out of jail." The one true prophet of God looked at that ungodly king and said, "If it wasn't for this man of God, I wouldn't even talk to you. Go ahead and go to war, you're going to be victorious." The ungodly king said to him, "I told you to tell me the truth."

A man knows the truth from a lie. No matter how many counselors lie, he still knows the truth. But he had deceived himself into thinking that there was a truth because people were on his side outnumbering the people of God. I want one true counselor with me. One true counselor will outnumber one thousand false counselors.

Look again at **Psalm 107:11-13: "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and condemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down**

their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble and he saved them out of their distresses."

They finally got it right, didn't they, but what they had to go through to get it straight. If they had just heard the word of the Lord in the first place and been obedient, the blessing of God would have been all over them. They had to go down through some hard places. When you see a person going down through a hard place, don't pray him out of it. It may be that he needs to hear the voice of God, to hear what the voice of the Lord is saying. He's had so many false counselors that he doesn't know which way is up any more, and God has to get him down where the false counselors won't go with him. There's a limit to which a false counselor will go with him. When it starts to hurt him, he's not going with him any more. When it starts to put the squeeze on him, he's not going there with him any more. He'll find himself all by himself down there, away from the presence of God and he's going to wake up.

Jonah had the same problem. He listened to the counsel of his own heart, didn't he? He said, "I'm not going over there to Ninevah. I'm going to go on a vacation." It looked pretty good. He got himself on a ship, didn't he. He took a vacation from God. A lot of times we take a vacation from true counsel. We don't want to give true counsel, so we won't give anything. We take a vacation to Miami.

The only trouble for Jonah was that there was a big whale waiting. As long as he was on the ship in good condition, he wasn't bothered. The Lord wasn't bothering him, but all of a sudden, they threw him over the side. That big old whale just snatched him up. You ought to read the account sometime in Jonah (**chaps.1-2**). It says he had the weeds around him, going under. It was dark on every side. He didn't cry for the ship to throw a lifesaver to him. He didn't cry for some man to come help him. He cried unto the Lord and the Lord heard him.

In our lives, there comes a place where we just have to stand and tell it like it really is. But rather than that, we take a vacation and think that we can run away from the job that God put upon us, and we wind up in such a horrible mess. Then we start blaming the ship, we start blaming the weather, we start blaming the whale for eating us, until all of a sudden we start choking and we look at the thing right. We say, "God, now I'll do anything you tell me."

As soon as Jonah hit the ground, he was running, and he got over to Ninevah and counseled them to repent. He counseled them that God was going to destroy the city, then he got mad at God because he wouldn't kill them all (**chap 3**). Isn't that something! I'm showing you this, to show you that a lot of times we shirk our duties because we don't want to do it. We know the result of it is going to be deliverance for somebody we don't like. "I want to see you in trouble, because you have it coming. If I tell you the truth, you're going to get out of trouble. Stew a while! I'm going to take a vacation to Miami." You're going to end up in the belly of a whale, and you will cry out for the Lord. He's going to deliver you and you're still going to have to go and do it, stinking with seaweed and the stomach acids of that whale. I don't think that Jonah was

a pretty sight when he came out. He was probably awfully white; bleached out. The acids had probably eaten all the color off of him.

Here God is saying to you and me, "I will have true counsel. I have given you a responsibility. I have given you a call. I have chosen you. Whatever it takes to perform, I will be sure that it happens." So I am going to do it right away. Have you ever been spiritually in the belly of a whale? I've been in more bellies and seaweed, so I quit taking vacations. If I go on a trip anywhere, I'm taking everything with me: Bible, book, pads and everything. I'm not taking any vacations from God.

Prov 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Prov 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Prov 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.

Prov 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Prov 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Prov 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:

To reject something means you have to have it offered to you first of all. He isn't talking here about a bunch of sinners in the sense that they didn't know God. He's talking about people that are rejecting the very thing that is being offered to us today. "Well that doesn't fit my plans," you say. "That doesn't fit my lifestyle. That doesn't fit the way I want to do things." When you start saying that, you're saying to God, "I don't want your counsel. I don't want your reproof. I'm going to do it my way." Then what happens? You get in calamity, don't you. You get in confusion, fear, and doubt. You cry to the Lord, and the heavens become brass to you. It takes a long time sometimes, to get through, doesn't it? You shout louder than you've ever shouted. You pray harder than you've ever prayed and it just hits the ceiling and bounces back. So you get in a room with a higher ceiling, and it goes a little higher, but it never gets through. All of a sudden you come to the place of saying, "God, forgive me for rejecting your counsel and reproof."

Prov 8:14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

Counsel belongs to God. He trusted Adam and Eve. He created the earth; gave it to them, and went on about His business. He came to commune with Adam in the cool of the day and He said, "Where art thou?" "We're in the bushes. The woman you gave me..." Always blaming the woman or somebody. "My wife made me do it. The devil made me do it. The church made me do it. The preacher made me do it."

NO, you can't use that one. You're going to do what you want to do. You will always do what you will to do, whether you want to or not. If my will is set for sin, I will do it, but I will blame everybody in the world before I take the blame myself. I'm sure of that. If I was going to sin, I'd blame somebody. "Well, if that preacher would have preached the word, I would never have done it." How often did you read it? You have the same Bible he had. You have the same Holy Ghost he had.

Counsel belongs to the Lord and you are a part of God today, and the Counsellor dwells in you. You cannot blame other people for the mistakes you make if you do not take the counsel of God. God trusts you with His counsel. You are going to be called before the Lord one day. Everybody thinks that God is just an old meany, just waiting to beat them up. No! He's given you the Kingdom of God, and He said, "I'm going to trust you with it. Now one day you're going to come back and give Me an account for it."

I had a vision of the Lord one time. We were little kids in the classroom, and the Lord would give us all a brand new day, called the report card. It was brand new; there was nothing on it. We would take that out and have the whole day, and by the time we got it filled in, we had to bring it back every night. Some of them were blank; some of them were full of mumbles and grumbles; some were filled with "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Thank you Jesus!" Some were filled with "gripe, gripe, gripe". Here was the Lord marking them: A, C, D, F. But He trusts you with every day of your life.

He trusts you with counsel. One day He will say, "What did you do with the counsel I gave you?" "Oh Lord, to tell you the truth, I was awfully busy. The wife you gave me...The husband you gave me...That job you gave me...Oh Lord, if you had known my Mom and Dad...If you had known my boss, Lord. He said never to mix religion on the job." The Lord will say, "I gave you 42 thousand days, and not one of them has an "A" on it. You got a "D" all the way through; you barely made it in. What did you do with what I gave you?" "Well Lord, I was so busy." The Lord will say, "It is written; it is written."

We're going to have to give back to God everything He's given to us. I want that office of a counselor so worn out that He won't want it back. I want everything He's given me to be so worn out and used up that when I walk in, all there will be on me is a robe of righteousness and nothing else. There is nobody that can give you a bad mark for the day. If you get a bad mark, it's all your own doing. God knows exactly what you're going to do with it, because any good teacher knows where his students are. If you're a "C" student, be a good "C" student.

We want to go in on somebody else's report card and get their blessing, but it won't work. We're going to stand before God with every day and say, "Lord, here it is." God's counsel says to me to not be slothful but to be diligent in the things of God. Counsel is an office that belongs to every believer. It is not a question of whether I'm a counselor or not. The question is, what kind of counsel do I give? Is it "A" counsel, or "B, C, D, or F?"

If you are rated on a scale from 1-10 as a counselor for God, where would you be? You are being rated, you know. We'll all be rated. We're being prepared for a kingdom. I want high marks in everything I do, and the only way I can get those is simply to live in my understanding no longer, but to live in the mind and understanding of Christ; to counsel no longer after what I see or hear, but counsel according to the dictates of God's word.

Prov 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

If there are no counselors among God's people, they have a hard time standing. What we've had, unfortunately, up until the last several years, have been people that have counseled after how it affects the flesh man. You can't build a big church quickly, seemingly, unless you appeal to flesh. That's not God's church. God is building His own church. He will add to it daily such as should be saved. He will build.

I'm not teaching this to build a church. This study is to give you the wisdom of the Kingdom of God so the Holy Ghost can build effectually in your life; so you can be lively stones being built up together, a spiritual habitation unto God (**1 Peter 2:5**). You must give counsel after the word of God and not after the seeing of the eye. "Where there is no counsel, the people will fall."

Prov 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

We hate to have people correct us, don't we. It's so hard to admit and say, "I was wrong." Isn't that true? It seems there are a few phrases the human has a hard time with. One is, "I'm sorry." The other one is, "I was wrong." We have a tough time ever working with these two phrases, but when you're wrong, you may as well admit it.

When you will not take counsel that comes from God through men and women that love the Lord, you're not wise. You want to grow up in all of this, don't you? If you can't get into the counsel realm, you surely can't get into the might realm. You surely can't walk in that office of might, and power, and glory, and honor unto the Lord, until you come through the three steps. The fourth one happens to be "might". I want all the counsel that I can get from God.

Prov 15:21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

Prov 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed...

You begin to do something for God, and seemingly you have the right target and the right motives, but all of a sudden it comes all apart at the seams. If you had sought counsel from the most high God when it was put together, it would have been right. It would not have fallen apart on you. By counsel, purposes are established, but without counsel nothing comes to anything at all.

Prov 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

To work on counsel, you have to have understanding. You see how it all locks together now? Wisdom is the principal thing. With all the principal getting, get understanding; and understanding builds counsel, doesn't it.

Deep down in a person who is inwardly hurt, there is still that spark of counsel in their life, but you can't do it through condemning them. There is still that place in a man's heart that you can reach with counsel unless he's absolutely hardened over. There is still a place deep within, hidden away, that you can counsel with understanding, reach it, and set that spark afire. But you have to have understanding of the wisdom of God to reach down deep into that heart or that place where they're hiding, and counsel that area until it's drawn out of them.

Prov 20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Do you want to see God's people established? Do you want to see them strong? Then begin to be a good counselor in God; begin to be a true counselor; begin to be one that counsels with wisdom and understanding. Do you want to see a strong people built together? Do you know what builds it? Wise counsel builds people together. When they come to you and they say, "Well, I'm mad at sister so-and-so," wise counsel would tell them to repent; but so many times we will say, "Well, you're right honey; I can hardly stand her myself. I think what we need to do is just go build another church." The wise counsel goes right to the heart of the problem: if I can't stand you, there's nothing wrong with you; it's wrong with me.

What I need is wise counsel to establish me first. Once I'm established, then I can help establish somebody else; but if I'm not established, there isn't any need for you to come to me to be established. We go over and lean on somebody and when they fall over and we fall with them, we blame them. Instead of coming along and being strong enough to help them out, we blame them for our falling down, don't we. There is no establishment in the body. The only way it can happen is through sound counsel with wisdom and understanding of what God is doing in this great day and hour. This puts it right where it belongs, doesn't it.

Prov 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Better is open rebuke than secret love. He compared good counsel to ointment and perfume that rejoice the heart; it makes you happy. Good counsel might hurt your flesh something fierce, but inwardly your inner man is rejoicing because he knows he's being loved by somebody. He's being told the truth finally for the first time. Maybe in all the people he's talked to, finally he's found somebody with a heart to counsel him and who has given him true counsel; not made fun of him and criticized him, but has told him the truth - been honest with him.

I could have a good time with people even if we don't see eye to eye, if they'll be open with me. I can get along with people that don't even like me if they'll tell me; but it's hard to get along with somebody that doesn't like you but they say they do. When you need a little help, those that say they like you aren't there. I can get along with people that don't like me because I know they don't like me. I can love them and pray for them. When I know where a man stands, I'm not going to have any problem with him.

Hearty counsel will cause my heart to rejoice. If I'm wrong, just tell me so. You won't make me mad; you'll help me. If there's something in my life that isn't right, come and tell me. It's going to make me love you all the more because I know that you've given me a hearty counsel out of your heart.

Ecc. 8:1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

Ecc. 8:2 I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God.

I am giving you counsel. If you make a vow, pay it. Regard the Lord. In all that you do, regard the Lord. We worry about how it's going to look on us. "If I do that, how's it going to look?" One day I asked the Lord to give me a heart like Moses. He stood before God, when God was going to kill all of Israel, and counseled with the Lord (**Num 14:11-20**). God said to Moses, "Just get out of the way. I'm tired of fooling with these people. I'm going to kill them all, and it will be Me and thee and we'll start all over again." Probably if that had been us, we would have said, "Kill them all, Lord. Go ahead and zap them." But thank God for the heart that Moses had. It wasn't because of the people of Israel that he interceded. He said, "God, what will they say about you?"

I wish we had a heart of counsel like that. "Lord, what will it look like on Your reputation? The Egyptians saw them come out, and they will say You were able to bring them out, but if You kill them out here, they'll say You weren't able to bring them in. Oh God, don't do it, because it's going to look bad on you." We have to come to that place where our heart is so in love with the Lord it isn't going to worry about how it's

going to reflect on us when we talk to people in true counsel, but "Lord, how's it going to look on You?" Then we're going to care about God and we're going to begin to tell people the truth. We're going to share the real things of God so that it will look good on Him.

Isa 5:17 Then shall the lambs feed after their manner, and the waste places of the fat ones shall strangers eat.

Isa 5:18 Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity and sin as it were with a cart rope:

Isa 5:19 That say, Let him take speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it; and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it.

I need to know the counsel of the Holy One, and the Lord told me how I can know it. He said, "I've given you sixty-six books to know it, and every problem that will ever come to you, I have already given you counsel of the Holy One on how to do it."

Isa 8:9 Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces.

Isa 8:10 Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

When you counsel with the natural man, it's not going to work. I don't care what it is, it's going to fall to pieces.. It doesn't make any difference who counsels against you. It doesn't make any difference what natural forces look like against you, **our trust is in the Lord.** You can say what you want to say; you can counsel however you want to against us, it will not work, because our God is with us. The heathen will rage and imagine a vain thing, but their counsel will come to nought.

Let's assume that God tells Brother Smith to go to Mexico and do a work. Brother Smith starts running around trying to work up a financial program to back him, and he spends three years trying to get it to work. He finally gets all the finances together, then he says, "Now Lord, I'm ready to go." God says, "What are you talking about?" "Well, I'm ready to go to Mexico." "Oh, I found out that you weren't going back then, three years ago, so three days later I sent another man in your place." When God says He wants you to do something, He doesn't mean for you to try to work it out. **HE MEANS FOR YOU TO DO IT! Take counsel with God, and DO IT!**

Isa 28:29 This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

I want to be around somebody who is wonderful in counselling. Wouldn't it be good if it could be said about us, "Oh, they are wonderful in their counsel. They told me things I really didn't want to hear but they always told me the truth." We must come to that place of revelation in our lives, and of counsel, that we tell the truth. Speaking the truth in love (**Eph 4:15**) Wouldn't it be nice? It will be. It can be, if we simply do it. People can say, "The counsel they gave me was wonderful. It was honest, it was straight, and it was true. He is wonderful in counsel."

In **Isaiah 46:10**, He says, **"...MY counsel shall stand..."** He said that at least five places that I know of, that **HIS** counsel will stand. Can we honestly say "All the counsel I give to people stands; it'll stand against examination and rebuttal. It'll stand against rebuke. The counsel I give will work." You can say that if the same counsel you give is the counsel God has written down here. **If it is the counsel that comes from the Counsellor through the spirit of counsel, IT WILL WORK!**

Jer 32:19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

Not only is He wonderful at counsel, but He is great in counsel. What we need today is counsel that is true and that is wise. Revelation says seven times "To he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church."

Jer 49:19 Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?

Jer 49:20 Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.

Do you want to be like the Lord? Do you want to have oversight of the word of God? **"Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord..."** Underline it! I want you to put this into your heart. He is saying here to begin to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church and not what man is saying. When you say that you want to be like the Lord, the Lord is saying, "If you really want to be like Me, I want you to hear My counsel. I want you to hear what I will tell you. I want you to not only hear it, I want you to pass it on just like you receive it from Me." We've heard all that man can really teach us. The wisdom of man comes to nought; the counsel of man comes to nought. The things of men absolutely come to an end, but the counsel of the Lord standeth forever.

These prophets of old had some wisdom. They would come into the nation of Israel and give them counsel to turn from their sins and turn from their wicked ways and

move into God. The people would continually reject them, and because they rejected that counsel, they were lost.

Jer 50:45 Therefore hear ye the counsel of the Lord, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them.

This is two times that He tells us to hear His counsel that He has taken against somebody - **not FOR them, but AGAINST them**. I don't think that we realize that the counsel of God is also as a sharp, two-edged sword. It will work FOR someone, but it will also work AGAINST them. **If you accept God's counsel, it will bring life and peace and understanding. If you reject it, it will bring desolation and death to you. Therefore the wise man will receive instruction. The wise man will hear counsel, and he will live.**

The Lord wants us to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church, and He is speaking to it through counsel. How many do we have to have to counsel? Just you and the Lord. All you have to have is "an ear to hear" and your counsel is sure; your counsel is true. You don't need to seek out men to counsel you. You need to seek the Lord to counsel you. When people come to us, we don't need to seek after men's wisdom; we need to seek after the Lord.

I want to state again that a lot of times we counsel according to what we see, what we hear; or if it's some relationship to us, how will it affect that relationship? We cannot counsel that way, beloved. **We must counsel without respect of persons**. When God reveals a thing to you, and it's the right time and things are right, you go ahead and counsel according to the word. It's not you that counsels them; it's the Spirit of the Lord. It's the spirit of counsel working through you; regardless of how you feel personally has nothing to do with it. If they get mad at you, they're really getting mad at the Lord. The counsel of God is sure.

Daniel was a man that had the Spirit of the Lord in him mightily. He was a man that God had chosen to do many things for the Kingdom of God, and God gave him the revelation of the Kingdom in great power.

Dan 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

Dan 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Dan 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the

interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Dan 2:6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

Dan 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

Dan 2:11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is NOT WITH FLESH.

Underline it in your Bible.

Dan 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Dan 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom...

Hallelujah! Daniel answered, but he did not answer out of his own mind. He answered with counsel and wisdom.

Dan 2:14 ..to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

Verse 16 says that Daniel went in to the king and told the king that he can take this dream and interpret it, and he does. God gives him the understanding and the revelation of that dream.

I want you to notice something in **Verse 11**: the Chaldeans said to the king that God does not dwell with flesh. God dwells IN US today. **He is IN US and we are IN HIM, and there is no good thing that He will withhold from them that walk uprightly before him (Psalm 84:11)**. Daniel had walked uprightly before him. Daniel was now at the place that he was able to cause the death of all the wise men or he was able to save them, and he did it through wisdom and through counsel.

Do you realize that the church has the power to change things, for God dwells in them and God reveals to them mighty things. The church has the power to walk in counsel and in wisdom to spare even the sinners' lives around them by walking uprightly

before God. Abraham, a man that counseled with God face to face, a man that bargained with God for his relatives in a place called Sodom and Gomorrah, set the limit on God. God did not set it. Abraham had the power to spare the city, but he did not do it because he limited God's ability (**Gen 18:16-33**).

God is saying to you and me: "How much counsel and wisdom do you have?" Do we really walk in a place where God dwells in us with such power and in such presence that we can answer with true counsel and true wisdom the captain of the hosts? Can we really speak in such a manner that it will cause life to be given to people rather than death? I tell you, we can. **God dwells in us. He said, "I will be their God. I will dwell in them, and they will dwell in me." Jesus said in John 14:23, "...and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."**

The Chaldeans and all the wise men of the world did not know that God would dwell with Daniel by the spirit. The Bible says he was filled with wisdom, filled with the spirit of wisdom (**Dan 5:11-12**). I have the same spirit, and you have the same spirit. Whatever counsel and wisdom Daniel had and whatever decree he could manage to bring forth, you and I can bring forth. The king couldn't remember what he had dreamed, and all the wise men and Chaldeans and astrologers could not tell him what he had dreamed. Yet this one man who walked with God not only told him the dream, but told the interpretation of it. Praise the Lord! He had counsel and wisdom with him, didn't he, and he walked in that and he talked in counsel and in wisdom.

I want to walk with a God like that, who can even show me the hidden things. He called the unseen things as though they were and brought them forth. When you counsel people, a lot of times they say one thing but their heart is saying something else. They are asking you a question, but their heart is crying out to have an answer that will free their heart and spirit. Their flesh is saying something else. But I say to you again, that the same counsel of wisdom that was in Daniel, is in you and me. If you would begin to apply your heart to understanding and seek the things of God in the right perspective, when people ask you a question, you would answer their heart. You would know what they really wanted. God would reveal it to you. There would be nothing hidden from you. There wouldn't be any hidden thing and you would know how to counsel wisely and perfectly with every situation.

The church is not some weak outfit looking for a way to minister to people. The church is the all-powerful body of the living Christ. In that body there is wisdom, understanding, and there is counsel. We want to say, "Well, Lord, you know I'm just a poor little Christian." We cop-out, don't we. But Daniel stood up and said, "What's going on here? What's the hurry? Why do you want to kill all of us?" and Arioch told him. But when he asked something, he did it by counsel and wisdom. He did it by the spirit. He asked a question and God gave him the answer to the dream. He was the answer to those people's problems.

Do you know that by counsel, you're the answer to many people's problems. If you would counsel truth, if you would counsel life, peace, and joy, if you would counsel

the things of God to people, you are their miracle. You are their answer. The church is the answer and the miracle to every problem.

Dan 4:27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

You should read the book of Daniel all the way through; it's exciting. There are a lot of things here in this one verse. **(1)** He wanted his counsel to be accepted. He wanted his counsel to be that which the king would accept, because he knew if the king would accept it, he would take his advice. **(2)** His advice to him was to turn from his sins. Isn't that great? First of all, that's all you can ever tell a sinner - he needs Jesus Christ. **(3)** If he will do that, he's going to have a lengthening of his tranquillity. The peace of God is going to begin to strengthen him and be a companion with him.

He had a desire toward the king; his love was toward the king. His true counsel was that the king was in need of help, and the help that he needed was that he was a sinner and he needed to turn from sin. Sometimes we have a hard time with that one, don't we. We're going to butter it up a little bit. "Now, you're not exactly a sinner, friend; in fact you're a pretty nice guy ." We butter that guy up so bad that he doesn't even know that he's a sinner any more by the time we get through with him. A sinner is a sinner. No matter how you candy-coat it, he's still a sinner and the only answer for him is Jesus Christ. It isn't joining the church, and it isn't getting religious; it's giving your life to Jesus. It's turning from sin to righteousness; turning your life over to Christ, then you can begin to say that the days of your life will have a peace in it. Even though there will be trouble and tribulation, there will be peace in your life. I want to give counsel like that.

The sinners of this world have been fed all kinds of counsel. They have been told to do certain things a certain way and everything will be all right. Join this, and it'll be all right. When Jesus came preaching, he had one message to Israel: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Get right with God; the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." He didn't go around telling them, "Now look, I want you to join the church." He said, "Repent! You need help. I'm giving you counsel. This is the way, walk ye in it. Turn from your sin to righteousness."

That's the only counsel you can ever give a sinner. You can tell him to stop smoking, stop drinking, stop cursing, stop this and stop that. He's still going to hell. That was a short-term counsel. **God's counsel is "Repent and be saved."** There's no condemnation in it; the man that isn't saved is already condemned. When you go to a person that is lost and give them God's counsel, it will be with compassion; it will be with love. It will be with peace, and it will say, "My friend, what you really need is to know Jesus Christ. What you need is something that will bring you out of darkness into light. Let me give you some counseling with wisdom and understanding - what you

need is Jesus." That's the only acceptable counsel that any sinner can ever receive from God.

"Well, Brother Krider, you know I want to give him all my theories and doctrines. I have to give it all to him; have to get him cleaned up so he can get saved." Have you ever heard that? "I thought my job was to clean them up." No, you go catch them and bring them in. God will clean them up, praise God. He said, "I'll make you a fisherman, not a cleaner." God is trying to get us to the right counseling areas of our life, isn't He? He's trying to get us into a counsel of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and a counsel of judgment that will be true counsel.

What we need today as counselors is compassion; compassion to really care what happens to that individual out there. A lot of times we don't want to be troubled. I think that is a big problem with us; we don't want our time disturbed. Our time is all segmented, you know. "I'll allow you two minutes." The guy's getting ready to kill himself. "Okay, I have five minutes. I would come over and talk to you but I have this dinner engagement with my friends." There's no compassion there.

Jesus had compassion on the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (**John 4:5-35**). His disciples went on into town to get something to eat. He stayed there and talked to her even though he was tired, hungry, and thirsty. He spent His time talking to her, loving her, and showing her true counsel. He was caring about her, and friend, she was having her eyes opened moment by moment to see that He was the Christ. When she got that truth, she ran into town, got the whole city and brought them back with her. His disciples came back up to Him and said, "We brought you some meat." **He said, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. My meat is to do the will of my Father."**

The Lord is saying we need to have counsel, not only with the body, but we need to have counsel for the world. The world is in darkness; they need somebody that cares. The only one that can really care is a born-again Christian, a person that really has the Spirit of God and compassion in his heart. "Well you know, Brother Krider, I have all these big meetings I have to get to; all this big stuff I have to take care of." The neighbor is sitting next door, waiting for somebody to give him counsel, and God has to send somebody ten miles across town to get to your next-door neighbor. "But I was doing all those big things, Lord." "What happened to counsel for your neighbor over there? How come you were never available in your own home town?" "Well, I'm a prophet and I have no honor in my own home town."

I have news for you. Most of our neighbors don't even know that we're Christians, let alone anything else. When you say you are a Christian, they expect these things to be in your life. They expect to see a shingle out over your door spiritually, "Counselor - no admission - no price tag. Freely I have received and freely I will give." You are driven by compassion, driven by the love of God to begin to let people know that there is an answer and you can say, "I have an acceptable answer. I have counsel because I love you. I want to introduce you to Jesus Christ."

I think that sometimes we just forget about the principles of being a Christian. We forget that it's an everyday life, it's an everyday living, it's an everyday truth. But if you are going to become great in the Kingdom of heaven, you'll become a servant of all. Do you want to be called great some day? I do! He said "If you'll be called great in the Kingdom of heaven, you'll be a servant to all men (**Matt 20:27; Mark 9:35; Mark 10-44**). You will do and keep My commandments and you will teach others. You shall be called great in the Kingdom of God." All it takes is applying these principles that you're learning every day - applying them to your life. This is the word of God; it's not my word.

Hosea 10:6 It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

This is talking about making covenants and swearing falsely and everything else. If your counsel is not the counsel of the Lord, you're going to be ashamed of it one day. The word of God is still true and always will be true. He said that in that day man shall give an account of every idle word and deed done in the body (**Matt 12:36-37**). If you will accept **Hosea 10:6** as a part of your life and say, "Lord, I never want to be ashamed," the Lord will say, "They that trust in the Lord shall never be ashamed" (**Psalms 25:20; Romans 10:11; Joel 2:26-27**). Therefore if your trust is in the Lord, it means you will counsel in God's trust. You will be trustworthy. He will take counsel and give it to you, and you will give it to others just like you got it.

There is no condemnation in counseling. Jesus never condemned people. He told them where they were and He said, "There's a way out." He showed them their bondage and said, "Here's deliverance." He always brought it, because He said, "Here is condemnation, that men have not believed on the only begotten son of God." The world was already in condemnation when He came, but in the counsel of God, Jesus Christ came to set all men free. We want to talk about manifesting something; why don't we manifest that kind of a love. It is God's predetermined counsel that we would do these things.

Did you ever go to a place, wanting to see a person so bad, and when you got there he didn't have any time for you? His calendar was all filled up. You went away disappointed, didn't you? When you come to the Lord, He's never too busy to see you. He wants us to begin to arrange our lives where we're not too busy to do His work for the people He sends to us. We have become so involved with the cares of this life that when people come to us, it's bothersome, it's troublesome. It takes too much of our time to minister to them, yet that's the only job that you have in this world. The only job you really have in this world is to be what Jesus Christ is; you're to be a true counselor.

Zech 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold, the man whose name is THE BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord:

THAT IS JESUS CHRIST! THE BRANCH!

Zech 6:13 Even he shall build the temple of the Lord: and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

"He shall build the temple of the Lord." That is not rocks and stones of the world; **that is you and me. We are the temple of God.** We are spiritual rocks being built up together; a spiritual habitation unto God.

There is a counsel of peace. In the first sermon Jesus ever taught on the Kingdom of God, called the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke to His disciples, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (**Matt 5:9**). Without Christ there is no peace; He has become our peace. **He said, "The counsel of peace is between them."** God has made a counsel of peace between Himself and me. He expects me to take that counsel of peace, and first of all, sow it in the body of Christ. Then we are to take that counsel of peace out to those that have no peace, to those that are in darkness and in bondage. He said, "If you enter into a house and you find that house to be worthy, let your peace remain there" (**Matt 10:13**). Let your counsel of peace remain in that house.

"Well, I don't have anything to do in the Kingdom of God." I've just named at least 150 things in this study that you have the opportunity to do, and this is another one. You have the opportunity to be a counselor of peace, to take the counsel of peace to others. To be a peacemaker; to be called a child of God. I'd rather be called a child of God than to be the president of the United States. I would rather be called a child of God than to be a dictator that rules the whole universe. I would rather be called a child of God than anything I can think of. You know why? **Because a child of God is FOREVER; any other title is temporary.**

The Lord said He hath brought with Him a counsel of peace. It is His counsel and He gave that counsel to me. He said, "Now I want YOU to take the counsel of peace and become a maker of peace - a peacemaker. And I will call you My child." We're always out looking for some mighty works we can do to be called the child of God. "If we can get just enough miracles and signs and wonders, people will know we're children of God." If you would go out and begin to sow peace, make peace, and put a sinner at peace with God, that person who receives that peace would think you're one of the nicest people that ever lived. God would say, "That's my child." We don't want that kind of thing, really. It requires too much. "I'd just as soon spend a few minutes laying my hands on the sick and having them recover. I have golf games to play and other things to do."

Do you ever wonder why we come up short in understanding, wisdom and counsel? How much time do we ever put into it? If you were in a business, you know it requires almost all your time to be sure that business is run right. It's a consuming

thing, and if you don't take care of it, it's not long until you're out of business. A little folding of the hands, just a little slumber, a little sleep, and it's gone from you (**Prov 6:9-11**). No wonder the prophet said, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion" (**Amos 6:1**).

Here the Lord is giving you the counsel of peace. Does He ever expect you to use it? Or did He just write it down so we'd have something to read; to fill up 66 books instead of 59? That's the way we act. **EVERY WORD IS IMPORTANT!** God is going to hold you responsible. When you said, "I accept you, Jesus Christ, as my personal saviour; I want to do what you want me to do," the Lord holds you accountable for your word. He's going to tell you, "It was written. Where were you? How come you didn't do it?" There won't be any excuse.

I want to be called a child of God. The way for me to do it is very simple -go out and begin to make peace. First of all, with the body of Christ. Get it into a position where the peace of God is there. Then go out and begin to reconcile men to God through the power of Christ. You can all sow a crop of peace, and I didn't say, "pieces." That's the way we usually do it - everything we touch falls to pieces. Instead of bringing INTO ONE PEACE, we just take it INTO PIECES. **God wants ONE PEACE.**

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Luke 7:29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

I studied this and I said, "Lord, don't let this happen to me. "When you reject God's counsel, it's not against other people; it's always against yourself. When you reject the word of the Lord as it comes to you, it's not against other people; it's always rejecting it against yourself. Jesus said the lawyers and the Pharisees had rejected His counsel. They wanted to be justified by Him. In **Matt 15:12** the disciples told Jesus that the Pharisees were offended. Jesus doesn't care what your position in life is. "Lord, you're offending us; you're bothering us. You're making us look bad in the sight of these people." And **He said, "Woe unto you, you're whited sepulchres, full of dead men's bones" (Matt 23:27-28)**. You should study the entire 23rd chapter. They rejected His counsel, didn't they. The terrible thing about it, when you reject God's counsel or any portion of God, you're rejecting God.

When you say that Jesus Christ is the Lord, you must mean that. When you say that He is the Lord, that means He has absolute ownership of everything in your life and all that you have belongs to the Lord. You no longer have any say, you no longer have any right to tell God what to do with your life, or what to do with your stuff. It belongs to

Him. Turn it over to Him and let Him do that which is good in His sight; then you will have peace in your heart. No matter if it all crumbles, you'll still have peace in your heart because God will leave you with what He knows will be good for you.

The lawyers and scribes were wise in the things of religion. They were not wise in the ways of God, so they rejected a man like John, who came out with a camel skin wrapped around him and a beard, probably with honey in it. He looked like a wild man. He came over the hill, out of the desert, with a staff probably, and said, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** Can't you see these lawyers? "Don't let him get close to me; there's dirt on him. If he were really a man of God, he would be wearing his garments." They rejected him. They rejected the counsel. They rejected the word that he had. When they rejected, they did not reject John. They did not reject HIS word; **they rejected God and brought condemnation against themselves.** When Jesus spoke, he spoke rightly. "Woe unto you." When Jesus said, "Woe unto you," that meant something.

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

The counsel that sent Jesus Christ to His death is the counsel that you and I have. It was predetermined counsel. It was a counsel made in heaven from before the foundation of the world, that there would be a lamb that was slain whose name would be Jesus Christ, and He would redeem His people from their sins (**1 Peter 1:19-20; John 1:29**). Do you realize that God predetermined a course for you. He has set in that course great, mighty, and wonderful things to be accomplished in your lifetime. But we put His predetermined counsel to nothing, that we might have our own way at almost any cost.

God is not haphazard; everything is ordered, everything is right. God is not a God of confusion (**1 Cor 14:33**). God is a God of government, reality, and truth. Your life, the footsteps of a righteous man, were ordered of the Lord before you were born (**Psalms 37:23**). Before the members were ever put together, they were written in His book (**Psalms 139:16**). But because we take our own counsel, we swerve out of God's predetermined plan for our lives and raise havoc, and then later on we come back into it. But we've lost all that wonderful time that we could have just rested in God, done the things of the Lord, and adhered to His predetermined counsel for our lives.

Do you think God doesn't have tomorrow ordered for you already? Do you think He just says, "Well, get up and do the best you can today." NO! He sent an angel with you; camped them around about you, predetermined your course. When you go

outside of God's predetermined counsel, you're walking away from every good thing that God has for you. You are walking away from every good thing in life by going in your own counsel, taking heed of the counsel of men. When disaster happens in your life, you blame everybody in the world. If that doesn't work, you blame God a little. "Lord, why did you let me do it?" "I didn't let you do it. I didn't have anything to do with it. I set a course before you and you decided to take another one. I kept telling you it was wrong."

By decisions that we make, we determine where we live. If you make decisions based on the counsel of God, guess where you're going to walk? You're going to walk in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, instead of havoc, fear, doubt and unbelief. You're going to walk in the joy of God, in the peace of God, in the righteousness of God, for such is the Kingdom of God. My life is already predetermined, if I will stay in it. "Brother Krider, that doesn't make sense. I'm smarter than that. I can figure that out for myself." Look where it's gotten you. Just think about it for a minute.

I talked to an old boy in my office one time and he said, "Brother Krider, I've been running my life for years." I said, "Yeah, look at it." "Yes, I was thinking this morning about that. I was looking at it. There must be a better way." I said, "There is. His name is Jesus." He said, "I'm turning it over to Him then, because I've made a mess of it for all these years."

If we're honest and truthful about it, ever since we started running our own lives, we've had problems and trouble, and no answer to them. I've found out since I've let God run my life, every time I have trouble I have peace in it. Every time I have a problem, I have an answer to it. Why? Because God predetermined a long time ago that when He brought forth His son Jesus Christ, I would be in Him; and if I would walk in the way that is right in the sight of the Lord, He would bless me going in and coming out (**Deut 28:1-14**). He would bless me. He would command the blessings of God to come upon me and overtake me; just jump on me. I can't even run away from the blessing of God.

Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Acts 4:25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

Acts 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together.

Acts 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Jesus' death was no accident. There is no way any man could ever have stopped the crucifixion except Jesus Christ Himself. **It was predetermined in the counsel halls of God when God spoke to the spirit of counsel and He said, "It is sealed forever. My Son will die at a predetermined time, at a predetermined place, by the hand of predetermined people."** No accidents. Jesus' blood was not spilled; it was shed. Spilling is an accident; shedding is on purpose. **His blood was determined to be shed for the remission of sin.** Oh glory to God!

It was a predetermined counsel that sent Jesus to His death, and that predetermined counsel has said for all of you that there is a glorious and wonderful way to live. His predetermined counsel was for you to be in good health and to prosper even as your soul prospers. His predetermined counsel was that you would be a blessed people above all the people of the earth, that every nation would behold the Glory of God.

I'm a predetermined creature. One day He moved me into a body named Don Krider. What you see, isn't me - that's the body I'm wearing. One of these days, I'm going to pop it open, jump out of it, put on a new guy, and we're going shouting! I'm telling you, it's predetermined that I can have a mind that is at peace. Why? Because He had a predetermined counsel before I was ever brought forth. You ought to read the first chapter of Jeremiah sometime. He said, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and I called you to be a prophet."

You don't get called to be a leader AFTER you're born. Before you're ever born, you're a leader or you never will be one. It's like a little child who is born who has certain inherent qualities, like a musician, or whatever it is. A real, true, born musician has a musical ear from the time of the womb. He has an ear that is tone oriented. When he sits down at an instrument, he can almost play it automatically. There are other people who have to struggle with it, because they're trying to work at some field that doesn't really belong to them.

I don't play a piano. I would like to, but I know better. I sing in the cracks; I'd have to learn to play a piano in between the keys. God has called me to minister and to teach the word of God and I'm happy doing that. He said, "Now this is what my son is going to do (talking about me); it is predetermined counsel. I have predetermined it. If he will walk in that counsel, the end of that will be glorious." Isn't that wonderful?

Acts 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Underline the 28th verse. Your life is predetermined. What you do with it is up to you, but God's best will never be yours when you walk in your own counsel. It's only when you walk in God's predetermined counsel that the blessing of God is upon your life. Isn't that good? It takes all the worry out of it, doesn't it.

Let's look at **Acts 5:37-39**. Here's where they were called before the counsel for speaking in the name of Jesus and they were called a cult. They wanted to kill them and get rid of them.

Acts 5:37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

Acts 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

Acts 5:39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

The counsel of men isn't going to come to anything anyhow, but if you fight against God's counsel, you're not fighting against His counsel; you're fighting against God. God has already predetermined a counsel for your life. He has set a course for you. The end of it, the destination of it, is to live forever with Him. If there are some things that don't seem to be working right and you're going through a lions den, a fiery furnace, the Red Sea, or the wilderness, just praise God, because on the other end of the journey, there awaits the joy of the Lord. Jesus Christ beheld the cross, He saw the shame, He saw the reproach, but He was able to handle it because He beheld the joy that awaited him (**Heb 12:2**). Predetermined.

Nothing happens to me by accident. **ALL things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)** Nothing has happened to me by accident; it always happens for my good. Some of the things I would have questioned as being good for me, but the Lord knew best. His predetermined counsel has always been good.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the

ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Acts 20:26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Isn't that great; to be free from the blood of all men, to declare unto them the counsel of God. The first portion of that counsel is to be saved, reconciled with God. Go right on and build on that counsel. It will be a counsel that will set you free from the blood of all men. That's the kind of counsel we must walk in.

Heb 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

Heb 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

IT IS IMMUTABLE. It can't be changed. It can't be put away. It can't be made void. It cannot be chopped apart. **Once it is given, it's immutable. Anything that God said He will do, HE WILL DO.** If we will heed the counsel of God, it is immutable. If you walk where God tells you to walk, and do what God tells you to do, He has to bless you. Whether you want to get blessed or not, He just has to because He has given His immutable counsel. He has given His covenant to you and He said, "You will be a blessed people if you do what I tell you."

He said, "I've never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging for bread" (**Psalm 37:25**). Somebody said, "Aren't you worried about that famine coming?" No, I can't be, because God has made me an immutable promise and He can't change it. I don't have to beg for bread; He's going to supply my need. All I have to do is walk in His word, in His spirit, in His counsel, and He will bring it to pass. Isn't that beautiful? No "brownie points" in this thing at all; just doing it because I love him. It's immutable! He can't change it.

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

This is great counsel from God. God has some things that He wants you to see and to hear. He wants you to hear His counsel and live. He wants you to see the things, the mighty works of God. What we need today is to just be honest with ourselves and say, "What counsel have I really been walking in. Have I really been walking in the counsel after my own mind, my own heart, and my own desires, or have I really been walking in the counsel of God. If I walk in the counsel of the Lord, I am blessed indeed. If I have heard the counsel of God, if I have looked after the things of the Lord, I am blessed.

You can't stop a man from getting blessed if he wants to get blessed. Everybody else can be falling apart, but the man that listens to the counsel of God is going to be blessed in his need. He is going to be blessed in the field. He's going to be blessed in his home. He's going to be blessed in his job. He's going to be blessed in the market. He's going to be blessed even going out the door and coming in it. That sounds like a good deal to me. All God wants me to do, is do what He wants me to do.

I DON'T HAVE TO WORK UP SOME PHONY THING. I JUST DO WHAT HE TELLS ME TO DO AND WHEN I GO OUT THE DOOR, I'M BLESSED. WHEN I COME IN THE DOOR, I'M BLESSED. WHEN I GET UP IN THE MORNING, I'M BLESSED. WHEN I GO TO BED AT NIGHT, I'M BLESSED. I'M BLESSED! WHY? BECAUSE HE MADE AN IMMUTABLE COUNSEL WITH ME ONE DAY. IT CANNOT BE CHANGED. IT WILL NOT BE CHANGED. IT WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOREVER.

AMEN!

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 5

"SPIRIT OF MIGHT"

This chapter is on the spirit of **Might** which we find in **Isaiah 11:2**. Might in Hebrew (**Conc.#1369**) means "powerful, victory, strong, champion, and valour." Rev 7:12 says "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and **MIGHT**, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." Here in the Greek (**Conc. #2479**) it means "miraculous power, ability, strength." When God spoke the worlds into existence, there was a **might** there that could not be seen, a power that was unknown to man, yet it formed out of nothing those things that appear. Now many times we touch that spirit of **Might** by praying for people for healing, and we bring out of nothing seemingly the **might of God** into that body, and as that powerful **might of God** begins to flow into that body, the miraculous begins to happen.

Whether you realize it or not, whenever you enter into that spiritual realm with God in the realm of the spirit of might, the power that created universes is coming out of your mouth. When you lay hands on the sick and pray for them, the same spirit of might that entered into that lame man, into those blinded eyes, and into that withered hand, is the recreating power of God flowing out of you; but we are not aware of it, because we do not study the word of God.

When He sent the Holy Ghost, He sent the Holy Ghost and power (**Acts 1:8**). It is not in the wisdom of men, but in the power, in the might, in the glory of God (**1 Cor 2:5**). When you are talking about a spirit of might, you are talking about the creation power of God, the miraculous power of God. It's also the same type of spirit that men like Moses, Joshua, and Caleb had; a spirit of valour, a spirit of might, a spirit of ability to do whatever God told them to do. "***It is not by power nor by might, but by my spirit," saith the Lord (Zech 4:6)***. It is by **THE SPIRIT of HIS MIGHT**, that He does these things. Man in his own might, power, or strength, cannot perform the works of God. He may duplicate them, he may bring a counterfeit to pass, but he **CANNOT** perform the works of **GOD**.

Deut 6:3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

Deut 6:5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

If we can read it like it is written, we did not have the ability to love God. None of us had the ability to love God because our souls were dead. We were dead in our sins and trespasses (**Eph 2:1**). Whenever we try to get people who are not Christians to love our God, they cannot. It takes a work of the Holy Spirit giving us the **might or the power or the ability to love God**. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Today I have the ability to love God. Before He gave me a knowledge of Him, I did not know Him; but at the age of 33 He showed Himself mighty on my behalf, and delivered me out of the kingdom of darkness and the powers of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son (**Col 1:13**). He put within me a spirit of might, and that might was to cause me to love Him. It gave me the ability to love Him. That's what the word "**might**" means, "**an ability to love Him.**" Isn't that great! I have a spiritual relationship with my Father.

I do not spend that ability now on the things of this world or of the flesh. He demanded that all of that might He gave to me would be concentrated on loving Him. Glory to God! You didn't love the Lord before; you didn't love anybody before. You might have thought you did. You might have had a natural affection but there is no love outside of God. **God is love**. I didn't even love my wife until I got saved. She tolerated me and I tolerated her. I'm telling you something: she put up with a lot before I got saved. I have news for you; when the Holy Spirit came into my heart, He brought one portion of God with Him that I needed desperately: **the ability to love**. It's one area of the spirit of God that we have never developed.

You see, these three: **#1 wisdom, #2 understanding, #3 counsel**, bring us to a knowledge area that we have never walked in very often, and it's called **ability**. How many of us have really cultivated that. We say, "Well I can't love that person." You could if you would allow the might of God to live in you. You could love anybody if you would allow God's ability to live in you. You could love even the unlovable; you could love the sinner. You could love your enemies if you would allow the might of God, the spirit of might, to live in you. **Through counsel we come to the knowledge that might is available.**

When people say to you, "I can't love that person," why don't you counsel them with understanding and wisdom, that they have the ability of God to love people. We want to revert back to the flesh again, just like we do in counseling. "I'll love whom I want to love. I'm not going to hate them; I like them. I love their spirit, but hate their flesh." There's something wrong there, you see. Jesus came, died, and redeemed me - spirit, soul and body. He purchased the price for a healing in my body (**Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 6:20**). He cares about every bit of me. I do have the ability to love you and care

what happens to your flesh, your spirit, and your soul, and so do you. Every one of us, if we're honest after having heard counsel, have the ability to love **ALL** men. We just don't want to develop it, but the spirit of **might** needs to be developed in our lives where we can love all men.

The children of Israel had a problem. The Lord said, "With their lips they praise me, but their hearts are far from me (**Matt 15:8**). They talk a pretty speech, but they don't really love me. They have an outward form of godliness, but they deny the power (**2 Tim 3:5**). They deny the very ability to love me."

We want people to love us, but how about us loving people. How about the scripture that says if you're going to have friends, you must show yourself friendly (**Prov. 18:24**). I had a sister who came to our church years ago, and she would always cry that no one loved her. I got down in the dumps with that woman, because I knew she was being honest, but I didn't have the answer. She said that no one ever hugged her, no one ever loved her.

One night I was praying, and I said, "Lord, I feel sorry for that woman," and the Lord said, "Why?" I said, "Because she doesn't have any friends." There was silence for a moment, then a scripture just jumped into my heart. **"A man who will have friends must show himself friendly."** The next morning when I went back to church she was there with the same complaint, and I said, "How many people did you shake hands with today. How many people did you hug today? How many people did you tell that you loved them?" Then I gave her that scripture. You'd be surprised how little of this Bible anybody knows. When you start counseling, it's a whole new world to most people. You have the might to love anyone.

2 Kings 25:24 And Gedaliah sware to them, and to their men, and said unto them, Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you.

2 Kings 25:25 But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah.

2 Kings 25:26 And all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose, and came to Egypt: for they were afraid of the Chaldees.

I want to tell you something: there is always a people trying to get you to compromise, and to put away your **right in God to the might of God**. They would rather see you compromise and come under captivity, and live with a foreign enemy rather than let the might of God set you free. There is always somebody who wants you to compromise your walk with God; because **when you walk in God's might, it brings a light of the power of Christ into your presence, and wherever that light is, it**

makes manifest all that is evil. People who love darkness do not want to walk with you. They do not want to be around you. That's why many husbands and wives say to one another, "Please! You don't need to become a fanatic." Our friends and our children say, "You don't need to become a fanatic. Just cool it! Take it in moderation; it will pass. You'll get over this; you'll outgrow it."

When I first got saved, I was higher than a kite, and I was enjoying it. It was getting better and better and better. Now I had a brother in the Lord who was a lot older than I was and I figured that he knew what he was talking about. I thought that because you were grey-headed you had more smarts. He said to me, "One of these days you are going to kind of level off." So I started jumping and shouting louder than ever, and dancing harder than ever, praising God more than ever. I figured if what he said was true, when I leveled off I wanted to be as high as I could get, but I found out that it doesn't level off. It just gets better and better and better, but there are always people who say to you, "Compromise it; cool it. Learn to live with your captives. Learn to live in just being content to have a compromised position."

2 Kings 23:24 Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.

2 Kings 23:25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all of his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

God blessed this man and wrote a record of him, because he served the Lord with all his might. He took the ability that God gave him and he served the Lord.

Paul said in **1 Cor 7:20** "***Let every man abide in the calling unto which he is called.***" Then Peter said in **1 Peter 4:10-11** that we are to minister according to the **ability** which is given unto us. Now here was a king who put away every strange God. Here was a king who turned the hearts of the people back to God. He did it because he served God with all of his heart, with all of his strength, and with all of his might. Again the word **might** means **ability, God-given ability**. Hallelujah! There is not one of you that can truthfully say, "I do not have the ability to serve God. I do not have the ability to love those that persecute me. I do not have the ability to love those who hate me." My friend, you are saying that God has lied, that this spirit of might does not work.

If we would get out of the flesh into the spirit, we could face any situation, any condition, or any individual, and we could love them. We could be like Paul, and learn to be content in whatever circumstance we find ourself (**Phil 4:11**). This king had a record written of him, and there is a record being written of your life today. If you say, "Well, Lord, I really didn't have the ability to do that." **God will say, "It was written."**

How much do we really know about this precious book called the Bible? How much do we really know about holy scripture? How much have we allowed the Holy Spirit to breathe into our hearts? We have no more ability than we have knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and counsel in our hearts.

Psa 145:1 I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name forever and ever.

Psa 145:2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.

Psa 145:3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psa 145:4 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

Psa 145:5 I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

Psa 145:6 And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.

He said, "His mighty acts; the mighty works of God," and those mighty acts are yours and mine, available today to be used. Jesus said, "The works that I do, these works shall you do and greater, because I go to be with the Father" (**John 14:12**).

It was no strain for the Lord Jesus Christ to speak the word of healing, because it wasn't Jesus who healed the sick. It was the spirit of might through Him. He said, "I do not these works of myself, but of my Father" (John 14:10). It was the ability of God almighty, flowing through a yielded vessel; the Son of God, named Jesus Christ, flowing life into dead bodies. It flowed healing into sick bodies, flowed deliverance into those that were oppressed and bound.

If we could understand something, Jesus worked under the spirit of might. He spoke the word, and **MIGHT** flowed from Him; the miraculous works of God. It means in Greek, "miraculous power." We've had all of that locked up in there for years and didn't even know it. We thought we had to be happy. We thought we had to just hold on and hang on and hope so. No! Every one of you has miraculous power; every one of you has ability, because the spirit of might is in you. If we would just for a moment quit walking in flesh, take the counsel of God, and go into the mighty acts of God, the dead would be raised.

Ecc. 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

If you are waiting to begin to do the works of God after you leave this body, forget it. God needs some human bodies today that whatever they do, they do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men (**Col 3:23**). Whether it be in word or in deed, they do it heartily.

The word of God through Jesus' own mouth said in **Luke 9:62**, "**He that puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for my kingdom.**" Whenever you put your hand to the work, you are joining the might of God to that work. You are joining the miraculous power of God, through your body, to that work. Whatever you find to do, whatever God has shown you to do, do it with **ALL the might that you have been given, ALL the ability that you have been given.**

There is nothing worse than being a half-hearted Christian or an uncommitted Christian. There is nothing worse than a person being in one day and out the next. "Yes! No! Maybe so! I hope so!, I'll try to do it." The Lord said, "Whatever you find to do, whatever it is that you are going to put your hand to, do it with **ALL of your ability, ALL of your power, ALL of your might.**" We don't do that. We put our hand to it, and say, "If it works, we'll stick with it."

How would you have liked Jesus to have said that? He was committed to the cross. He was committed to the garden. He was committed to the judgment hall. He was committed to **YOU!** He said, "**It WILL work, Father; it WILL work. I am putting My hand to it, and it IS going to prosper.**" Whatever you put your hand to shall prosper if you walk in the way of God (**Psa 1:1-3**), but if you never put your hand to it, just touch it and take it off, it will never work. When you put your hand to it, it means that you **GRAB** hold of it. Be honest about it! That's probably why our Christian walk is not as great as it should be. Our might isn't there. We have the wrong might. We have "It MIGHT work. MAYBE it will work. We'll try it for a little while and see if it works."

When God called me into the ministry, He said, "I want you to quit your job and go and preach the gospel." He didn't say "Try it for a season and see how you like it. If it doesn't work out, you can always go back and work." He didn't say that to me. **He said, "I want you to preach it with ALL of your heart, and with ALL of your mind, and with ALL of your soul, and with ALL of your might. I want you to put EVERYTHING into it."** That's why we have lukewarm Christians today. They are half committed to this, and half committed to that, and they are committed to nothing. They won't put their hands to anything unless it looks like it is going to work. If it looks like it is going to fail, they won't even touch it.

How would you like to have been a man like Nehemiah - go over to a burned out city, all torn down, with a bunch of renegade, grumbling, mumbling people who are going to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then the enemy keeps coming against you,

trying to get you to compromise. He said, "NO! I have a great work to do for God, and I'm not coming down off this wall to meet you anywhere. I'm going to **BUILD** the wall of Jerusalem" (**Neh 2:17; 6:1-15**).

There's going to be a work in our city whether we are in it or not. Somebody is going to put their hand to it, and say, "Bless God, I don't care what anybody thinks about it, I don't care what anybody says about it, I'm going to see a move of God and I'm going to be in it, because I'm going to put all the might that I have to it." God doesn't need people who don't have any might. He needs people who **HAVE** might.

Isa 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Isa 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

About the time that you think you have to give up, just keep on. About the time that you think that all ability is gone, all miraculous power is drained out, just keep on, because it won't be long until the refreshing will come, and the strength of God will begin to flow through you again.

Gal 6:9 Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Many times what we do today looks right, so we'll join it. We have a big move of God going, so we'll jump in it. God said, "No, I don't want you to do that. I want you to get with that little group over there, with that shouting, jumping, bunch of renegades. I want you to go over there and I don't want you to **TRY** to join them; I don't want you to test it; I want you to **JUMP** into it and fasten yourself to the work."

"Well, Brother Krider, you know I have to be careful of my reputation." If you're careful of your reputation, you aren't going to join anything. The first thing that Jesus did was make himself of **NO** reputation (**Phil 2:7**). It would be a wise thing for us to do. The Lord is going to have a move. He has one now, but He is going to increase it, and He is not going to use people after the wisdom of this world. He's going to take those who have put their hand to the plow, and have said, "God, whatever the rocks are, whatever the depth of this plow must go, whatever the field that I am going to plow, I'm going to plow. I'm going to plow, and I'm not turning back. I'm not looking back; I'm not regretting anything that I've left. I'm not wanting to go back there. I have my eyes on the goal and I'm going to plow this field till the end."

This makes me want to dance. I would have fit right into David's program. He said, "I'll dance before the Lord," and I would have been right there with him.

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory...

Not according to the Bank of America, nor anything else.

Eph 3:16 ...to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

He said, "My prayer for you is this: that the might of God would be in you. The ability of God, the miraculous power of God, would begin to strengthen you with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints (when all else fails) what is the breadth and length and depth and height;

Eph 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

God wants that **INNER MAN** to be strengthened, to grow up, to be powerful.

When God communed with His Son, He communed with His mind. It was the mind of Christ. It was a mind which WAS in Christ (**Phil 2:5**). **Heb 1:3** says that Jesus was the express image of God. Whenever God said, "Do it!", the might, the ability, the power of God raised up through Jesus and accomplished it. No wonder that when He revealed Himself to the captors who came to take Him to the judgment hall to crucify Him, they fell back when He said, "It is I" (**John 18:4-6**). All the power of God, for a moment, was unleashed in a human body. If He had kept saying that, they would have never taken Him; every time He revealed Himself, they would have fallen down. The power of God, the mind of God, the miraculous power, the spirit of might was flowing through Him.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

My strength today and my power, are from His might. His miraculous power is in the spirit, called the spirit of might, and so our strength today and our power are in **HIS might**. I don't have to go out and try to be powerful. I already am! I don't have to go out and lift weights or anything. If I need to move something, I could move it. If there was something that had to be done, God could use any one of us to do it.

It is recorded in history that there was a mother who saw her son hit by a train. The train wrecked and fell upon her child, and she went to the engine of that locomotive and picked it up. That is recorded history. If a human body could summon that kind of power because it loved its child, how much more could we summon the power of almighty God if we had the compassion of God; if we understood who really dwelled within us; if we understood that by speaking the word alone, we could bring into focus those things that are not, as though they were.

I was in Brazil a few years back, ministering with this brother. I almost jumped out of my skin when he reached over to a man who had a little hand sticking out of his shoulder, and said, "In the name of Jesus," and pulled the whole arm out! Why? It wasn't him! It was the spirit of might; the miraculous power of God that he had learned to loose through his life by compassion. He reached into that body and made a brand new arm.

We don't believe, but we are going to start believing. People in those countries are not all primed up against the power of God. They are not all hyped up against God not being able to do it. Their only hope is in God; if they don't get God, they don't get healed. If they don't get God, they don't get delivered. If they don't get God, they starve to death. We have become so dependent upon everything else, that God's power of might and glory never works in us anymore. But it's going to!

Jer 32:19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

"Great in counsel, and mighty in work." Glory! **HE IS MIGHTY!** One of His names is **the MIGHTY GOD! (Isaiah 9:6)** The Lord our God in the midst of thee is **MIGHTY (Zeph 3:17)**. That spirit in the midst of us is **MIGHTY**. The work of that spirit is **MIGHTY**. There is nothing weak about God. There is nothing failing about God. There is nothing compromising about God. His works are **MIGHTY**. The church is going to begin to live in these realms; we had better get into them ourselves.

One of the sisters had a vision about a train. This train was just starting off and beginning to speed up; it was going faster and faster. It was the move of God. Now it is not easy to get onto a train that is going fast. I lived around hobo camps, and those old boys would wait until the train got into a certain position where it had to slow down real slow, and then they would jump on, or they would jump off. We were filthy rags until we got onto this train. We were hobos until we got on it. We had no might nor power until we got on this train. That train is everything that God has, and it is speeding up. Glory to God, the closer it gets to home, the faster it is going. If you are going to get on, you had better get on now. If you try to jump off when it is going fast, you are going to kill yourself.

2 Cor 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Cor 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

True knowledge, to be revealed to you, has to have a powerful spirit to tear down all your old knowledge; to cast away all the old wisdom and understanding. Having received counsel, you need to begin to let that spirit of might work in you, and everything that you have imagined, let it be destroyed. Everything that has exalted itself against the knowledge of God, **let the power of HIS MIGHT** destroy it, until there is nothing left in you but the working of the Holy Spirit of the Lord. Glory!

Acts 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

Acts 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Acts 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

It takes a powerful spirit to get a man to burn his books and to get rid of all his former knowledge. It takes the powerful mighty spirit, but when that Spirit of God is loosed through the church, people are going to be converted. People are going to be changed. They are going to be convinced to get rid of all their former knowledge, so the power and might of God's spirit might be declared and seen. The church is going to grow exceedingly, and it will **PREVAIL!**

Jesus said, "Upon this rock I shall build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16:18). THE CHURCH IS GOING TO PREVAIL AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL! Praise the Lord!

1 Kings 22:41 And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

1 Kings 22:42 Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

1 Kings 22:43 And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

1 Kings 22:44 And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

1 Kings 22:45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he shewed, and how he warred, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

He did a good job but he had one little problem: he left some groves around town (**2 Kings 17:10-12; Exodus 34:13-14**). It's recorded forever in the book of **HIS MIGHT**. Today it's being recorded in the book of **YOUR MIGHT**. You will not be able to say, "Lord, I didn't have the ability. I didn't have the power."

GOD WILL SIMPLY SAY TO YOU, "IT WAS WRITTEN."

AMEN!

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 6

"SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE"

We have gone through four of the seven spirits already. We've done wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might. In this chapter we are going to take one of the most precious things that God has, as far as I am concerned. It is called "**KNOWLEDGE**." God continually tells us that we need this kind of knowledge to be in our lives and hearts.

I want you to see something in *Exodus 31:3*: "***And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.***" He says the same thing in *Exodus 35:31*, talking about men who were going to work in the temple. We learned earlier that they had to have wisdom and understanding, but they went beyond that; they had to have knowledge. This is not knowledge of carnal realms. It is beyond that knowledge. I want to show you that in this chapter.

I love Hosea. He had a lot of good things going on. He had some wisdom that we need to have in the church today, some real wisdom.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

He said, "**...because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:**" There is a truth here, that it is easy to reject knowledge without realizing we do it. Many times we revert back to our own knowledge, and we reject God's knowledge. We go again by what we see, what we hear, or what understanding we have in the natural. But Hosea said, "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: (or you shall not be priests unto me anymore.)**" In *Hosea 6:6* he said there was a knowledge of God that they had rejected. Now God's knowledge is not a knowledge **ABOUT** God; it is **God's KNOWLEDGE**. It is not a knowledge about how He is; it is **simply having HIS knowledge working in us**. This is a long subject so I want to lay quite a bit of foundation for you today. I want to show you something in **2 Peter**.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

He is not talking to the world; he is talking to believers.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

It really says **"...through God's knowledge."** The reason the church does not have multiplied grace and peace is not because they do not read the Bible. It is not because they do not attend church. It is simply because they have tried to interpret everything in their own knowledge. God said there is a knowledge of God, or God's knowledge, that is available to us that will multiply grace and peace to us. If we counsel with God's knowledge, what is the first thing that will be multiplied in a person's life? Grace and peace! There are two things that the church needs today: grace and peace. There are two things that people need today: grace and peace.

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God (but he doesn't stop there) **and of Jesus our Lord.**" There is a two-fold knowledge here that is available to us. When he said the "knowledge of Jesus Christ," he was talking about the mind that was in Christ Jesus that was able to know God; that was able to have the mind of God. That mind was able to know what God was thinking, and what He was doing, and what He was saying.

The church wants to operate in carnal knowledge. They want to operate in what they see, what they hear, and what they feel. You might as well say "Amen" because it is true. So when they counsel people, they don't bring grace and peace and freedom and liberty to them. They bring bondage and doctrines of men. They bring church doctrines into the picture.

Here he said, "I have given you the knowledge of God (or God's knowledge) with the mind of Christ, so you would know how to minister." Our big problem is that we try to counsel to the natural mind. The world raises up psychiatrists to do the job, and people still end up in torment. But you see, the church was to go far beyond that. The church wasn't to wrestle with flesh and blood. The church was to fight against principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness (**Eph 6:12**). The church was designed to go to the inner man and begin to work where the problem really originates. It originates in the spirit of man, and no amount of psychiatry can handle that. No amount of man's wisdom can handle that. You see, it takes God's knowledge to deal with His creation. He created it; He can solve the problem. He can take care of it.

We go to men and we use men's knowledge to try to take care of a spiritual problem. It will never work. It is like treating a cancer by trying to take care of it on the outside. It won't work. You can cover it up with a bandage for a little while and say, "I

don't have it. I don't really have it. I have a bandage over it," and that is man's answer to everything. It's a temporary solution; just anything that works for the moment. But God's answer is not that. It is to go inward to where the source of the problem really is, and begin by knowledge (God's knowledge) to dig it out and to heal the problem.

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

OR HIS KNOWLEDGE. When you walk in this knowledge, you cease from worry. You cease from stress. You cease from all of the things that affect the natural man, because you begin to realize something: you are only wearing him. He is not the master; he just becomes the house. **Jesus, as the son of God, was faithful over ALL of His house. Heb 3:2 says that Moses, as a servant, was faithful IN his house.** But you see, God has brought us to a powerful place in the Lord, that we don't have to be faithful **IN** our house; **we can be faithful OVER our house.** Paul said, "I do always bring my body and keep it under subjection"(1 Cor 9:27).

Jesus said, "I have brought you into the Kingdom of God. I have brought you into a more powerful realm." And here He said, "**I have given you MY knowledge.**" We have come short of the mark. Today we can change all of that. We can let the knowledge of God, God's knowledge, begin to work in us.

I've been asked if I worry about anything. I said, "NO!" You show me one thing that Jesus is worried about, and I'll worry about it. I'm **IN** the world, I'm not **OF** it. I'm just passing through. It is a temporary location. I'm here to handle the problems of people. I'm here to point them toward Jesus Christ. I'm here to show them the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, through counsel, to give them what they really need. Sense knowledge tells me that I have to take care of myself. God's knowledge tells me that I can't. Sense knowledge tells me that I had better be careful how I talk, because I may offend somebody with this word. God's knowledge tells me to tell it just like it is, for many shall be offended for the word's sake (**Mark 4:17**).

The church has panty-waisted so long, nobody knows where to make a decision anymore. They don't know where the line is. They don't know right from wrong. They don't know anything because true counsel has been hidden for years. It's time that the counsel of God came in knowledge, and in understanding, and in wisdom; not man's knowledge. We have had enough of that. We had better get to God's knowledge. We had better walk in a place where we no longer see after the seeing of the eye, or the hearing of the ear, but we better begin to walk by faith.

I like this! It set me free when I saw that was God's knowledge in there. I didn't have to do it anymore in my strength or in my might or in my power. I just walk along in **HIS knowledge** now. **He said, "I will supply ALL of your need" (Phil 4:19).** I don't have to worry about needs anymore. Hallelujah! He said that He will take care of me.

I'll never have to go begging. I'll never be ashamed. That's His knowledge given to me. Praise the Lord! So I am just going to go on shouting, singing, and praising God!

I'm not OF the world; I'm IN it. That is God's knowledge. I'm not affected by it. **I should affect it.** "Well, Brother Krider, this thing really doesn't make sense to me." It never will. It will only make sense to the inward man. It's the inward man who is being strengthened with all might. It's the inward man who is growing up into the stature and the likeness of the son of God. It's the inner man that God is going to absolutely cause to be of the stature of Jesus Christ. It's the inward man that God is going to bring forth one of these days.

It's time the church stood up and served notice on the world that they are going to begin to see the salvation of God revealed to the world; the healing power of Christ revealed to the world; the wisdom of God, and the understanding of God, and the counsel of God, and the might of God, and the knowledge of God revealed and manifested through His body to the world.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

You can always tell if they are from God or if they are given of God, because this is what they will be doing:

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

They will not preach a flesh gospel. In fact, if you live in the flesh they will probably make you mad more than they will make you glad. They are not interested in the world or the things of the world. They are interested in saving souls. They are interested in the church coming into perfection. They are interested in the work of the ministry.

We haven't seen the work of **THE ministry** as yet. We have seen the work of ministries, but we haven't seen that **ONE body with ONE MIND, ONE spirit, ONE accord, speaking the same things everywhere.** The ministry of reconciliation (**2 Cor 5:18**). It is going to begin to come forth in power where no member is more preeminent than another. It will be like the day of Pentecost. The power of God will be so real that when anyone stands up to speak, it will be the Holy Ghost speaking through them. Multitudes will be saved because of the power of that ministry.

We have gone in error. We have tried to build **OUR** ministry. That's wrong! Any person that comes from God is interested in building **THE ministry, perfecting THE saints, edifying THE body of Christ.** I like that! It's easy to know if God sends a man or a woman, because they are going to be doing some work that will be profitable for the Kingdom of God, not for themselves. They are going to do it until we all come into the unity of the faith.

I want to share something with you: **WE ARE ONE**. We are not going to be any more ONE than we are now. The thing that is lacking is that unity of one mind, of one accord. We are ONE, because if we have believed in Jesus Christ, if we have been born of the Spirit of God, WE ARE ONE. We can't be any more ONE than we are, but we can certainly come into a closer unity than we are. The ministry that comes from God is going to be preaching a ministry in unity to the body of Christ; not separation, not taking away, but adding to and building in the spiritual body of Christ.

I'm not talking about a physical church. I'm talking about the spirit church. We've had too much physical church for too long now. That is what separated us from one another even though we were ONE. We were taught doctrines and denominationalism, and this and that, and separated ourselves from one another, yet we were ONE and we fought one another. The world looked and said, "They are a bunch of hypocrites down there. The Baptists don't like the Pentecosts, the Pentecostals don't like the Lutherans, and the Presbyterians don't like this one, and the Holiness don't like that one, etc." Jesus said in **John 17:21** that the world was going to believe that God had sent Jesus when they see ONE. **When ALL they see is ONE, they are going to know and believe that God had sent Jesus Christ. That is God's knowledge.**

Eph. 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God...

God's knowledge, with the mind of Christ. We preach everything in the world. We preach healing, deliverance, prosperity, and everything. I'm saying to you that they are all real, and they are all true, but they do not bring unity. They bring separation. Lots of times they will bring condemnation because if a person doesn't have something, he gets under condemnation because he has been confessing scripture all week, and it hasn't worked for him. Don't get mad! I'm not picking on anybody, but I'm saying to you:

WE NEED TO PREACH CHRIST. WE NEED TO BUILD UP THE BODY. WE NEED TO BEGIN TO FLOW TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT, AND THE ONLY WAY WE ARE GOING TO DO IT, IS WHEN WE COME INTO GOD'S KNOWLEDGE, AND BEGIN TO PREACH CHRIST.

You get into men's knowledge and they are going to build their own ministry. **You get into God's knowledge, and all it's going to build is ONE body. He is going to build THE body.** You see, you need that for counsel. You need to have enough knowledge to know whether you are counseling out of your own mind or the mind of God.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

He certainly is not talking about a flesh man. He is talking about a spirit man. Until we all grow up into maturity. Until we all grow up into the fulness and the stature of Christ. We are so busy trying to grow up, we forget the one next to us, instead of reaching out and saying, "Let us grow up together." We put them off in a corner; we put them in the nursery. I'm talking about spiritual baby Christians. We just tuck them away; we haven't got time to mess with them. The word of God says we shall grow up together. Until we all grow up together. I want to get that into your heart. I've got news for you: you're not going to come into the stature of God without the others. **"Till we ALL!"**

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things; which is the head, even Christ.

Read the rest of it when you can. God's desire for the church is that they will no longer walk in their knowledge, in their own carnal knowledge, or sight or hearing, or the five-sense realm, which is sensual wisdom (**James 3:15**), but they will begin to walk with God's mind. They will begin to judge after the mind of Christ and not after the mind of men. They will not separate themselves from one another, but they will begin with all diligence to build up and strive to keep the unity -- the bond of unity. They will begin to work together.

It's not hard to know a man or woman who is sent of God. They come with one message. It is always the same message: **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**. Praise God! Begin to care, begin to build another up in faith, edify the body, press toward the mark of the high calling. **Get into a place where God can work through you by HIS knowledge. Amen!**

We read **Daniel 2:14-21** earlier, but we need to read it again.

Dan 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

Dan 2:15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

Dan 2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: (which were the three children in the fiery furnace)

Dan 2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

We're going to go to a couple of more verses, but look at this. First of all, Daniel sent and got some believers, and joined himself together and **THEY SOUGHT THE LORD. THEY GOT TOGETHER.** Daniel wasn't so desirous of **HIS** ministry that he was going to go running in to the king with some kind of a big interpretation, but he humbled himself and sent to the other three brothers and began to desire from God the mercies of God. God began to give him His knowledge through a vision because he had spent time seeking the Lord.

We wonder why we have nightmares. We wonder why we have unrest at night. It's because our minds are cluttered with everything in the world, and God can't get through to talk to us. Do you want God to talk to you at night? Then spend some time with Him before you go to bed. Begin to lay before the Lord, begin to bow before God, and speak to Him, love Him, and desire to know the things of God. When you are asleep at night, He will talk to you. He still speaks in dreams and visions, but guess who they will always glorify. They will glorify God. Amen!

Dan 2:19 Then was the secret revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Dan 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

Dan 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.

Do you see how it comes into order now? Wisdom the principal thing, understanding, counsel, might, and when you have those, God is going to give you knowledge. Going to build on it.

I want to show you something in **Luke 11:52**. It's something we need to understand, and it will put a little of the righteous fear of God in our hearts. Start with the **49th verse**, but I want you to underline **verse 52** and get it into your heart.

Luke 11:49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

Luke 11:50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Luke 11:52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

Knowledge is a key. Knowledge opens things to you. Quoting scripture does not open things to you. There are many books written on wisdom and knowledge. It is said that the Egyptians had many of the keys of knowledge, and were able through some kind of wisdom and knowledge to build the huge pyramids that we see today. There is a knowledge beyond what the Egyptians had. There is a knowledge that fills heaven and earth that is available to you today. There is a knowledge that will open the mind of God to you today. **It's called the key of knowledge.**

They threw the entrance to the Kingdom of God away, and the Kingdom was taken from them. Why? Because they had rejected God's knowledge. If you think that we are going to rule in that Kingdom without that knowledge, you are mistaken. If they could not enter it without knowledge, you cannot enter without knowledge. I am not talking about sensual knowledge. I'm not talking about worldly knowledge. I'm talking about a knowledge that comes through the mind of God. I'm talking about a knowledge that belongs only to God and his people.

We have not availed ourself to the knowledge of God. We have ministered according to man's desires and dictates, and man's wisdom and man's knowledge. Therefore we have never ministered real depth of the word of God. All we have ever ministered is barely enough to get people saved. Some of these people do not minister the Kingdom of God, because they have thrown that key away also, and they will not press into the Kingdom of God. They are afraid of it. They do not want it, because they are afraid that it will crucify the old man. And, it will! **IT WILL!** It will put your old man away with all of his fear, doubt, unbelief, anger, malice, envy, and strife. **It will cause him to die to self, to come alive to Christ.**

I am showing you what the word of God says, friends. If you are going to get mad, get mad at God. He wrote it. Amen! He is trying to give you His knowledge. His desire is to give you His knowledge. Isn't that something. We fight against receiving His knowledge. We fight against it, because it doesn't register in the natural realm. **Jesus could walk upon troubled waters because He knew He had power over the**

troubled waters. He didn't need to calm them for Himself. He didn't need to calm the wind for Himself. It was for His unbelieving disciples. He was already walking on the waters. It wasn't bothering Him.

Sometimes we make light of the Jews because they threw away the key of knowledge (the lawyers and the ones who were learned in the things of God). We kind of make fun of them. But if we are honest in our heart, we do the same thing all the time. A favorite cop-out is "I don't know! I don't know!" But you can know, because God has given you the spirit of might to know - the ability to know..

It all comes in order. **Wisdom, the principal thing, understanding of the principal thing, counsel, and then He gives you the spirit of might to open knowledge to you, the ability to obtain the knowledge of God.** It is not given to you because of degrees that you have behind your name. It is not given to you because of any standing in the physical man. It is given to whomsoever will apply their heart to know - those who will search diligently after it (**Isa 55:2; Heb 11:6**). I am going to show you how we can obtain this knowledge. It pertains to wisdom, it pertains to joy, but look!

Ecc. 2:26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy...

Where do you get it from? **YOU GET IT FROM GOD!** "Oh, I thought that we got salvation from God." **We get everything from God. He is our source. Jesus Christ is our head. It's the head that feeds the body, and that head takes in the very knowledge of God and brings it into the body, and it is supposed to be digested among us.**

The only gift God ever really wanted to give to the church was the five-fold ministry so they could perfect the church. We settle for the word of knowledge when we could have **KNOWLEDGE**. Knowledge is available to us. God gives it, but because we do not spend enough time with God, because we have so many other things to do that just **have** to be done, we wonder why, when a situation comes up, we don't know how to handle it.

Only God gives knowledge, and He only gives it to those who are good in His sight. The only one who can be any good in His sight is one that is dead to self but alive to Christ. A man who is trusting in the Lord. A man who has been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. A person who is no longer living to the desires of the world, but is living only to do the will of God. So here in **Ecc.** the Lord said, "**God giveth to a man that is good in His sight...**" Not in YOUR sight. You can call people good all day and that is not going to impress God. Amen?

I remember the time I was preaching a revival, and there was a tremendous revival of God. The power of God was moving, and I made a call for people who needed anything to come to the front. These two people brought down a girl about 16 years old. I asked her what she wanted and she said, "I want the baptism of the Holy

Ghost." I started to put my hands on her and God said, "Don't touch her; she is not even saved." I said, "Who told you what you needed?" This one sister said, "I told her," and I said, "Honey, you were wrong." I looked at the girl, and I said, "You desire a good thing, but you know you need to give your life to Christ first." She went to the altar and started praying. Twenty minutes later she came up speaking in tongues.

Man's knowledge had indicated that the girl needed something, and because of man's knowledge discerning what she needed, they missed God. We are prone to call people good that God calls evil, and call people evil that God calls good, because we judge after the seeing of the eye and the hearing of the ear. God knows who is good and God knows who is evil. I'm going to let **HIM** do it. I'm going to let **HIM** make the decisions. I'm going to let **HIM** pass His knowledge down to me of what **HE** wants to do.

Ecc 7:12 For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

Not just knowledge, but **the excellency of knowledge**. The excellency of knowledge, when it becomes your total desire to have the mind of Christ in you, to have God's knowledge imparted in every area of your life in decision making. This will put a little fear of God in your heart, and that is what we want, isn't it. Now when you counsel people and they say, "Well, if I had this, if I had that, I could serve God," you just tell them, "What you need is wisdom. You don't need things; you need wisdom. You don't need stuff; you need wisdom." The excellency of knowledge does not speak of carnal things. That's why grace and peace can be multiplied to you because regardless of what is going on around you, **that knowledge from God says, "I will take care of you. I will provide for you."**

The three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace had the knowledge from God (**Dan 3:16-25**). They were not afraid of it; they went into it boldly. Daniel in the lion's den was not afraid of it (**Dan 6:16-23**). He went boldly into it. He had a certain knowledge that God would take care of him. Isn't that great! When you have knowledge like this, you aren't afraid of anything any more. You are not afraid of people. You are not afraid of the times. You're not afraid of seasons. You are not afraid of speaking the truth because that knowledge is telling you, **"I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world"** (**Matt 28:20**).

Ecc 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge;

When a wise man or a wise woman whom God sends, comes among you, they will teach you one thing, something that will reveal the knowledge of God to you. They will not speak of the world or the things of the world. They will impart knowledge to you, praise God! That will set you free and cause you to rise up and be strong in the Lord. When you counsel, wouldn't it be better to impart that kind of knowledge to people?

Wouldn't it be good to be known as a wise counselor? If you are going to be called a wise counselor, you are going to have to do it with knowledge, aren't you. You are going to have to impart knowledge to people's hearts. I want to show you some things that do happen in life if we aren't careful.

Isaiah 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge:...

We read it, "because they have no money, or they have no position in life; they have no big education." That is happening in the world today. We are trying to educate people so they can love one another and get along better. We bus them all over the country trying to make them equal. The only place anybody can ever be equal is in Jesus Christ. There are many men who are more equal than I am in the world's standards. I'm sure of that, but I could care less about that. The place where I want to be equal is in Jesus Christ, and **He makes us all ONE in Him**. The way it reads is this:

Isaiah 5:13 My people are gone into captivity, because they have no KNOWLEDGE: and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Why? Because there is no knowledge. They have not the knowledge of the most high God. Why has the church had so many problems with it? Because the knowledge isn't there. The knowledge is not imparted to the people.

The unwise ministries are not preaching knowledge. They're not teaching, they're not imparting knowledge to people. When they come into town everybody has a good time, and when they leave, they are not changed. But the wise minister comes with a plow and he digs you up, and he shakes you up, and he stirs you up, and he pops you right out into the sunlight. Every hidden thing is laying right there, and the knowledge of God has been left with you to do something about it. Amen? God isn't going to change it, so you might as well enjoy it. HE will never change it. He said they perish because they have no knowledge. They go into bondage. They go into captivity.

The church of this nation is the richest church in the world next to the Roman Empire church. In the membership of the American church there is more wealth than there is in most foreign countries. So the reason we are in captivity isn't because we don't have wealth. It's because we do not have knowledge, and we get into captivity of fear, and get into captivity of doubt, and captivity of unbelief, and all kinds of things are ministered to us. Because we have no knowledge of how to fight them and put them away, we go into captivity to them.

Jesus says, "Take no thought" (**Matt 6:19-34**) and man says that you had better start providing for yourself. I went through all of this stuff. I was working out my retirement fund until one day God said, "Who told you that you were going to retire?" He said, "There isn't any retirement for Christians. I've called you to preach and when I get through with you preaching, I'll take you home. When I get through with you

spreading the word, I'm going to take you home. But as long as I've called you and as long as I have ordained you, I'm going to take care of you, and I don't want you to trust in the arm of flesh. The minute you trust in the arm of flesh in your own understanding and your own knowledge, you're going down the tubes, but if you trust in the Lord, you'll never be ashamed." I said, "OK, God. Here it is, all yours. I'm yours. Take care of me. I can't take care of myself."

We have let thoughts like this come into our minds: "God takes care of them that take care of themselves. God helps them that help themselves." I've got news for you. God helps those that **CAN'T** take care of themselves, and acknowledge it. If you can take care of yourself, you don't need God. That's been our trouble. We have been taking care of ourself too long. It's time that we threw ourself on the mercies of God like Daniel did, and said, "Oh God, show mercy. Speak to our hearts. Give us a vision. Let us have knowledge of this thing." That hurts sometimes. I get stabbed every once in a while with that thing. I get run over and ground up every now and then. I'm serious! Every time I teach something like this, that plow hits me about six times, quicker than I know what's going on. Then I start to revert back to the natural, and God says, "What did you preach?" "I'm sorry, Lord," I say.

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

We should be like this today, because this is actually a reflection of the 1000 year reign with Christ. Daniel said that mountain grew and it filled the whole earth (**Dan 2:35**). We are the mountain of God. We are Mt. Zion. This mountain is beginning to grow. The Kingdom of God is beginning to grow now. The body of Christ is beginning to shape up and spread out across the earth, and He said, "**...in all my holy mountain.**"

There should be such a peace in our lives. That peace should be so multiplied to us, that grace should be so multiplied through the knowledge of God, that in His holy mountain we are not going to hurt nor devour one another. **There will be seen ONE God, there will be seen ONE people, there will be seen ONE Lord, there will be seen ONE faith, there will be seen ONE baptism, there will be seen ONE in Christ, in His holy mountain.**

Let's read it again: "**They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain.**" In Zion, in the church, they will not hurt one another. "That church hurt me." No, the **CHURCH** didn't hurt you. It was the physical church that hurt you. You put your trust in a physical church, and that's why you got hurt. But if you had put your trust in the Lord, you could have been chopped to pieces but not been hurt. You could have been raked over the coals and spoken evil of, and not have been hurt. But because our trust has been in men and in the knowledge of men, we have not walked where God has wanted us to, so continually people have been hurt. People are being destroyed because the

Church will not rise up into the knowledge of God and let grace and peace be multiplied unto them.

"For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Oh, glory! It's happening! You see, knowledge hasn't been preached. We kept throwing the key away, and we preached everything else. We built all kinds of ministries and forsook THE ministry. Natural knowledge tells you to worry about yourself growing up, and to forget the other guy. Every man for himself. God's knowledge tells you to love one another, to care for one another, to be sure that one another is taken care of. Isn't that beautiful?

"And by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, in that you can prophesy, work miracles, and signs and wonders are among you." Isn't that what it reads? **NO!** It says, **"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, in that you have LOVE one for another"**(John 13:35). That is God's knowledge. "Well, Brother Krider, if I don't prophesy etc, they won't know that I'm spiritual." If you can sit down and be quiet, they'll know you are spiritual. If you don't try to call attention to yourself, that's when they know you are spiritual.

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." You know, if you stay in the word of God, there is a washing of the water of the word (**Eph 5:26**), that washes away the old knowledge and imparts the new knowledge. It washes away the old wisdom and bring God's wisdom. It washes away the old understanding and puts in God's understanding. It washes away the old counsel and puts in God's counsel. It washes away the old knowledge and brings in God's knowledge.

One thing we don't see much of today is consistency in a Christian's walk. He is affected by everything that affects the world, isn't he? Think about it for a minute, most Christians are that way. I was that way at one time. I was affected by the gas pump prices. I was affected by coffee prices. I was affected by just about anything that you could be affected by, until one day the Lord gave me these scriptures in **Isaiah 33:5-6**:

Isa 33:5 The Lord is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

Isa 33:6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

Now look at it. No matter what time you are living in, no matter what situation you are in, wisdom and knowledge shall cause you to be stable. God's wisdom and God's knowledge will cause you to be stable. Isn't that great?

I remember the "Fox's book of Martyrs", the only book I've really read except the Bible, and in it was an account of some young Christians that were going to be burned alive at the stake, and one of the young Christians was fearful in his heart. Thank God

for this brother, older in the Lord, who said to him, "Look, I WILL GO FIRST. I will hold my hand up as long as I feel no pain." And it said that after the flesh was consumed off his body, his skeleton hand was still in the air. You see, he had certain knowledge as Paul did, **"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day" (2 Tim 1:12)**. His stability was in his wisdom and knowledge that God had granted to him. No matter what they did to the physical man, it was never going to affect his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Knowledge is so beautiful when it is the knowledge of God. There is a knowledge that puffeth up, the worldly knowledge, and the knowledge of flesh man puffeth up (**I Cor. 8:1**). Oh, we like people to come along and tell us how wise we are. How we like to excel in schools, how we like to excel on our jobs, because we want people to know that we are really the smartest, but how many of us really try to excel in Christ? Really think about that! How many of us try to excel in God?

The only qualification that you have to have to excel in Christ, is to have the will to do it; a desire to do it. You can be 100 years old and excel in Christ. You can be 10 years old and excel in Christ. You can be male or female and excel in Christ. It doesn't make any difference. God doesn't care whether you are young or whether you are old. He doesn't care whether you are male or female. He doesn't even look at that. He looks at your spirit, at your heart. **He judges according to the heart, not to the outward appearance (I Sam 16:7)**. He says that everyone of us can excel in the knowledge of God, knowing how to handle every situation. I think it's great myself.

Isa 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand...

All the water, all the water of the earth, all the seas, the oceans, the rain that we see, He put it in the hollow of His hand, and He measured it. Then He said, "That'll be enough." Here He has the little globe over here in one hand, and He said, "That will be enough water," and He took His hand out from under it. See what kind of God you are serving today, and we are so concerned about who is going to be king and president of this world. Wouldn't you rather trust a God like this? As far as I'm concerned, I would much rather trust a God like this than a God of flesh.

Isa 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Isa 40:13 Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Isa 40:14 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

Nobody taught God knowledge. We really have reversed this thing, you know, because many times when it comes down to a decision, we say, "Well, I know what to do." We're telling God, "Move over, God, let me counsel you a minute. You really don't know how to handle my situation. You don't really know the pressure I'm in, so I'm going to do anything it takes to get out from under this pressure." And God said, "**NO, NO, wait upon the Lord. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord**"(Exo 14:13). "No, no, no. I'm getting out of this situation." Counseling God, aren't we. Giving God some knowledge on how to operate the universe, and He just simply measured it out in the hollow of His hand.

Isa 40:15 Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

Isa 40:16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

Isa 40:17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

You should read this once in awhile. This is the God that just spoke, and everything came into being. He measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, weighed the mountains in a scale, and put them out here, looked at the earth and the specks of dust. Boy, how vain we are; how full of vanity we are. Back to the dust you shall return, but the spirit goeth back to God who gave it (Gen 3:19; Ecc 12:7). **The only reason that we can be thankful today is because one day Jesus Christ visited this planet and looked at the specks of dust called men, and said, "I love them and I will die for them." GOD'S KNOWLEDGE.**

Isa 47:10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

Did you ever find yourself in that situation? "I'll run my own life. I'll kinda dictate the terms to it." God has said there are two kinds of knowledge. There is a human knowledge, the worldly knowledge, the knowledge of this world, and it will not work. The knowledge of this world will puff up your flesh. It will cause you to desire men to follow after your fleshly wisdom and knowledge. Many times we fall into that snare if we are not careful. Someone will come along and say, "Oh, brother, that was just a rip-roaring service." It's true, it was!. But it's what I do with the knowledge that I have received. Am I going to receive that into my flesh and say, "Oh, praise God, I've finally arrived." Or am I just going to turn that around and say, "**It was the Holy Ghost.**"

Paul continually fought this battle, and I think many good ministers find that people want to build them up. Many do not do it out of meanness or unkindness. The

Corinthian church said, "We have a church to Paul, we have a church to Apollos," and Paul said, "Who in the world is Paul, who is Apollos? They are men by whom the gift of God was sent to you" **(1 Cor 3:4-9)**.

People are going to start trying to puff you up when you begin to work in counsel and you begin to give wise counsel. They are not going to do it meaningfully or out of a spirit of hardness, but they are going to do it because they appreciate what you have just done for them. This is where you have to walk in the fear of the Lord, and say, "Listen, I am just a vessel. What you have received is from the Lord. Let us glorify God together."

The Lord is trying to impart wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to us today, and He is simply saying, "Be careful, for there is a knowledge that looks a lot like the knowledge of God. The only difference is one of them will set the captive free, and one of them will bind a person to you." You cannot possibly get puffed up in God's knowledge, because you cannot get it from the world. It came to you through the Spirit of the Lord. Isn't that great! It was imparted to you through the Spirit. With that admonition, let us move on.

Isa 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

There is a power in knowledge. There is a justification power in knowledge. It was by the knowledge of His righteous servant that many are justified. There is a washing in the water of the word **(Eph 5:26)**. There is a cleansing that we are commanded to have, both of the flesh and of the spirit. There is a cleansing power, and the more that the knowledge of God works in you, it cleanses you away from the power of darkness. It sets you aside, and the ability of sin to grab hold of you is less, and less, and less as you begin to walk in true knowledge.

Isn't it amazing what Jesus said when He spoke to His disciples. He said, "I'm not going to speak much to you after this, because the prince of this world cometh, and He hath nothing in me" **(John 14:30)**. That knowledge causes you to be like Paul, and says, "We KNOW the cunning devices of him" **(2 Cor 2:11)**. As you grow in the spirit of knowledge and begin to walk in that, it separates you farther, and farther, and farther away from the powers of darkness. It begins to cause you to walk in a place of just being set aside totally through that knowledge, and that is what justification does. It separates you away.

You are justified unto salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. Then He begins to justify the Spirit work in your life, until you cease from your own knowledge and begin to put on the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Through His knowledge there is a justifying power, there is a safety power, there is a changing of your values, there is a changing of your attitude, there is a changing of your mind, until you recognize the cunning devices of Satanic powers.

No wonder the world continually seeks after knowledge. They realize something. Knowledge has a power, but they have missed it. They are seeking after worldly knowledge. The one thing the world tries to impress on all people is higher education. More books today are sold on more subjects than at any time in our life. There are more institutes of learning today than there has ever been in all of our days. Why? Because the value in people's minds is that if we get educated enough, we can learn to live at peace with one another. The only problem is, it is the wrong knowledge. It is only knowledge that comes from the spirit of knowledge by the Spirit of the Lord, that will cause you to grow up and be able to be a peacemaker and to live at peace with all men.

There is a place in Christ when the spirit of knowledge really begins to work in you, that a justifying power sets you apart and puts you out of unrest, unbelief, doubt, and frustration, and brings you over into peace, joy, and righteousness. Glory to God! It translates you. It is through that knowledge of His righteous servant, the Lord Jesus Christ, that many are justified.

Let's look at **Isaiah 53:11** again. I want you to see it. ***"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many."*** In Christ you are complete. In Him there are the seven spirits of God working together continually. When you begin to work in those seven spirits of God, there is a setting apart. You know how to possess your vessel (**1 Thess 4:4**). Know how to possess this thing! Know how to take control over it!

Jer 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Many times we are fed by newspapers from the pulpit. We are fed by a lot of facts from the world from the pulpit, and we get a lecture from the pulpit, but in **Neh 8:4** the word pulpit appears, and it said that **the pulpit was for the reading of the word**. It was not for broadcasts; it was not for just getting up and talking. It was for the word of God. It was for imparting knowledge and understanding. **God said, "I'm going to give you some pastors. I'm going to give you some shepherds under me. I'm going to give you some leaders. I'm going to give you some counsellors, and they will teach you knowledge and understanding."**

Jer 3:16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

We don't talk about the ark anymore. We talk about Jesus Christ. The ark is not now representing the presence of the Lord. He has given us His Spirit. He has given us His personage. He dwells among us now in the personage of the Holy Ghost, and we talk about Jesus Christ. We are multiplied and increased together, and God is saying it will happen only when there are pastors who have my heart that will begin to teach knowledge and begin to teach understanding. When people come to you and they need counsel, shouldn't they have knowledgeable counsel? Shouldn't they have counsel that will set them free? Shouldn't they have counsel that will cause them to know where they have erred and begin to walk in the righteousness of God?

I have seen families that seemingly were getting along so good together, and they would begin to come against someone that was having problems in an area of life in the flesh, and instead of them (with love and mercy and kindness) going to that person in a spirit of meekness and helping them, they begin to judge them and begin to try to bind them with judgment. That same judgment would come right back into their family, and the things they had said were put down upon them, and they were not able to stand. If you have true knowledge imparted to you, you are going to have the compassion to be able to say, "Let me help you. Let me pray with you. Let me share your burden. Let us work together for restoration and move in the knowledge of God." Restoration will not come, until first of all, God raises up some men and women that have a real heart to teach knowledge and understanding; to impart that back again into the body of the living Christ. Praise God! It sets me free.

Dan 1:3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Dan 1:4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

I am of the seed of the King. I am of the seed of Abraham. I am of the seed of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, I can look at this by the Spirit of God, realizing something that was happening in the natural and that has a tremendous impact on me in my spirit. If I want to find favor (which God said He would give me in the sight of all men), I should begin to increase in wisdom and in knowledge and in understanding. I should begin to let the Spirit of the Lord begin to work in me.

Remember when the king had a dream and he couldn't remember it? He told his magicians and astrologers and they said, "Well, you can't even tell us the dream. How can any man interpret it?" So the decree went out to kill all of them! The Spirit of the Lord was in one man named Daniel. They got hold of him. He not only interpreted the dream, but he told the king what the dream was. When you begin to walk in knowledge,

God will reveal things to you that men have forgotten. He will recall to remembrance **ALL** things as He did for Daniel. Through knowledge there is deliverance power. Through wisdom there is deliverance power. Through understanding there is deliverance power. Through counsel there is deliverance power.

Today you can begin to walk in all seven spirits, **COMPLETE IN CHRIST**, and when somebody is in trouble, you will know the problem, and you will be able to look at it and say, "Hey, the Lord showed me the answer." You say, "Oh, Brother Krider, I can't do that." God is no respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34**). God isn't doing it just for preachers. God isn't doing it just for Bible teachers. God is doing it for "whosoever will." We can just stand up and say, "God, I want to live in that realm." God will say, "All right then, you begin to pay the price. Begin to set yourself aside, and study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (**2 Tim. 2:15**).

You cannot rightly divide the word of truth unless the spirit of knowledge imparts to you the knowledge to know what is wrong and what is right. What was the tree that Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat? They were not forbidden at first to eat the tree of life. That was a free access. They were made in a body to go ahead and to conquer the world, and live by that tree of life and continue to live there forever. But **God said, "Of every tree of the garden, thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat" (Gen 2:16-17)**. Forbidden to eat it! Do you know why? They weren't able to handle it.

No man in the natural is able to truly handle the knowledge of good and evil, because God was talking about something far beyond the natural understanding and natural knowledge. He had given them a commission actually to go out and subdue every satanic power of hell that had fallen to the earth; that had been cast down. They had been commissioned to go out and take care of that. It was all evil in front of them. The only good was where they were, and the only good that would come was where they would go. So God put them out of the garden, because in their sinful state they had received knowledge like unto God. He said "Let us put them out of the garden now lest they eat of the tree of life, and live forever. For they have become as one of us, knowing good and evil" (**Gen 3:22-23**).

God did not intend the spirit man to have a mind that had to know good and evil. He wanted you to have exactly what He told you. He wanted you to have a pure mind. To him that is pure, all things are pure, but to him that is defiled, there is nothing pure (**Titus 1:15**). You see, God had made them in His image and His likeness. He said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (**Gen 1:26-27; 5:1**). Because they had sinned, because they had let sin enter into them, they had become defiled and that pure knowledge was gone.

Later on it cropped up here and there, didn't it. According to Halley's Bible Handbook, approx. 100 years after the flood, the people said, "Let us build a tower of Babel" (**Gen 11:1-9**). They had knowledge to know that there was some way that they

could reach God. God said, "Let us go down among them and confuse and confound their tongue, lest they will do anything they imagine to do." Oh, glory! When the human race fell, there was still a tremendous nearness of God, for the mind and the flesh had not yet reached a stage of corruptibility that it is in today. **ALL wisdom, ALL knowledge was available to the man Adam. The mercy of God was that He put him out of the garden.**

God wants you to have knowledge. God wants you to have **HIS** knowledge that will make you like Him now, because He has sent a whole man now. He has sent Jesus Christ, the last Adam, the Spirit man (**1 Cor 15:45**). He has imparted that same Spirit into you and me, and that man must be like Him. He came against the human race, and said, "We've got to put them out." Then He said, "We've got to scatter their tongues across the universe, because if we don't, they will do anything they will imagine to do. They have the power to do it. They have power through knowledge."

Knowledge brings power, friend. When you get this knowledge of God in your heart, fear is a foreign element. Unbelief is a foreign element. You put that out in the evil field. You don't even talk about it. You don't even talk about the powers of darkness. They are out there. You have been returned again to a place that Adam once walked in, but God did not want Adam to stay in the garden of Eden, beloved. God wanted Adam to go to the very throne of God, but Adam did not do it, because he made the wrong choice.

You see, it was a garden **of Eden (Gen 3:23), in Eden (Gen 2:8)**, and the water came out of Eden to water that garden; and when it came into the garden, it was one river. When it went out of the garden it was multiplied into four rivers (**Vs. 10**). That's how God wants you today. When the throne of grace (that river) comes into your life (the Spirit of God), He doesn't expect it to diminish. We found out earlier that He expects it to turn into **RIVERS** of living water. He expects it to multiply and to increase. Adam never made the place that God wanted him to be. He perished outside the garden.

Back in **Dan 1:3-4** we just read that the king had called for some men, but he was selecting who he called for. Didn't we just read in **Jeremiah** that God was going to raise up pastors after his own heart that would teach the people knowledge and understanding? Here He said, "I want some men that have knowledge. I want some men that have understanding. I want some men that have wisdom." Do you think God is going to call people to counsel, to minister to His flock, that are not full of knowledge and wisdom and understanding, and the Spirit of the Lord is not fully working in them? No! God wants you to know what He is doing today. God has given you God knowledge today to know Him, but we have turned to human knowledge so many times.

When we read the word of God, this is the only book that you have to know the author to understand it. The natural man cannot understand it. He can't understand what is going on. **You have to know the author! You have to know the Holy Ghost! Praise God! You have to know Jesus Christ! You have to know God the Father!**

You cannot understand the word of God unless the Spirit of the Lord opens it to you, but when it is opened to you, take advantage of it. Put on that mind of Christ (**Phil 2:5**). Let that knowledge of God begin to work in your heart. **Let that knowledge be poured through you in such a way that you can know instantly what God knows, and know instantly what God wants to do, and you can express it just like Jesus did.**

Jesus was called to be the express image (**#5481= an exact copy**) of God (**Heb 1:3**). In other words, when God expressed something (distinctly stated rather than implied), He just caused it to be seen. And that same word that was working in that physical body of Jesus Christ, is working in you and me today. We limit the word to work in us because of the lack of knowledge that we have. We cannot work beyond the knowledge that we have.

Many people say, "Well, God doesn't want you to know what is going on." That's a lie from the pit of hell, because He said He hath revealed them to you by the Spirit (**1 Cor 2:9-10**). But we turn around and say, "God doesn't want me to know anything. I'm just a dummy." Well, that is your fault. You will know all that you want to know. As much as you will avail yourself to knowledge, you will understand it. God gives you the spirit of understanding before He gives you knowledge so you can understand knowledge. There's no use for God to give you knowledge if you can't understand it. That's like a college professor trying to teach equations of mathematics to a kindergarten class. It's true knowledge that he has imparted to them but they don't have understanding. To them it is just like Greek or Hebrew or any language that you might talk to me. But God, when He imparts knowledge, does not impart it beyond your understanding or your ability to understand it, because He has given you the spirit of might, which is the ability of God. Isn't that great?

See how simple it is. Everything is simple in Christ. If you begin to study and study, and learn and learn, and really begin to seek the Lord because you love Him, and you want to know more about Him, He will just open it up to you. A lot of times we use the scripture, "Open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing on you where there will not be room enough to receive it" (**Mal 3:10**) for finances, and that's good and true. But I believe there is an applicable time when God will open the windows of heaven for you and dump knowledge out on you, and you can't receive it in your natural man. You have to go into the spirit realm and begin to let the Spirit of God be filled with that knowledge, and then you won't contain it. You'll just let it go like rivers of living water. Hallelujah!

Dan 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Dan 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

There were some things that were recognizable in Daniel. That might, the spirit of might, is the Lord. Wisdom is God's. Amen!

Dan 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.

You do not get knowledge and understanding backwards. You get understanding and then God imparts knowledge; and when it comes, the understanding is already there because you have already got wisdom. And when you've got understanding of wisdom, you're ready to begin to counsel; and when you begin to counsel, you find the spirit of might working in there. Then all of a sudden, you find out that knowledge is imparted to you. Then you are given the ability to understand the knowledge of God. Glory to God!

God doesn't give you more than you can handle. That's why we have so many Christians running around like they don't know what is going on. They really don't. They got saved, gave their life to the Lord, and they haven't read more than three books in the Bible in twenty years. They can't find Micah or anybody else in there. They don't even know there are 66 books. I'm not making fun of them. I'm just stating facts. If you were to say, "Let's turn to the book of Hezekiah," everybody would be looking for it. How about the book of 3 Chronicles?

You see, knowledge is available to us, and it doesn't depend on how much knowledge you are given of God. It depends on how much you want that knowledge. God will not limit you to know anything about Him. He will cause you, if you desire, to know everything about Him that is available to be known about Him; to **KNOW HIM**. Paul said, "I **KNOW** whom I have believed (**2 Tim 1:12**). I have knowledge. I have **HIS** knowledge. I understand **HIM**. I **KNOW HIM** and I am persuaded." You can't be persuaded about anything until you **KNOW** about it.

If you were going to go across a gorge on a bridge that looked a little shaky, and you didn't know that it would hold you up, you certainly would not be persuaded that it was able. You can never do anything really great in God until you are persuaded that God wants you to do it, and you cannot be persuaded beyond the spirit of knowledge that works in your heart. It all works together. Let's look at Daniel one more time.

Dan 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Dan 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Dan 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto

me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Glory to God! He said the knowledge had been imparted to us. We had the wisdom and the mind, we had the understanding, and when it was revealed, we just turned around and gave the revelation away. I am simply saying to you what the word is saying. He imparts knowledge to those that have understanding. Understanding does not come outside of the Lord. None of these that we have been teaching on comes outside of Christ. Seven spirits working together.

Many of us have one spirit seemingly, like wisdom, that we really haven't developed. And we wonder why in the world we can't stand, and why every time the wind comes along, we are just blown to and fro by every adverse wind of doctrine. If you get full of the word of God, that won't happen to you. If you get full of the Spirit of God, that won't happen to you. When you get knowledge, that won't happen to you. You will know good and you will know evil. Praise the Lord!

You'll be just like God. You'll be just like Him, and it pleases Him when we are just like Him. It pleases a father when his child is like him. If he is a good father, if he is a father that loves righteousness and peace and joy, it pleases him when his offspring are like him, and they love righteousness and peace and joy. It's a compliment to him. It's a justification to him, that the work that he did is right.

You don't have to worry about getting all of this; it'll get into your heart. It'll come to the ear that is able to hear. The Spirit is talking, and it will settle in your heart. You'll be studying one day and all of a sudden you'll remember it, and you will say, "Wow! I heard that somewhere. Where was it?" I've set in meetings that I have enjoyed, drinking in that manna, eating that bread, eating that meat, drinking that wine, and all of a sudden I would hear something said that I hadn't heard in years. In studying the word, it got into my heart and it suddenly would just explode a whole sermon in me. The Spirit of the Lord was leaping in my spirit. Knowledge was leaping into my spirit. So here the Lord is saying, "I want to give you knowledge according to your understanding."

Now let's look at Daniel 5:10-12:

Dan 5:10 Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live forever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

Dan 5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods;...

She was of a heathen kingdom, but she recognized something:

Dan 5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, (just like God, right?) was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.

Don't you think that made them mad? They would look up there and study the stars, and all of the magicians and wizards would get together and they would get all of their works going on. They would get all of their notes put together and it would take them four or five days to try to figure out one little simple statement. Daniel would walk in and say, "It means this." Frustrating!

The world gets frustrated with you. When you walk where God wants you to, you're able to give an answer to all men that ask the reason for the hope, the hope that is in you. You have a ready answer. Why? Simply because the same Spirit that was in Daniel is in us today. The Spirit that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead is in us today. The same Spirit that brought the worlds into creation is in us today. There is a limit only because we put it there. You cannot limit God. You limit yourself.

Dan 2:12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

I just want to show you that God is saying that the spirit of knowledge was working in him, and they recognized it, because in times past, he had been called upon to solve doubts and put them to nothing. The Lord is calling upon the body of the living Christ to rise up one more time in these final days and be filled with the seven spirits of God. Then men and women who are in trouble can call on you, and the counsel that you will give them is going to be according to understanding and knowledge.

Those seven spirits of God have always intrigued me. Ever since I was saved, I read about them in Revelation, and I would just put them over in a far corner someplace. I would say, "I can't understand those seven spirits. I know one spirit called the Holy Ghost." One day the Lord told me, "Go to **Isaiah 4:4 and Isaiah 11:2** and I will put them together for you." There they were. All seven of them. They were hidden from me because I didn't have the understanding for that knowledge at that time. I did not have the wisdom. I did not have the understanding that God could impart that kind of knowledge to me and trust me with it to not build some kind of a doctrine on the seven spirits of God. **Those seven spirits will glorify one man, the man Christ Jesus. Those seven spirits working together will testify of God and not of man.**

The world today is in trouble, and the church has the only answer. The only answer to any problem is still Jesus Christ. He came and saw and He conquered every

problem. He died, He was buried, He rose again, and He sanctified and separated the church. Then He said, "Now, every answer I have, I will put in the church."

The reason you do not understand scripture sometimes is simply because you do not obtain enough wisdom and understanding that God can impart that knowledge to you that He can trust you with. It isn't because He is mad at you. There are still some scriptures in there that I don't know. In fact, I probably don't know about 15,000%, but I'm finding out something: the more that I know, the less I know. The more that I let the Spirit man of God know, then the less this old boy knows. Decreasing process, you see. But thank God, I don't want to know anything more in my flesh. I want to know it all in my spirit. I know that I've got the answer to any man's problems. If they will accept it, that's the answer: **JESUS CHRIST!**

So we need the knowledge, don't we. The reason we do not receive the knowledge of scripture many times, is simply because we do not have enough wisdom and understanding to bring counsel to our hearts and give us the ability to know what God is saying. I won't wrestle with them; when I read one that I don't understand, I just say, "One day Lord, you are going to impart knowledge to me. When I get a little wiser; when I get a little more understanding, when I am able to hear the counsel of God, and accept your ability to know what you are talking about, you are going to reveal it to me. I'll just take what I know now and jump on it and shout and praise God and go right on. Because I know **WHAT** I know, and I know **WHO** I know.

Dan 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end:..

One of those seals that God broke was this one. It was sealed. There was no man in heaven, or angel, or any other creature, found worthy to open the seals, to open the books, but there was one found in heaven, **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, to open the seals. Hallelujah! And He opened it to the church. He didn't open it to the world.

Dan 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Now that has worked in both areas, spiritually and physically, but many people are never able to come to the knowledge. But knowledge has been increased. The church is able to do so many more things today. They understand so many more things about prophecy than they did in times past, because it was not available to them. Very few men could read prophecy and even have an inkling of what they were talking about, because events had not yet happened.

It's like when we read the book of Revelation. **Rev. 1:1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him."** Look at it. Jesus had a revelation! God

gave it to Him. Isn't that what it says? The Revelation of Jesus Christ, the book of Revelation, is Jesus' own revelation.

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Rev 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

John goes on to greet them, but I want us to look at **vss.18-20**. The Spirit of God is speaking to John now about Jesus.

Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.

Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Watch this in **Rev. 2:1 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;"** How far out was John in the spirit? When you start writing to angels, you're pretty far gone. He wrote to seven churches; he wrote to an angel every time he wrote it. So we know that the book of Revelation is not to the natural man and we know it is the Revelation that God gave to His Son, Jesus Christ, so Jesus in turn could show it to His servants. And I am one of them.

When you try to read that with the natural mind, it will blow you away. When you try to read that with natural carnal knowledge, you won't have an inkling of what is going on. He wrote it to an angel. He wrote it to the spirit, and that spirit has that revelation alone. That revelation by the Spirit and through the knowledge of God, has been given to the church, and it was not a book to be closed. It was a book that was opened; an open revelation to the church. We read it in the natural knowledge and wonder why in the world we cannot understand it, and so we make Kissinger the anti-christ. There are a lot of anti-christs that have already died, aren't there. Mussolini? See, they all had the right names, and according to man's knowledge, they had all the right numbers. But when you start reading with God's knowledge, it explains itself right down the line.

He said the spirit of knowledge working in you and me, is going to be increased. We know that knowledge today is increased in the natural. It has also been increased in the Spirit of the Lord. More has been made available because of the time and the seasons. More has been made available now to all men who desire to know. I'm talking about men who have been born of the Spirit of God. He has hidden nothing from us, but because of the lack of knowledge that we have, we are not able to receive revelation of truth.

Because we could not handle a revelation beyond the knowledge that we have, God will not give you more than you can understand. You would kill yourself with it. You would build a church with it. You would start another denomination with it. You would have the Church with the Revelation of the Revelation, or the Church of the White Horse, or something, because we go into our own knowledge. We couldn't handle it in the knowledge realm of God, so we have to begin to bring it into a knowledge of the understanding.

That's why there are so many books written trying to explain the Bible. Only one can explain the Bible, and He's called the Holy Ghost. Only one can teach the word of God, and He is called Holy Ghost. The Bible says that when He is come, He will teach you all things (**John 14:26; John 16:13-14**). We found out that counsel is nothing more than teaching, and it is a portion of God through the spirit of counsel which teaches us all things. It comes in the Holy Ghost, doesn't it.

I'm not adding anything to the word. I'm still teaching it to you just exactly as it is written, and the Holy Ghost is tying it together for us. If you want to argue with it, just go ahead and take the Bible, and say, "Now wait a minute, it says this but it doesn't mean this. It says that, but it doesn't mean that." Have you ever seen people have that problem?

Knowledge is from the Lord. If you haven't learned anything else so far, learn this one thing: the reason we do not understand scripture any more than we do, is because we do not have knowledge enough to understand it. The knowledge is available to us, but we spend so much time in other things, that we haven't made ourselves available to the spirit of knowledge to work in our hearts.

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

He said, "I have a controversy with you." Sometimes when you feel that you have aught with God, maybe God has a little aught with you. He's made all of this available. Wouldn't it be something if you had the power to give to your child everything he needed, and yet he was on the streets begging?(**Psa 37:25-26**). Wouldn't that just do something to you. You paid the price to pay all things that man would ever need to live godly in this present world, and your son is out there begging from people.

What do you think it looks like from God's point of view? Here's the cross! Here's His Son! Here's the precious blood that had availed for you and me; that tore down that thing which had separated men from God. Brought him right back into the presence of God and made all things available to him, and we turn around and say, "But, Lord, I don't understand. Please preacher, won't you help me?" We go out and we buy books to try to understand the Bible, and the Holy Ghost is standing there and saying, "What's wrong with Me?" So there is a controversy.

Hosea 4:1 ...because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Hosea 4:2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

Hosea 4:3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

Hosea 4:4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

Hosea 4:5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

Here He gives them the reasons.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, ...

We continually reject the spirit of knowledge, and we spend time with everything in the world, and then all of a sudden we want God to give us a revelation that will blow us away. We just want a humongous revelation from God. We have been reading the stock market and it is not good. We've been reading of rumors of wars, and it isn't good. We've been reading about all the tragedies happening, and it's not good. All of a sudden our mind is dwelling on evil all day long, and we come to a God who is good, and we have sowed already all the seeds of evil in our own mind. Then we want God to just pop a revelation in there, to give us a great ministry.

I'll guarantee you that an anointed sermon that is preached, the preacher didn't get it in one night, or in one hour. I know when the word of God comes, what it costs you to get it. No wonder Paul kept praying for the inner man that they would have wisdom and revelation working in them; that the eyes of their understanding and knowledge would be enlightened to them.

Now here He said, "My people are destroyed (or perish) for lack of what? What destroys your life? Why do you give your children to the devil? **LACK OF KNOWLEDGE!** Why do we not possess what God has given us? **LACK OF KNOWLEDGE!**

1 Sam 2:1 And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

1 Sam 2:2 There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

1 Sam 2:3 Talk no more so exceedingly proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

I think this is some of the greatest wisdom we could possibly ever attain, that we are to have a watch set over the words that we speak, because we are taken snare by the words of our mouth (**Prov 6:2**). Here he said, "**Talk no more so exceedingly proudly; let not arrogancy come out of the mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge.**" Praise the Lord. He is a God of knowledge. He is not ignorant. He knows the thoughts and intent of your heart (**Psa 94:11; 1 Cor 3:20**), and He knows exactly what you are thinking this very moment. There is nothing hidden with the Lord. All things are made manifest.

Num 24:14 And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

Num 24:15 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

Num 24:16 He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

Num 24:17 I shall see him, but not now. I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

Num 24:18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies: and Israel shall do valiantly.

Num 24:19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

Here was the man that went out to curse Israel. He found out that he could not go beyond the word of the Lord. He turned around and gave the knowledge of God, and said, "My God is going to bring forth a people that will destroy you." Isn't that great? You see, even though you make a mistake in your own wisdom and your own knowledge, if you repent of it, God will still speak to you. Sometimes we do something and we think, "Oh, man, there is no hope. God can never use me. I really have blown it this time," yet God showed Balaam knowledge. God showed Balaam a vision and he prophesied the word of the Lord.

It doesn't make any difference what your past has been. It doesn't make any difference how many times you have blown it. If you will come with a repentant heart, you're going to begin to see God move in your life. The Lord still wants to work the spirit of knowledge through you. As long as you have breath in your body, as long as you have a will to serve God, there is a place that God will make for you. That gives me hope. I've blown it plenty of times, but thank God, I'm starting to grow up now and beginning to understand the things that God has for me.

2 Chron 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

2 Chron 1:11 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

God had granted to this young man all kinds of options. He said, "Ask what you want. Ask me anything you want" (**Vs. 7**). I'll tell you where we should be. This was the fear of God in Solomon's heart. He did not ask for wealth. He knew that he was going to be set over such a great people that he would have to give an account to God for them. Don't you realize that when God called you to be a Christian, to be a child of the king, He's wanting to set you in a place of authority, and He's wanting you to begin to realize that He is going to hold you responsible for those over whom He has set you? Wisdom and knowledge would indicate to me that when I go to ask God for something, I want to ask something that will cause me to be a ruler with wisdom, one that is wise in the things of God, and knowledgeable in the ways of the Lord.

What we need today are ministers working in the body of Christ who are not seeking after the world, but they are seeking after God. They are examples to the flock; full of faith, full of knowledge, full of wisdom, mature in the things of God. We're going to have to give an account for this great flock of God. When I counsel, I want the knowledge that God has made available. I want the spirit of knowledge working in me. Solomon had a choice, didn't he? He could have asked for anything he wanted, and God would have given it to him. But what did he ask for? Knowledge and wisdom.

2 Chron 30:22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the Lord...

Do you want God to speak to you comfortably? Do you want the comfort of God's companionship with you? Then begin to teach the good knowledge of God. Quit teaching anything in the world. I want God knowledge in me and I want to be able to teach that good knowledge, but I realize there is only one teacher. I realize that He is not an individual like myself. He is the Holy Ghost. The Bible says, "The Holy Ghost when He is come, He shall teach you all things" (**John 14:26**). You need not that any man should teach you, but the anointing which is in you shall teach you (**1 John 2:27**), and that anointing is in all of us. In the body there is a gift called a teacher, and he goes through the body many times and brings a knowledge and imparts it to the anointing that is in us, and that anointing quickens that to our understanding.

The Lord is saying here that Hezekiah spoke comfortably to the Levites because they had taught the good knowledge of the Lord. We teach so many things. I mean that! If we would teach people knowledge (the knowledge of the Lord and not the knowledge of men) things would change in our lives.

Let's read **Nehemiah 10:28-29**. That man had heart, didn't he. He wanted to build for the Lord. I think we ought to get that Nehemiah desire, to build, to put things together, to make a beautiful restoration for God and His body. We need to have that kind of heart in us. A heart to build up the waste places and to tear down all the things that would destroy God's work. To repair the breaches (**Isa 58:12**). To praise the Lord. To be one in Christ. To love one another, and to enjoy being with one another. That's true knowledge, friends.

Neh 10:28 And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;

Neh 10:29 They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes.

They had knowledge, didn't they? And because they had true knowledge, they separated themselves unto God. The Bible tells me that true knowledge will show me that I am to separate myself unto God (**2 Cor 6:17**). We are not to live any longer to the flesh, but to God. We are to bring ourselves to a place, through knowledge in the Lord, that we are His. We are a treasure in God's sight, and we're not to be of the world, but we are to be of God. That's knowledge of God, friend.

Natural knowledge says, "I want to be like everybody else." How many know that is true? The children of Israel had that problem, didn't they. After God showed them all that He showed them, brought them in, into a land of promise, they wanted a king (**1 Sam 8:1**). They said, "We want to be like everybody else over here. Everybody else has a king; we want a king." That is sensual knowledge; that is knowledge that is of men. We always want some flesh man to take us somewhere.

What we need to do is to begin to follow the Spirit. They that are led by the spirit of God are the sons of God (**Romans 8:14**). That is God knowledge. Man's knowledge says that we need a man. **God said, "I AM the king. I AM your king. I AM all that you need. I AM everything that you have need of."** And we want some man. Religious knowledge! Samuel told the people what God had said "Look, if you get your king, he's going to ruin you."**(1 Sam 1:11)**. "We don't care! We're going to be like everybody else." So God gave them what they wanted. He picks Saul out, the best looking guy that He can find. He was a big old boy, head and shoulders above any man in the land (**1 Sam 9:2,17**). Was he a good king? **NO!**

The voice of the Lord is going out through the land day after day after day: "Separate yourself unto God. Have the true knowledge, that of the Lord. Desire not the world nor the things of the world. Separate yourself from flesh. Get into the spirit, begin to live and walk in the spirit, and the Lord shall receive you unto himself, and He will bless you."

No, we don't want to be different from the world. The world might think we are fanatical. The world might say some bad things about us. I have news for you:

GOD IS MY KING, AND HE HAS NEVER FAILED ME, AND HE NEVER WILL FAIL ME. HE CANNOT FAIL, BECAUSE HE IS NOT A MAN THAT HE SHOULD LIE!

He is not a man, that there's even a possibility that He can lie (**Num 23:19**). **HE IS GOD!** His promises are Yea and Amen to them which are in Christ Jesus (**2 Cor 1:20**).

The natural carnal knowledge said, "Let us get a people together; let us do this and let us do that. Let us build something of our own." God said, "Wait a minute. I'm going to build My Church. My Spirit will build the Church. I'm going to put it together." You don't need a physical king. You need Jesus Christ to be the King over your life.

How many of you have felt that need for a man over your life; one that you can see all the time? We haven't yet learned that there is a prayer closet in our lives. We haven't yet learned the sweetness of being alone with Jesus. We haven't really yet learned that true knowledge of being able to share with Him the cares. We want to share it with flesh. But true knowledge says, **"Call upon me and I will answer thee"** (**Psa 91:15; Jer 33:3**). Isn't that beautiful!

Isn't it wonderful that we can cast our cares upon Him, for He careth for us (**1 Peter 5:7**). But we want some man that we can throw it on. We want some human being that we can dump it on. We need to come to the place of true knowledge in Christ, that when men and women come to us, we will take the burden to Christ whom we love. We will cast all the burdens upon Him (**Matt 11:28-30**). Those who are not able to take the burden to Jesus, we'll help them to bear it to Him (**Gal 6:2**).

True knowledge has set me so free. Praise God! I'm never lonely anymore. No matter if I am physically by myself, I am never alone (**Heb 13:5**). I never have a problem that He can't solve. I never have a situation that He can't master. I never have a place in life that He has not already walked through it for me. Praise God!

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy work.

Psa 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Psa 19:3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Psa 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psa 19:5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

In the second verse, it said, "Night unto night." It never stops. God will continue to teach you knowledge, day by day, every night of your life, if you will seek after it. But you see, you cannot concentrate on everything in the world all day long and then at night expect God to talk to you. You can't do it. You've got to come to a place where your whole life and your whole desire is to seek the Lord, to find out what He wants you to know, and then at night He will bring forth knowledge upon knowledge upon knowledge. He said, "I will teach you in the night."

Do you realize that people think that because they close their eyes and sleep, they don't hear anymore. But research has found out that the quickest way to teach a foreign language to a person, is to let them go to sleep and plug earphones into their ears, and speak off a record or a tape, and it goes to their subconscious mind. That is a proven theory; they use it all the time. Your brain never sleeps. It's your body that sleeps. Your brain never wears out.

I like something that Billy Graham said one time, and I inject it as knowledge today. He felt that maybe when the judgment seat was brought to pass, that the thing that would appear there would be the brain of a man, and it would all be played back to him. If we have the right mind, it won't be a bad situation. I want my mind to be in such

a condition with God, that it is knowledge to knowledge. It is wisdom to wisdom, glory to glory. It's all written anyhow. It's all recorded, and so what would be the difference in taking your mind or your memory and setting it all out as a tape recorded and played back to you.

What we need in this hour is to be in such a state that our subconscious mind is continually upon the Lord, and our conscious mind is continually upon the Lord, so that when we sleep our thoughts are good. The sleep of the saint is sweet sleep (**Prov 3:24**). When he goes to sleep, it is peace. It's sweet! God wants to talk to us at night in our minds (**Psa 16:7; 17:3**). God wants to commune with you at night, but if your mind is at turmoil all day long, it just never is open to the channel of God's knowledge to be poured through it. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

I've learned a lot of things while I was asleep. I'd wake up the next morning and say, "Lord, where did I learn that? I don't remember going to school. I don't remember getting that from a classroom. I don't remember anybody saying that to me." And the Lord gave me that scripture, and said, "I revealed it to you while you were asleep." He said, "I will give you a song in the night even" (**Psa 42:8**). You see, He teaches you things. He gives you dreams, He gives you visions (**Acts 2:17**), but if your mind is in a constant turmoil, how can you receive from God. It says in **Isaiah 26:3**: "**He keeps him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon thee, for he trusteth in thee.**" Praise God.

So here the Lord is trying to impart knowledge to us, not partial knowledge, but **ALL knowledge, ALL wisdom, ALL understanding**. All of this is being imparted to us today, so we can rejoice in being able to be a counselor who is knowledgeable of whatever situation we are set into.

Psa 119:65 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word.

Psa 119:66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

Because we believe God wants to do something for us, because we have totally with all of our heart desired that these things should be ours, we must say to the Lord, "Lord, teach me." He said, "I have given you a teacher, even the Holy Ghost." We want men to teach us. Men can't teach us anything. Do you know that Moses, the best that he could ever do for the people of Israel, was to give them a law. The law came by Moses, but grace and truth by Jesus Christ (**John 1:17**).

The Holy Ghost living in you wants to teach you, and He wants to teach you the knowledge of God. He wants to take the knowledge of the most high and impart it into our hearts and minds, so that when we counsel people, we will not counsel with a

seeing of the eye, or the hearing of the ear, but we will counsel, "Thus saith the Lord. It is written!"

We need to take this word and hide it in our hearts (**Psa 119:11**). Then at night the Holy Ghost will sometimes move upon that word and cause a revelation to come to our hearts and the spirit of wisdom to explode; the spirit of wisdom and revelation to absolutely just take charge of us. I want that kind of a life. I don't care anything about what is going on in the world. I'm really not concerned with it. You don't have to be concerned. You are a stranger here. Get it into your mind and heart that you are a stranger here (**1 Peter 2:11**).

You might say, "Well, I'm only human." That's your problem. God said, "He that is born of the spirit is spirit" (**John 3:6**). We are all joined to Him by the spirit. I'm wearing a flesh body, but I'm not going to keep it. I'm going to trade it in. The real me is going to escape. The great escape is going to happen one day and I'm not going to concentrate very much on this temporal thing, when I can put all of my concentration and all of my life into Jesus Christ. Into the eternal one that is being built up into the stature of the son of God, that when he is brought out of here, he will be in His fulness (**Eph 4:13**). Glory to God! Whatever you spend time on is where you are going to grow. I want to grow up in Jesus. I want to grow up in the things of His knowledge and His understanding.

Psa 144:1 Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:

He said that by wise counsel you should be taught to make war.

Psa 144:2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.

Psa 144:3 Lord, what is man that thou takest knowledge of him! Or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

Here he is saying, "Why Lord, should you even think about us. Why should you take knowledge of us." I'll tell you why. Because God has invested His son in you. He has invested Himself in you. He has taken knowledge of you that you might take knowledge of Him. He is asking you to trade in your knowledge for His knowledge, your death for His life, your wisdom for His wisdom. He's asking us to make a great exchange today; that we'll know that all knowledge is available to us. Covenanting with God that He took knowledge of us, and we are going to take knowledge of Him. We are going to allow Him to begin to teach us in the ways of knowledge. The world needs the teachers of God to begin to impart knowledge, so they can begin to see their need for Christ.

We have a hard time sometimes, don't we. It looks good, and it sounds right, so that is the way we are going to go (**Prov 14:12**). No! Eve tried that one. Eve tried that

knowledge and it didn't work. It cost the garden, and if we are going to rule in the Kingdom of God, we are going to have to have the knowledge of God. We are going to have to quit operating in this sensual realm, and begin to operate in the heavenly realm of God (**Romans 8:6-7**). We are going to have to begin to take the knowledge that cometh down from God, not from men, and begin to realize something: God took knowledge of us and it's time we began to take knowledge of God. It's time we began to realize and to recognize that the only true answer to any situation is not through the knowledge of men, but it is through the knowledge of God. He has imparted that knowledge into the body of Christ.

Prov 10:14 Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

Wise men lay up knowledge. Jesus Christ said that we are to lay up treasures in heaven, didn't he. One of those treasures is knowledge. He said, "the hidden treasures, wisdom, and knowledge." If you will continue to lay up treasures, one of them being knowledge, there will come a time when you can draw on it. When you have deposited the treasure of knowledge and laid it up, there will come a time when God will draw, and cause you to draw, on that knowledge. He will send people to you to be counselled. He will send people to you that need help, or He will send you to them, and you can draw upon that knowledge that you have laid up.

You see, a lot of times we are going to wait until we get into a situation, and then we are going to try to answer it. No! The wise man, he has laid up against that day, the knowledge that he has need of. He has laid up a treasure in heaven already, that when he needs it, he can draw on it. That's why you can be able to give that answer to every man that asks of you for the hope that lies within you (**1 Peter 3:15**). You can give an answer to any man. You can have a ready answer. Why! Because you have already filled yourself with the knowledge of God. The wise man!

You can examine yourself today, and see how wise you have been over the years. What have you laid up? Where your treasure is, that is where your heart is (**Matt 6:21; Luke 12:34**). If your heart is to know knowledge, that's your treasure. God says the person that is wise lays up knowledge.

Our natural knowledge says the wise man lays up things for the future, where moth and rust and thieves and robbers and everything else just continually harass them, and we have to watch them all the time. But I want to tell you something that never decays, and that is the knowledge of God. It only increases as we use it. So here, He says that the wise man just simply lays up knowledge. Well, glory! We just found out that the knowledge of the holy and the laying up of knowledge is the thing that God desires to have in His people.

Pro 11:9 An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

Praise God! We have enough knowledge in Christ, the infinite knowledge of God to be able to deliver ourselves at any time from the hand of the enemy. We need to understand these things. We need to begin to have a good understanding that God is delivering through knowledge. He desires for us to walk in that knowledge in such a way that our minds, our hearts, are stayed upon him. When the enemy of our soul begins to deceive us, we know the word of God, we have knowledge of God, and we have knowledge through God and by God, that we are able to deliver ourselves from the hand and the snare of the fowler. We are able through knowledge then, not only to deliver others, but to be able to deliver ourselves. We are able to bring ourselves to a place in the Lord where we can walk in a continual deliverance of being free from the hand and the fears of the enemy (**Psalm 91**).

The word of God shows me here that by being delivered, He is simply telling me that I have laid up enough knowledge to know that when fear comes, He has not given me that spirit of fear, but of wisdom, and of love and power and a sound mind (**2 Tim 1:7**). Therefore I can be delivered from fear by simply walking in the word or in the Spirit of God. As sickness tries to come upon me, the spirit of infirmity would come upon my body, I have the knowledge to know that by His stripes I am healed (**1 Peter 2:24**).

A part of the redemptive work of God was that when Jesus Christ was torn asunder in the judgment hall, each one of those stripes bore the healing remedy for every sickness that would ever come into the earth. So I can stand against the wiles of the devil through knowledge. I can stand against the powers of darkness through knowledge. I can stand against infirmities and fears and the things that would bind me. I can stand against them and be delivered from them through the knowledge of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I want you to begin to realize that we **MUST** have this spirit of knowledge working in us, so we can counsel others in order to deliver them through the word of God. We should be able to speak the word, and that word through knowledge would deliver them. Not the knowledge of men, but the knowledge of God. A pure knowledge. A knowledge that is without partiality. A knowledge that is not given to one without another being able to receive it. A knowledge that is given evenly to the body through the mind that was in Christ (**Phil 2:5**).

We need to come to an understanding that knowledge then, is not something that we have of our own, but it is made available to us through the power of His might (**Eph 6:10**). Through the spirit of might, He has opened up to us the ability now to know the mind of Christ. We need to understand what God is doing. We need to **KNOW** what God is doing. We need to begin to work in His sure knowledge. And by that knowledge we are going to find that no matter what situation we are in, we can be delivered from it through the knowledge of His word.

Working in His spirit of knowledge, we can counsel every one that comes to us, and we can bring them to a sure deliverance. We can bring them to a place where fear

cannot bind them, where the powers of darkness cannot hold them, where the powers of men cannot take them. We can begin to work, then, in the power of His might. We can work in the power of the spirit of His knowledge and we can know exactly what God knows. We can work in that knowledge, and deliver not only ourselves but all that we should ever come across and counsel.

About midnight this will hit you and you'll say, "PRAISE GOD! I'm delivered." It will work at midnight just as well as it will work right now. God is so good to us. We just have a hard time realizing how good He is.

Pro 13:16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge:...

A while ago He said that a wise man layeth up knowledge, now a prudent man takes that knowledge that he has laid up and begins to deal with it. He begins to speak in it. He begins to walk in it. He begins to live in it. All of his decisions are made based upon that knowledge which he hath already laid up. So, if you want to be a wise man, then you'll lay up knowledge. If you want to be a prudent man, you'll deal with knowledge. Your answers will be from the knowledge of God. Your speech will be from the knowledge of God. Your every-day dealings and associations will be from the knowledge of God. You have gone from wise to prudent already. Aren't you glad? And in between there, you became delivered. Knowledge becomes all things to you.

That is why the Lord was so furious with the lawyers when they threw away the key of knowledge. They had the power to deliver Israel. They had the power to deal with Israel right. They had the power to bring men into the knowledge of the Kingdom of God but they would not do it. See, a key unlocks things, and they had locked the Kingdom of heaven and wouldn't unlock it. So God, through Jesus Christ, said, "I have transferred the key now. I have given the key into the hands of the church. I have taken it from the lawyers and scribes and Pharisees, and transferred it to the Church." **(Matt 21:43; 16:18-19).**

If we don't use that key, what is going to happen to it? "Oh, well, God won't really care. I'm under His grace. He doesn't really expect anything from me. Poor little old me. God doesn't expect me to know anything. God doesn't expect me to do anything." Somebody has deceived you! God expects you to be just like Jesus Christ, and at His return people are going to be in for a shock. "Oh, Lord, look what I did. I was in church 156 days a year. I was in this, and I was in that, and I was in this club, Lord." And God will say, "What did you do with the key I gave you?" "Well God, you know how it is. I didn't want to lose it, so I just kinda wrapped it up and **HID IT.**"

Do you think that God is going to be happy with you? **NO!** He handled a problem like that with the man with one talent, didn't he. He said, "Ah, here it is, Lord. I had this one talent. Boy, I'm sure a nice guy. I kept it for you. Here it is, all yours." He said, "Get that thing out of his hand and take it away from him, and give it to one who has ten, and **CAST HIM OUT!**" **(Matt 25:25-30).** Whew! I want to hear him say, "Enter in, thou good and faithful servant," not, "Get rid of him."

You see, God is trying by His Spirit to inject the knowledge of God into our lives, so the wise man does what? He lays it up, doesn't he. The prudent man, he deals it, and he also delivers people through it. All you need is knowledge to deliver anybody. The knowledge of God knows everything.

Pro 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

The second spirit of God is understanding. You can't get knowledge without understanding. You've got to have understanding. That's a foundational truth. You've got to begin to work on wisdom and understanding, and then He is going to give you some knowledge. The word says it's easy for a person to have knowledge.

People around me say, "You've got to worry!" It's easy for me to say, "**NO!** I don't have to worry." It's easy for me because I have the knowledge that I don't have to worry anymore. I don't have to sweat it anymore. I love it in the Old Testament where the priests that came before the Lord had to take a bath and they had to put on fresh linens. The Bible says the Lord did not want any sweat in His presence (**Ezekiel 44:18**). It's no sweat for me to serve God now. It's no sweat at all. His word is true. His word is real. He said that knowledge is easy for them that understand.

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

When somebody says you are lousy, say, "Thou sayest." Isn't it funny how quickly an argument can die when there aren't two sides to it. How would you like to be standing out here on a street corner arguing with a fool, somebody passes by, and how does he know who the fool is. I have too many important things to do besides argue with people. I just say, "Thou sayest."

Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge...

He lays it up, he deals with it, but he doesn't leave it there. He uses it.

Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

So knowledge is to be laid up, it is to be dealt with, and it is to be used. The knowledge of God is to be used. It'll never be any value to you until it is used.

Prov 15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

It is easy to know where you are by what you speak. What comes out of your mouth? It should be, and it **MUST** be knowledge, because the lips of a priest hath

knowledge. Here He said they lay it up, they deal with it, they use it, and they disperse it. God didn't give it to you to keep. God never gave one thing to keep. Everything that He has given you is to give away. He gave you salvation to share. He gave you knowledge to use. He gave you wisdom to use. He gave you understanding to use. Everything He has given you is to use. Hallelujah! And so He disperses it.

Prov 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Now you know that if you have understanding, you'll seek God's knowledge. You'll know if you really have understanding. What do you seek? That tells you where you are in your heart. Do you really seek God's knowledge, or do you just seek things or people, or seek after worldly knowledge. "The man that has understanding seeketh knowledge."

I was studying in the places where Solomon had written all of these proverbs down, and the amount of times that the words "wisdom, understanding, and knowledge" appeared is fantastic. I couldn't even comprehend it in the natural; but Solomon's mind, even though he went off in error, was still wise because he always taught knowledge. I'm saying to you that he had some knowledge from God that we need to listen to.

Prov 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Prov 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

What do you like to hear? Do you really like to hear that the Lord is gracious, and good, and merciful, or do you ever once in awhile like to let the old ear fall open and hear what somebody is saying about somebody else. Be honest now! You see, it is a way to examine yourself. It's kind of a place in Christ where you can tell where you are all the time. What do you want to hear? What does your mouth speak? Does it speak wisdom, understanding, and knowledge? Do you seek to hear knowledge?

Prov 19:25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware; and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

It's a guide for you to know where you are. When somebody comes to correct you, how do you receive it? When somebody comes to tell you something, how do you REALLY receive it? If you are wise, you are going to love instruction. You'll have knowledge, won't you. But the quickest way for you to find out where you are, is when somebody hits you right where you live. Think about it for a minute. You can call a man a thief who is not one, and it won't bother him; or a liar of a man who is not one; but the minute you call him where he is, he is going to really get upset.

The word of God is like a searchlight (**1Chron 28:9; Psa 44:21; 139:1; Prov 20:27**). It goes all through you: your mind, your spirit, your body. It goes right through

you, revealing knowledge to you, where you are all the time. If you let that knowledge really get into your heart, you'll be a changed person. You'll go from night to night and the Holy Spirit will begin to teach you knowledge upon knowledge.

Prov 20:15 There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

Did you ever have anybody speak a word to you that just fit. You were hurting or you were in trouble and you just needed a word, and somebody came along and just spoke a good word of knowledge to you. Just dropped the word in there, and you couldn't have bought it. You just couldn't even have compared it at that moment to anything in all the world. The Lord said that knowledge is like a jewel. Isn't it something that you can seek that kind of language where the words that you speak are jewels. Glory!

Prov 21:11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

You'll know if you are wise or not; when you are instructed, you receive something. You receive that spirit of knowledge. It'll continue to grow in your heart. But if you are not wise, you will reject it, and you'll seek after men's wisdom and men's knowledge, and things that will just absolutely bind you up. As we seek the knowledge of God, we can be delivered day by day.

Prov 22:12 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

The eyes of the Lord are upon you and me. If we walk in that spirit of knowledge, we are preserved, we are delivered, we lay up knowledge, we use knowledge, we disperse knowledge, we deal with knowledge, and now God preserves that knowledge. He keeps that knowledge. It is incorruptible knowledge. That knowledge that comes from God is incorruptible! It is a pure knowledge. It is a knowledge that is in the mind of God, and it is given to you and me, and it is **INCORRUPTIBLE**. It is preserved by the Lord himself.

Prov 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

You are not going to get anything unless you study to show yourself approved unto God. You are not going to get anything unless you seek it with a whole heart. He said to seek the Lord with a whole heart, for when you seek him with a whole heart, then shall He be found of you (**Jer 29:13-14**). I have news for you. If you seek the Lord with a whole heart, you must seek anything that attains to Him or anything that pertains to Him, and seek it with a whole heart. You cannot go in for five minutes, and say, "All right, let's see what you've got on the program today, God," and expect God to give you

any knowledge. You have to apply yourself to it. It has to become precious in your sight.

Prov 22:20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

Prov 22:21 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

In other words, He says, "I have given you counsel. I have given you knowledge. I have given you this that you might be able to know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the word of truth to them that send unto thee." When a man comes to you and really wants to know the truth, what answer do you give him, or do you have to send him to somebody else all the time. I'm talking about the truth of the Lord. You see, the truth of the Lord will apply to every situation. It doesn't make any difference if a man is living in sin and carnality, the word of truth, the knowledge of God, will apply to him (**Matt 9:12-13**).

Our problem is, we try to separate it all, but the knowledge of God covers it all. I can live in the natural in the knowledge of God because it preserves me. If I take the knowledge of God and apply it to my every-day life, I will prosper. If I will not walk in my knowledge, but walk in HIS knowledge, I cannot help but prosper. Isn't that great! So when somebody comes to you, I don't care what situation they are in, I'm talking about a knowledge that will change their lives; a knowledge that will minister to them. He said, "I have written to thee in counsel and in knowledge that you might be able to handle the situation when it comes to you."

Prov 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

Prov 24:2 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

Prov 24:3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

Wisdom builds that house; understanding establishes it.

Prov 24:4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Again wisdom, understanding, knowledge. Wisdom builds the house, understanding establishes it, and knowledge fills it. Glory to God! So God wants you to be filled with knowledge.

Prov 24:5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

We automatically think that this is natural strength. You don't need natural strength when you have spiritual strength. Samson had no real natural strength; only when the power of God and the anointing came upon him, did he do the mighty works of God (**Judges 13:24; 14:6,19;15:14-15**). The moment that he gave away his covenant with God, he was as any other mortal man. He had no power (**Judges 16:20**). If he had walked in that knowledge that God imparted to him, he would have maintained strength of the supernatural through God.

You have a supernatural strength that the human cannot understand. It is through the knowledge of God, and not through the knowledge of men. Men want to build up muscles. They want to be physically strong (**1 Tim 4:8**). Macho! There's nothing wrong with having a strong body, but we spend so much effort on a thing that is fading away. It's just fading, and fading, and fading. There is a strength that comes through knowledge that is greater than all the bar-bells and dumb-bells that you can lift. It is a strength that comes to a 98 lb. weakling. It comes to a woman, a man, a child; it doesn't make any difference. If you will allow God's knowledge to increase in your heart, your strength will increase.

Prov 24:14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

You can say then with Paul, "I know whom I have believed. I have this certain knowledge working in me. I know exactly in whom I have believed. I know Him personally. I have a sure knowledge. My expectation will not be cut off, for He will keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (**2 Tim 1:12**).

He said that there is a certain reward (**Rev 22:12**). He said that there is a crown of righteousness laid up for me (**2 Tim 4:8**). I have that knowledge. You can't take it from me. You can brainwash me, you can do anything you want to, but the natural knowledge is not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about a spiritual knowledge that is imparted into my spirit man that you cannot take from me, and that reward is certain. That destiny is certain. It is settled in my heart (**Col. 1:23**). I have an expectation and I have a reward, and neither one of them will be lost. Isn't that good. You know, God is so beautiful to us.

There is so much in the Bible, you could study 24 hours a day and wouldn't even begin to exhaust it. I like the way Paul prayed. I have asked God to help me pray the way that Paul prayed. He prayed always for the inner man. Always! There are very few places recorded where he prayed for the sick, although he did, but he knew something that I wish we could know. He knew that if they received God's knowledge, it wouldn't make any difference what was going on in the natural.

Phil. 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

Isn't that what it says? In ALL knowledge and in ALL judgment?

Phil. 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Phil. 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Phil. 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

They were probably sympathizing with poor old Paul; down in jail again, beaten and striped, and he said, "I want you to understand something. It's happened to me for the furtherance of the gospel."

I want you to look at **Phil. 3:8**. This is what Paul thought about knowledge of God.

Phil. 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

Oh, Praise the Lord! This puts in my heart, in my mind, the right perspective of anything in this world. It has no value at all. I don't care what you pay for it, it has no value. Every value on things of this world is placed there by men, but the things of God are priceless. God has given to us the spirit of the knowledge of God, and in what price range do we put it?

Paul was one of the most intelligent men on the earth. He knew the law. He was blameless concerning the law (**Phil 3:6**). He had knowledge after the wisdom of this world, but he said, "I just count it all dung. It has been nothing but loss to me, for it will not work in the Kingdom of God, and anything that will not work in the Kingdom of God, I refuse to spend ten seconds on it." You say, "Now Brother Krider, you've got to be reasonable." God's word is unreasonable to the natural man. In fact, it is so far out, the natural man cannot even begin to look at it.

"Yea doubtless, and I count ALL (underline ALL) things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but dung, that I may win Christ."

How much time do you spend standing around looking at dung? Not much, I hope. "I've got this. I've got that." You haven't anything. It belongs to God. Everything

that enters into your hand belongs to God. Your breath belongs to God. You belong to God. Your body, your soul, your spirit, belong to God. You are bought with a price (**1 Cor 6:20**). You are not your own. We worry about some peanut-size thing, and God said, "It is all loss. Even your life, if you lose it for my sake, you'll keep it, but if you keep your life, you will lose it" (**Matt 16:25**).

So here He said, "I just want to put this in the right perspective today." You cannot compare natural wisdom with God's wisdom. You cannot compare natural knowledge with God's knowledge. You cannot try to operate under your knowledge and bring God into that realm and say, "Lord, I think, I feel, this is what I want." God said that when you get to the place where you want what He wants, then you will see the move in your life. Then you are going to see everything about you change.

Col. 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Col. 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

See how Paul continues to pray here. It's always for the inner man because Paul had true knowledge. He knew that the outward man would perish (**2 Cor 4:16**). He knew that everything about the seen world would perish. He knew that everything that was seen was temporal (**2 Cor 4:18**), so he did not waste a lot of time praying for things that were temporal. His total consuming desire, was that men would grow up on the inside, the inner man would be renewed with all might; that there would be a tremendous revelation of knowledge dumped out into their lives.

How do we pray? We pray about the dung. There isn't much use praying about everything that is counted loss, is there? Don't you realize that you are being prepared for a Kingdom that is eternal? Don't you realize that you are being prepared to rule forever. Don't you realize that God needs some people walking around the cities today manifesting Christ through knowledge, through counsel, through might, through wisdom, and through understanding?

Col. 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Col. 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Remember, a wise man layeth up knowledge. Jesus said we are to lay up our treasures in heaven. One of my treasures is knowledge, and in Christ is the only place

it is. **IN CHRIST!** That is where the treasures of the knowledge and the wisdom of God are to be found. They cannot be found in the natural realm. **They are only found in Christ Jesus.**

Col. 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Now you are complete in HIM! Hallelujah! We have been foolish in the way we have conducted our lives. We have wasted time and energy trying to build programs that God wasn't even near, let alone be in them. We have gone in our own knowledge and bound men when that knowledge should have set the just free.

Col. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

When he wants to revive, don't spend time arguing with him; he is dead.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

What are you renewed in? In knowledge! You see, the regeneration, the re-creation, happens in knowledge, because you are renewed in your mind; the renewing of your mind.

Col. 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

He said that we are to be renewed in our mind (**Eph 4:23**). We are renewed in knowledge. Now as much knowledge of God as you have, is all the renewing process that has happened. Whatever areas of your life you have applied the knowledge of God to, that's all that has been renewed. If you will apply the knowledge of God to every area of your life, you are going to find out something: the world doesn't mean a whole lot anymore, and it's easier to go to church than it is to go anywhere else. It's more fun to be with God's people than it is to be with any people. When you are renewed in your mind and heart, when that new mind of Christ is in you, you're not going to want the world or the things of the world. You'll count it all dung; you'll count it all loss. The excellency of the knowledge of God has become so precious. It will work for everybody that wants it to!

1 Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1 Tim 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty,

1 Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1 Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Let's see what God's desire is: John 3:16-17

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. He was not sent into the world to condemn the world, but that through Him, the world might be saved.

HALLELUJAH! For you to impart that same knowledge, you are to go out and impart as John the Baptist did, and Jesus Christ our Lord did. As every man of God did, impart the knowledge of salvation, the knowledge of truth, into the hearts of all men.

James 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

James 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

If there are any of us who are endued with knowledge, there should be a meekness about our conversation that proves that we have the knowledge of God working in our hearts.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What do we have in us? What do we concentrate on? Our minds are supposed to be totally involved with God and the things of God. Sometimes people say, "Well, Brother Krider, I don't know!" How much time do we spend on knowing? How much time do we really spend on these 66 books. You see, God gave you the spirit of might, or the ability, to know. You notice that everything works right in line. There is no way that you could know until God gave you the ability to know. Until He gave the spirit of might, there was no way that you had the ability to know what God was telling the world and telling the church. There was no way!

God has given you the spirit of might that it might open to you the understanding of the knowledge of God's holy word, that you would not be unfruitful. The thing about knowledge is that it bears fruit. It is like a living tree; it bears fruit (**John 4:36; John 15:16**). I want all the fruit that is born of it to be a knowledgeable tree. I want it to bring deliverance to the just. I want it to bring whatever is needed to the body of Christ. I want to walk in that knowledge so I will know what an individual needs.

We have settled for a word of knowledge, and thought that we had a word of knowledge ministry, which isn't even in the Bible. There's no such thing as a word of knowledge ministry. There's a gift called the word of knowledge. There's a gift called the word of wisdom, but there is also a person called knowledge and wisdom. **HE IS JESUS CHRIST THE LORD!**

That's why I want Him to grow up in me, until I come into the fulness and the stature of the Son of God. When that happens, when that work is completed, there won't be any need for a word of knowledge, there won't be any need for a word of wisdom. Friend of mine, that will be stepping stones unto the place of **ALL wisdom and ALL knowledge.**

GOD IS TRYING TO TEACH US RIGHT NOW; TO BRING US INTO A PLACE WHERE WE CAN UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING ON AT ANY TIME, ANY PLACE, AND ANYWHERE THAT GOD WOULD USE US.

AMEN!

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 7

"SPIRIT OF JUDGMENT"

This chapter takes us into a study on the spirit of **JUDGMENT**, found in **Isaiah 4:4**. We have been taught against any kind of judgment being in our life, and yet that is contrary to the word of God. You can't help but walk in judgments because judgments are God's decisions, and the judgments of the Lord are altogether righteous (**Psa 19:9**). The righteous man can walk in righteous judgments because they won't bother him.

"Oh, I don't want to get off in an area of being a judge." You tell a man that he needs Jesus Christ and you are judging him to be a sinner. You tell a man that he needs anything, and you already have judged him to be in need of something. You make judgments all the time whether you are conscious of it or not. Don't you realize that God wants you, and commands you, to pass judgments? Either that or **Isaiah 54:17** might as well be thrown out of the Bible. ***"Every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn."*** How are you going to know that it is against you unless you can judge it, and then you are going to condemn it when it happens.

When you read **Romans 14:4** where he said, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant," he was talking to the natural man. I'm not interested in natural things. Paul was having a problem with them. I'm not going to have that problem with them. I'm going to talk to the spirit man and let him do what he wants with the word of God. Don't you know that God had judges in Israel?

Deut. 1:16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

Deut. 1:17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment;...

Either God meant that or He did not mean it.

"But Brother Krider, if I tell a person that, they are not going to pay tithes anymore." I could care less. "But Brother Krider, they are able to do a lot of favors for me, they can do a lot of nice things for me." You'd better read the word.

Deut. 1:17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's;...

Judgment is a spirit. It belongs to God. This is God's Spirit. It is not man's judgment; it has nothing to do with man. You are an instrument, a vessel through which the Holy Ghost of God speaks.

Deut. 1:17 ...and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

This is Moses talking: "If you can't handle it, bring it to me. Don't fumble it." If you don't have an answer, don't give an answer. If you don't have right judgment, don't give judgment at all, but bring it to someone who has the answer. In a multitude of counsellors, there is safety (**Prov 11:14; 24:6**).

The spirit of judgment is dispersed through the body of Christ. Some have yielded more to the spirit than others. Some have more of the discerning, some have more of the knowledge of that judgment, some have more openness to God so that He can speak judgment through righteousness. How are you ever going to tell people how to walk right if you can't judge right from wrong? The judgments of the Lord are righteous altogether.

If you belong to God and you say, "I'm a Christian," people expect to be able to come to you and get good judgment, good direction. They ought to be able to come to you and get a right decision. They ought to be able to come to any Christian and say, "You're a Christian so you ought to know how to handle this situation." "But I'm not a preacher. I didn't go to Bible College, so I...uh...what's the question?" They tell you, and you say, "Well, I think this is what it means. It's my opinion," and then you go on and give them **your** judgment. You're passing judgment all right, but it's judgment that is going to bind that individual. The judgment that God gives sets free. God's judgments are righteous altogether. The man that adheres to His judgments is able to walk free. The man who comes against God's judgments is killed; it never fails. No one can live outside the righteous judgments of God. They won't do it. He said that the judgment is God's.

I'm giving you a commission here to pass righteous judgment and to hear it, and then to let the Lord begin to speak through you to deal with the subject. Is that too hard for you? He said if you do get a case that is too hard for you, just bring it to Him. He'll settle it for you. There are lots of times when someone asks me for a decision and I'll say, "I've got to pray about it." We hate to have people know that we don't have a judgment to give them right away; but sometimes the best thing that you can do for a person is to say, "Look, I don't really know the answer on this right now, but if you will give me a little time to pray about it, I'll get the mind of the Lord on it. I'll find out what God thinks about it."

Psa 9:16 The Lord is known by the judgment which he executed...

If the Lord is known by the judgment He executed, what makes you think that you are not known by them? If you make unrighteous judgments, people know that you are unrighteous. If you make righteous judgments, they know that you are walking with God. What kind of judgments do we execute? Every one of us executes judgments whether we believe it or not. Every one of us every day of our life executes judgments.

Have you ever told a sinner that he needed Jesus? Well, you just sat down there and judged him. You can't tell a sinner that he needs Jesus unless you judged him to be a sinner. Paul said that even the least esteemed among you ought to be able to judge (**I Cor. 6:4**). Why do you go to law with your brothers and sisters? Why don't you settle it in the body, and choose out among you the least esteemed of all of them and have him judge the matter? God expected the spirit of judgment to be in the least. God expects the spirit of judgment to be made manifest among us. He expects us to be known by the judgment that we execute.

Psa 9:16 ...the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.

But the righteous, the Lord, the upright, are known by their judgments or the way they live. The words they speak, the decisions they make, man is known by those things.

Have you ever gone to a person who was unstable and tried to get an answer from him? He can't even pass a judgment, can he? One day he puts this kind of a judgment and the next day he puts another kind of judgment; however the winds blow, that's where he is. He is unstable (**James 1:8**). It is impossible for him to make sound judgment, but God doesn't expect that from you. God expects you to deal the same with every individual you meet, not with respect of person.

Psa 101:1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

I haven't heard too many people sing to the Lord about His judgments. We sing about His mercy a lot, but David said, "**I will sing of his mercy AND HIS JUDGMENT.**" The man who wants to be right, loves the judgments of God. The man who wants to walk uprightly before God, has to have a mind that is able to judge what 'uprightly' is. We are called to judge the world and angels which have fallen (**1 Cor 6:2-3**). God expects us to even be happy about His judgments. The Lord has judged every one of them righteous altogether. We should be excited about the judgment of God. It separates us from the sinner. It is God's judgment that separated you from the sinner.

Psa 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

It took a thing called judgment, God's judgment, to choose you and to separate you from the sinner and the ungodly. One thing that the sinner and the ungodly cannot stand is the righteous judgments of God. You and I can rejoice in them. We can sing in them, but the sinner and the ungodly are without the judgments of God. **We must be able to understand that it has to be in our lives. The spirit of judgment belongs to God.** It is not mine to fool with.

Psa 149:1 Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Psa 149:2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Psa 149:3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Psa 149:4 For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Psa 149:5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds,

Psa 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand;

Psa 149:7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

Psa 149:8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

Psa 149:9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord.

ALL the saints! Christians won't take the full responsibility that God has given them. We don't have to be that way, friends. We can read the word of God and understand and have knowledge that judgment belongeth to the children of God. **YOU HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.** Don't you realize that right at the beginning, when Jesus' ministry began, He was tempted and He was tried, and He judged Satan right there. He took the written judgments of God and He said, "**It is written. It is written. It is written.**" He could have just as easily said, "It is a written decision from the highest court of heaven that thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. It is a written judgment that thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

I'm going back to a little knowledge, because without knowledge you cannot do anything. This is what God says. This is not what man says.

Prov 21:15 It is joy to the just to do judgment...

But we don't like that word. We're going to write our own Bible, right? Oh, thank God, man can write everything that he wants to write, but he can't change God's word. It should be a joy for us when we see that we are going off in the wrong tangent to jump back in, and say, "Praise the Lord, this is God's decision for my life. This is God's judgment and this judgment is righteous altogether. It's a JOY for me to do it."

Prov 21:15 ...but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

The man who hates judgment, the man who will not do the judgments of God, it will be to him destruction.

Isaiah 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Isaiah 1:26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward...

(after I have restored the righteous judges of God, the judgments of the Lord)

Isaiah 1:26 ...thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Isaiah 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment and her converts with righteousness.

I want to show you something about this that will make you love Jesus a little bit more today.

One day there was a judgment made in heaven, that Jesus Christ would come, and all the judgments for sin would be laid upon Him, all the judgments for iniquity would be laid upon Him, and through the work of God's judgments on that day, He redeemed us. Hallelujah! In the great judgment hall of heaven, before we were born, God made a righteous judgment, and He said, "I will send My Son, and He will bear the iniquities of many. He will take all of my judgments upon Him and He will become a curse for them, and He will become sin for them, that they might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus." (Isaiah chapter 53).

You see, that righteous judgment of God came in the form of Jesus Christ and He was literally killed and died, buried, and ROSE again on the third day, and I have been redeemed. But until I will allow the righteous judgment of Jesus Christ to rule in me and pass judgments in my own personal life, there is **NO** way that I can walk in the holiness of God. Think about it! We were redeemed with judgment. He became my

righteousness and I became a convert of that righteousness, not only redeemed but now converted. Don't ever take it lightly, friends. It cost an awful lot.

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious upon you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

If God is a God of judgment then His people must certainly be a people of judgment. We should be able to make right judgments. We should be able to judge a situation through the knowledge of God and be able to answer the need of that situation.

Isaiah 61:8 For I the Lord love judgment...

If **HE** loves judgment, I should love judgment. If I love judgment, then I will be like Him; but if I abhor His judgment and His decision in my life, by going back to my natural mind and doing it MY way, I can say what I want to, but I have hated His judgments. I have put His judgment to naught in my life, and I cannot then say that the judgments of the Lord are righteous altogether, because in my own mind, that is not true. **But since He loves judgment, I am going to love it and when He says, "NO" it is going to be "NO!" When He says "YES" it is going to be "YES!"** I've never seen God say "Maybe." He is not a God of the "maybe." His promises are "yea" and "amen".

Isaiah 61:8 For I the Lord love judgment; I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

If I want to enjoy the covenant that God has established with me, I must love judgment because God loves judgment. I must love righteous judgment. **I MUST LOVE IT.** Praise God!

Jer 8:7 Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord.

What a terrible accusation. Animals without souls know the judgment of God, but His people, created after His image, do not know the judgment of God. Now we can blame the preacher, we can blame anyone we want to, but the only problem is that when I stand before the Lord, they won't be standing with me. It'll be just the Lord and me, and I can say all I want to about not knowing the judgments of God, and He will say to me, "It is written." He won't argue with me. He is not going to convince me then; it will be too late. But, you see, I want to love judgment and when one comes that looks like it's going to hurt me or harm me and it doesn't look good for my flesh, I'm still going to love it, because His judgment in the end will redeem me. It is righteous altogether.

Amos 5:4 For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me and ye shall live;

Amos 5:5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

Amos 5:6 Seek the Lord, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.

Amos 5:7 Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth.

A lot of us are trusting in Bethel, and a lot of us are trusting in Gilgal, and a lot of us are trusting in a lot of things. We have turned the judgment of God to wormwood in our own lives. **When we trust anything or anyone except the Lord Jesus Christ, we are going to get hurt.** If you lean to flesh, I don't care how good looking it is, it will fail you, and God designed it that way. Don't blame that man when he fails you; God designed it.

God designed man to fail man. Do you know why? Because there will no flesh glory in the presence of the Lord (**1 Cor 1:29**). There will be no Bethel or Gilgal that will glory in the presence of the Lord. It is designed to fail when you lean on it, but there is one that you can lean on who will never fail. **His name is Jesus Christ the Lord.** His judgment is righteous altogether, and the judgments of men are wormwood; but the judgment of God is righteous and I will not pervert and change and destroy the very wonderful things that have redeemed me. The judgment of God redeemed me, and I'm going to live by the same judgment that redeemed me.

Hosea knew who the Spirit of God was, and he knew what God was doing. He was familiar with God. We need to get familiar with God. We spend a lot of time getting familiar with one another, knowing one another, just doing a lot of things with one another.

Hosea 12:3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

Hosea 12:4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;

Hosea 12:5 Even the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is his memorial.

Hosea 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Get hold of judgment; get hold of and lay hold on it. Didn't Jacob do it? Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord. He got ahold of him, and he said, "I'm not going to let you go until you bless me." Put his joints and his hip out of socket there, but he got his blessing, didn't he? Waited on God, held onto God, and God blessed him and changed his name (**Gen 32:24-28**). Hallelujah!

Hosea 13:9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

Took the wrong counsel, didn't they. Took the wrong judgment. Samuel gave them judgment and they took the wrong one (**1 Sam 8:5-22**). If they had taken Samuel's judgment, they would have been spared.

Hosea 13:10 I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities: and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

Hosea 13:11 I gave thee a king in mine anger and took him away in my wrath.

You get some things because you judge at what you need, and when God gets through teaching you a lesson, He doesn't take it away peaceably. He takes it away in His anger. Whew! The judgments of God are righteous altogether.

I like Jeremiah. He said he wasn't going to preach this gospel anymore, but then he said, "I can't help it. It's like a fire shut up in my bones" (**Jer. 20:9**). If a preacher can quit preaching the gospel, he was never called. When a man can walk away from the gospel, he never had it to start with.

Jer 10:23 O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Jer 10:24 O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

I need to get corrected, but I sure want to have a willing heart to let Him do it; and I want Him to do it in judgment and not when He is angry. Do you realize what God could do to you in His anger? If He could wipe out three million people in just one second, what could He do with one of us that desired not the judgments of God. Jeremiah said, "I would be like nothing. I would be so wiped out there would not be anything left of me."

You see, that spirit of judgment must operate in our lives. The spirit of judgment has to operate in our being. It's not in man to direct his paths. Man will always go in error, because he will go by the seeing of the eye, the hearing of the ear, or the lust of the flesh, and he will come to nothing. But if he realizes that he needs God's judgment to correct him, to chastise him, to straighten him out, then and only then, will he be corrected.

Psa 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

Psa 19:8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psa 19:9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Psa 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psa 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Praise ye the Lord! They are more to be desired than gold. The judgments of God are true and righteous altogether. I will sing of the judgments of the Lord forever. I will speak of His judgments, and of His mercies. The judgments of the Lord are righteous altogether. It may be that God is speaking to some of our hearts about judgment, and all we can think about is what it is going to cost me, and God is mad at me because He is judging me. **No!**

His judgments are to give you a way to walk. His judgments are to give you a way to live so you can enjoy living while you are living, and enjoy the other world when you come into it. He does not design you to be some miserable creeping outfit. He designed you to walk in the abundant life, in the joy, in the everlasting peace and everlasting covenant and judgments of God, rejoicing all the days of your life. That's His judgment for you. His judgment is always for your benefit. He doesn't need them. They are for us. We won't need them when we leave this body. They are for now. The judgments of the Lord, they are righteous, they are true, they are pure, they are honest, and they are that factor that warns me when I go wrong. He corrects me in His judgment; He doesn't correct me in His anger.

In **Genesis 18:16-19** the Lord is speaking, showing forth his glory to Abraham.

Gen 18:16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

Gen 18:17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Gen 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Gen 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Abraham is the father of the faithful, and God knew him. God knows you, and this is the kind of testimony that God should be able to have about you when you counsel other people. People should also be able to have this kind of report about you, that you are a person who would do justice and judgment. God loves justice and judgment. He is a God of judgment. All judgment belongs unto God.

Exo 28:15 And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment...

We're talking about the priesthood and again I want you to remember that you are priests unto God. These are the words that the Lord spoke and He began to show them how to put things together. In the New Testament, Paul said that we have on us a new armour, but it isn't really new. In **Eph 6:14** he begins to give a revelation to the church, and look what he says: "**Having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness.**" You do not have judgment without righteousness, and there is no true judgment outside the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (**Romans 14:17**).

Exo 28:15 And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work...

Exo 28:29 And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart.

Judgment should be near and dear to your heart, and it is always a judgment that will work for the house of Israel, which we are; the seed of Abraham (**Romans 9:6-8; Gal3:29**). So God is saying here, first of all, it is a breastplate that is to be worn only by the priesthood. You must grow up into that priesthood. You must grow up and become of full age, so you can put on this breastplate, and in that breastplate is going to be the names of the children of God.

Exo 28:30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummin;

Urim = Conc. #224 from #217 = light

Thummin = Conc. #8550 = Complete truth

God is going to have a breastplate of judgment, isn't He? In that breastplate, the names of God's people are there. The dearest thing to His heart is there, and we find it's always in truth and light. God has brought forth in this great day a people that can counsel in truth and light. They can counsel primarily to the children of God, because outside the children of God, counsel doesn't mean much. It can't. The only thing that we can counsel the sinner, is to be saved; to give his life to Christ. There's no need for a person to do good works if he is not saved. They are nothing. No flesh shall glory in the presence of the Lord (**1 Cor 1:29**). The first thing that you will find out about that breastplate, is that it is of judgment. The judgment comes from the heart.

Deut. 16:18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes; and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Remember the scale that is not even, the scale that is weighed toward persons or situations to give favor, is not right in the sight of God. It is an abomination. Whenever you treat one person better than you treat the other person, it is an abomination. Isn't it amazing that God's people, those that He will allow to really have true judgment in their lives, are going to be people who will judge without respect of persons.

Deut. 16:19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

In other words, don't be persuaded to pass judgment according to something that somebody is able to give you. Jesus in the book of Matthew tells them to feed the poor, and to give to someone who is not able to give back to you (**Matt 5:42; 10:42; 13:15-21; 19:21**). That brings us all into the common place, doesn't it. I can judge without respect of persons. I can judge, but not after the seeing of the eye, the hearing of the ear. Man cannot judge man, because he cannot judge righteously. It's the spirit man, the Spirit of God that does the judging. It's the spirit of judgment; when it works through us, it will not counsel or judge a situation by favor to one person and wrestle the righteous judgments away from the poor.

Deut. 16:20 That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Righteous judgment will establish you. It will make you strong in the Lord, and it will cause people when they come to you, to know that they are going to get a right answer. The fear of the Lord will be there. They will not just come because you are going to please their flesh. They will come because they really have a need and they trust your counsel to be that of God.

Deut. 32:3 Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment..

If you are going to walk in the way of God, you are going to walk in God's judgment, but the judgments of the Lord are righteous altogether. David said, "I will sing of the mercies and the judgments of God," so he put mercies and judgments in the same realm. There is nothing wrong with God's judgments. The problem is with people. The problem is with the old human nature that does not want to conform to God's judgments, and therefore he rebels against God's judgments. But when the judgments or the decisions of God, the ordinances that are right, are applied to our life, they are altogether lovely. Now if God's ways are judgment, how about ours. If we are to be like Him, then we must have ways that are true judgment. **"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment."** That's how your work is made perfect.

Deut. 32:4 ...a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Isn't that wonderful. That's the kind of God that we serve today. If people are going to see that God manifested in us, then we are going to have to have the same thing in us, aren't we. We are going to have to walk in that spirit of judgment. Paul uses another word. He said, "Examine yourself, to see whether you be in the faith" (**2 Cor 13:5**). In other words, judge yourself. Let the spirit of judgment look into your life and see whether the way that you are walking is the way of God's judgment, His decisions, His ordinances, or are they the ways of man.

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man (**Prov 14:12**); it's a religious way even. It seems right unto man, it even puts men into bondage, it even puts them into a form of godliness, but it denies the power thereof (**2 Tim 3:5**). So God says, "When I came through and redeemed you with judgment, I set you free from that kind of work, and I brought you into My righteous ways." Remember when Jesus cried off the cross, He tore that veil. **HE TORE THAT VEIL.** He spoke, and when He spoke, the word went forth and rent and tore down the middle wall of sin that had separated us (**Matt 27:50-51; Eph 2:14**). The partition that had separated us from God; and then He brought us into His Holy presence to abide forever. Then He said that His ways are judgment.

2 Samuel 8:15 says that David executed judgment. God said that David was a man after his own heart (**Acts 13:22**). He said that David was a man that just loved him; and when he did something wrong, the first thing that he did was repent. When David had committed a sin and caused adultery to be found in his house, and caused murder and lying to be found in his house, Nathan came to him. So when he found that sin was in his home, the first thing that David did was to repent. He fasted, he repented, he made his heart right with God, and judgment came. But did he say, "Lord, don't

judge me." Is that what he said? NO! He said, "I have sinned against the Lord" (**2 Sam 12:13**). He was saying, "Judge me according to my heart, not according to my flesh. I have sinned in my flesh, God. I acknowledge that." He repented and he asked God to judge him, not man (**Psa 35:24**).

He said, "God, you judge me," and God did. God took the way of sin, which was death, and took that son who was born to him. You see, the end result of sin is always death. I don't care how righteous you are, if there is sin in your life somewhere, sooner or later, it will bring death. It has to. It's a written law of God, that sin when it is conceived, it bringeth forth death (**Eze 18:4,20**). It can't help it. Whether it is in a righteous person's life and he got his old flesh out there and sinned, it is still going to bring forth death in that area.

David had a secret that we need today. He loved the judgments of God. He said, "I will sing of His judgments," but when there was sin found in his house, he repented of that thing. God, through Nathan, said, "This is not laid to you, David" (**2 Sam 12:13-14**), but there had to be an automatic penalty because the sin was already conceived. So the end of it was death. But he said, "Lord, I repent," and he executed judgment where? In his own house. If a man will not have judgment executed in his own house, then he is void of understanding and he will not be able to judge through the spirit of judgment to others. He cannot give right counsel unless the spirit of judgment works in his life. He must be able to judge and say, "It is written, it is written. That is my judgment. As for God, His ways are perfect."

Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

David knew that he could not really seek after God unless he had a repentant heart. He knew that he could not conceal that thing any longer after it had been made known to him. Nathan didn't blow it around town, but do you know who passed judgment on David? David did it himself. He did! Nathan asked him what should be done, and David passed the sentence right there, and then Nathan said, "Thou art the man." Right away, the first thing that David did, was not to plead his cause before God. He just began to repent before the Lord, and God's true and righteous judgment came. David was able to stand in that judgment because of a repentant heart, and his way was made right before the Lord (**2 Sam 12th chapter**.)

1 Kings 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment...

First of all, when you begin to walk with the spirit of judgment, people are going to hear about it. They will say, "You don't want to get around that guy because he is holy. He is holier than thou art," and it really isn't you at all. If people don't want to walk in the righteous judgments of God, they have to blame somebody, so they'll say, "Oh, you're too holy. I can't walk around with you. You just want to talk about the Lord. All you want to do is glorify God, so I don't want to be around you." It is that spirit of judgment in your life, and it begins to convict them of sin.

1 Kings 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king judged; and they feared the king:..

They didn't fear God. They feared the king. They feared Solomon.

1 Kings 3:28 ...for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

It was there: the wisdom of God, the spirit of wisdom and understanding. You cannot counsel without true judgment, because when wisdom operates it always passes judgment, one way or the other. Whenever you counsel a person, you are sitting in the seat of a judge. You have to make a decision for them, and making a decision means that you are passing judgment. There is no way that you can help but sit down in the seat of the judge ever now and then. God said that He was going to restore the judges, as at the first, and the counsellors as at the beginning. The Lord is simply saying here, "Don't be afraid to hand My judgments down; they are righteous."

When this church begins to grow (the whole body of Christ around the world), when they once begin to press into the Kingdom that they walked away from, you're going to find some things happen, like Peter when he said, "Ananias, you're dead. Sapphira, you're dead." Do you know what the next thing was that happened. It says that no man dared to join himself to them for the fear of the Lord (**Acts 5:1-13**). They feared the judgment of God. They feared His righteous judgment. They had seen what happened to two people that were confessing to be followers of Jesus Christ, who lied to God, and the judgment had come through a man named Peter, and he said, "You're dead!"

You see, some of us would have said, "Repent." No! There was no place of repentance. They were dead, and Peter was the very man that spoke the judgment of God in that case. Now you see why the Lord is going to put the spirit of judgment back in such effect, because His church is going to be pure, it's going to be without spot, it's going to be without blemish, it's going to be without wrinkle (**Eph 5:27**). When the shaking starts, when that tremendous shaking starts, the judges of God will stand up. The counsellors of God will stand up, and people will come to them. They'll want to be right. They will want to know what is going on. Then we will have a true sense of direction given by the church.

Thank God for the wisdom that Job had. He had plenty of advice given to him. It doesn't make any difference whether you need it or not, there are a thousand counsellors that like to give you their opinions, but I don't need that kind of help when I'm in trouble. I need somebody who is going to be honest with me. If I'm wrong, I want to know about it.

Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

He won't change it for anybody. His judgments are righteous. They are true. Now if God doesn't pervert it, then should we? Not if the same spirit of judgment that he is talking about here is working. It will always be true judgment. It will be righteous judgment. It will not be judgment after the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear. It will not be after the feeling of the five sense realm. It will be simply through the Spirit of God, and then you are clean. You haven't done anything except to be the instrument through which God has passed His decisions, the word of the Lord. I love a God that I can count on.

I like what God told Job. He said, "Pray for your friends. Pray for those counsellors of yours" (**Job 42:7-10**). He didn't say to make fun of them; He just said to pray for them. When Job prayed for his friends, it says the Lord heard, and restored him and began to multiply him.

Job 37:23 Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

This is a piece of true counsel here. He is excellent, excellent in power and in judgment. To me the judgments of God are excellent. They are beautiful, they are true, they are righteous, they are good. By walking in those judgments, you know the mind of God. You know what his decisions are. You know what He wants you to do.

Psa 9:6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

Psa 9:7 But the Lord shall endure forever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.

Psa 9:8 And He shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

I love David. He had a few problems but he was always wanting God to be glorified

You are going to get something when you come into the throne of God. You are going to get His judgment on a thing. If you come with a prayer petition, and you don't receive it, I'll tell you why you don't get it; because you have asked amiss. You asked amiss that you might consume it upon your own lusts (**James 4:3**). You'll never get it from God that way. His throne is a throne of judgment and when you bring a prayer petition before Him, He will judge it, and He will give you the right thing. He will give you what you really need.

You may have asked for this, and you got that. Then you say right away, "I don't understand; I asked for joy and I got a trial." Really think about it for a minute. "I asked for patience and I got a package that is called tribulation. I don't understand this." What

we do is ask for the contents of the package, but the package comes first. You don't want to despise the package that it comes in, because it's inside that package. When you get through unwrapping that tribulation, patience will work (**Romans 5:3**).

We've got to understand some things here, friend. God's ways are judgment. They are right. In His ways, He gives you things that you would rather not have in your life. He gives you friends that you think you could do without. He puts you in a group of people that you would rather not be in, but you are there, and you cannot get away from them. Every time you try to move, they are just stuck to you like glue. No matter where you go, they are there, always there, and you are saying to God, "I wish you'd get rid of that person." And the Lord says, "I'm trying to kill you. Stand still. Stand still." When you get dead enough, it doesn't make any difference who is around you. When you get dead enough, it won't make any difference what kind of group you are in.

God works contrary to the natural man. What we would like to do is give our life to the Lord, and WHAM! that's it, right into the tremendous maturity of God without any trials or test. No! It doesn't work that way. Everything comes by test and trial, test and trial, test and trial. The more you want to walk with God, the more the grinder happens, the more the sifter comes, the more the press comes, until pretty soon you just get to the point where you say, "Lord, I give up. Praise God! Do whatever seemeth good in thy sight."

Peter had a problem when Jesus asked him if he loved Him. "Oh, yeah, sure Lord." When He asked him the third time, **Peter said, "Lord, you know all things" (John 21:15-17)**. God really knows. We profess a lot of things with our lips when we ought to say, "Lord, you know. You know where I really am." **Jesus said to Peter in Luke 22:31-32 "Satan hath desired to have thee that he might sift you as wheat," and Jesus didn't say, "I'm going to rebuke him; I'm going to keep him from you." No! He said, "But Peter, I've prayed for you, that your faith will fail not, and when you are converted (when Satan gets through with you, when the grinder is all done, and you are converted) then strengthen the brethren."**

Peter might have prayed a prayer something like this: "God, make me a mighty man of valour," and God said, "Peter, I'm going to answer it. I am going to keep him from you." No! He said, "Peter, I'm turning you over to the sifter." Couldn't you just see that for a minute. God's judgment toward Peter was His love. He said, "You are going to get ground to powder."

Also Job was a righteous man. God said there wasn't anything wrong with him (**Job 1:8**). Satan desired to have him that he might sift him. He sifted him, but when he came forth, he came forth twice the man he was when he went in. Peter came forth greater than when he went in. Everyone of us will do it. See, less of Peter and more of God when he got through the sifting. Less of us and more of Him whenever we go through a trial and a testing. That's God's judgment.

Your judgment would be to have it easy all the days of your life. Pick out who you wanted to be with. God has a little different way. His judgment is always right, because His throne is prepared in judgment. The problem is, to be a wise counsellor, we have to counsel with **HIS Spirit of judgment**. When we come to the place and the Lord counsels with us, and we say, "Lord, this is the way I want to be," we should really be careful, because God is going to take us at our word, and He will order up the biggest grinder that He can find, the biggest sifter that He can find. Over the years, I have finally increased a bit in wisdom, and I say, "Lord, do whatever seemeth good in Your sight. I don't know what is good in Your sight or what I really need."

Psa 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way.

This thrilled my heart when I read it. Who is the teacher? Who is the guide? The Holy Ghost! So we know then that we cannot have the judgments of God and the teachings of God, the ways of the Lord, without the teacher. The only way you can be guided is by the Holy Ghost. The only way you can be taught is by the Spirit of God, so all of God's judgments are in the spirit realm. They are not in the flesh realm. They are in spirit, so when we are walking with God, the first thing He is going to show us are His judgments, then He is going to teach us. You can't be taught without judgments. You have to begin to learn what is right and what is wrong. You have to learn how to walk before God, then as the judgments begin to work, He begins to teach you as your heart is teachable. If you have a teachable spirit, you can do a lot of things.

Psa 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

This is also found in 37:28. He loveth righteousness and judgment. If God loves judgment then I should love it. If I am like Him, and I'm His child, then I should love judgment. We are always crying for mercy, but we never, ever, cry for judgment, because we have a negative mind concerning the things that God's judgments will do to us. But God's judgments are righteous altogether.

My natural man doesn't want the judgment of God, but my spirit has learned over the years that judgment is equal with mercy. Mercy rejoices against judgment; if I walk in God's judgment, then I walk also in His mercy. They are interlocked together, but God would rather have mercy on the sinner than judgment. But He must have judgment because He is a God of judgment. So He said that He loves righteousness and judgment; therefore, if He loves it, I am going to love it.

Psa 37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psa 37:5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.

Psa 37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

In other words, God is going to make manifest your judgment. Isn't that beautiful. That's what He did for Solomon. Solomon walked with God in the beginning, sought wisdom and knowledge, sought the judgments of God, and God let the whole world see it. And He brought it forth as the noonday, and the half of it hasn't been told (**1 Kings 10:7**). They heard that it was in him to do judgment (**1 Kings 3:28**). Isn't that great. It should also be of the church, "Hey, let's not go down there. God is in the midst of them. We might go to this church over here, but let's not go down there, because we might all die, instead of live."

So God is going to bring forth **your** judgment. If you're walking with Him, if your heart is toward Him, it will be known. You don't have to go around blowing a trumpet saying, "I'm a wise man." It will be known that you are a wise man by the judgments that you execute. It will be known what kind of a person you are by the judgments you execute, just as God is known by the judgments that He executed. Glory! Doesn't that make you feel good in your heart.

Psa 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

How am I going to know that you are a wise person? By the words that you speak. I am going to know what is in your heart by the words that come out of your mouth. **Matt 12:34** says that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. It doesn't take long for you to tell whether I'm a wise man or not. Just sit around and listen to me for awhile. You won't have to judge it; the word has already judged it. If I continually speak foolishness, I am a fool; I'm foolish. But if I speak wisdom, I speak the judgments, and love the things of God, and speak the things of God, you are going to know that I am a man of judgment.

This will make you a wise counsellor. It will scare you to death to open your mouth. We need that fear of God in us. We need the fear of the Lord to depart from the judgments of God. When a person comes to you, forget who they are. Minister to them in the spirit. When they say, "I'm having problems," say, "I've got the answer. It is written. That's all you are going to get from me. It is written. I fear the Lord. I don't want to give you some counsel out of my old natural mind."

Psa 89:13 Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

Psa 89:14 Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

The dwelling place of the Lord, the habitation of God, is justice and judgment. Wow! God inhabits the praises of His people, so long as those praises come from the

heart (**Psa 22:3**). He said, "Their lips praise me, but their hearts are far from me" (**Isa 29:13; Matt 15:8; Mark 7:6**). God did not inhabit those praises. He inhabited praises that were sung of the judgments of God.

Psa 99:4 The king's strength also loveth judgment (the power of God); thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

So He does it in men, doesn't he. You are the temple of the Holy Ghost. Inside of you the spirit of judgment reigns. Inside of you the spirit of judgment resides. Hallelujah! There is no way you can get out of it, you are going to be responsible one day; so you might as well start taking responsibility now for the spirit of judgment, and you have 66 books to tell you how to judge.

It isn't as though you were going without true counsel. You've already got a more sure word of prophecy (**2 Peter 1:19**). You've already got the word written that's been established from before the foundation of the world, and all you have to do is read it. If a person comes to you for judgment and gets mad when you say, "It is written," he is not being mad at you. He is being mad at the judgment you have given him, and he will not accept it.

Psa 106:3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

Do you want to be blessed? Here's how to do it. Simple, isn't it? If somebody comes up to you and says, "I want to be blessed," just run over there real quick, and say, "I have the answer. Blessed are they that keep judgment." "But, Brother Krider, I wanted you to come and lay your hands on me and bless me." I can't bless you contrary to the word of God. If you don't keep judgment, if you don't love judgment, you are not going to be blessed. You are going to be a person in turmoil all the time. You're going to walk either in your judgment or in God's judgment. You're going to walk in judgment, one way or the other. You either judge a thing to be right because God said it, or wrong because you feel that you have a better way about doing it.

When you counsel men, you had better let that spirit of judgment begin to work in you in such a way, that when you answer a man it is not, "Thus saith any human being." It is, "Thus saith the Lord." The judges of old said, "And the Lord said... It hath been decreed by Moses, who received at the hand of God..." Now when people walk away from you, they should have had the same opportunity to receive the judgment that would set them free. When they come to the church, they should have the privilege of knowing that you care enough for them that you are going to give them something that will set them free and not bind them up. David was a man not void of wisdom or judgment or knowledge, and he loved it. He knew where it was, and he knew how to receive it from God.

Psa 119:66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

You are not going to really seek God's judgments until you believe. When you begin to believe the word of God is your final and only authority, you are going to seek for the Lord to teach you His judgments. "Lord, what is your mind on this thing. What is your desire for my life in this certain area. What is your decision for my life in this area." Then it will bring peace to you. It will bring peace. But you have to be taught, and the only one who can teach you is the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God.

Psa 119:73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Psa 119:74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Psa 119:75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

This is a humble statement here. David said, "Before I was afflicted, I went astray" (**Psa 119:67**). I don't know about you, but I had the same problem. As long as I could do it in my strength, I was the guy who was going to do it. One day God showed me that I couldn't even keep myself, and He let me come down with an affliction and it took God to heal it.

Before I was afflicted, I thought that in my own wisdom and strength, even though I loved the Lord, I could do the mighty works of God. I was able, but I want to tell you that in just a flash second, He had me flat on my back. He afflicted me because He loved me, because He was teaching me some things. He was bringing me out of my own strength into His strength. He was bringing me out of my understanding into His, my wisdom into His, my knowledge into His, my counsel into His, my might into His, and my judgment into His judgment.

Prov 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

Prov 8:21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

Look at the blessings of God by just simply following the leading of the Lord. No more worry about money, no more worry about situations, no more worry about circumstances, no more worry about anything. He said, "If you would simply follow Me in My judgments, and make the decisions I make, and take the way that I go, I'm going to cause those that love Me to inherit substance: and I will fill their treasures." Oh glory to God! God wants to fill your treasures today; did you know that?

We've read **Ecc 2:26** several times, but I want you to read it again. God is going to convert the wealth of the sinner to the church.

Ecc 2:26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

We don't know but what all the banks in the nation are piling all that money up to put it into our accounts, but you see, you have to walk in God's judgments. You have to begin to make your decisions based on God's decisions. You have to reject your knowledge and put His knowledge to work, and when people come to you for counsel, the spirit of judgment will begin to work in you. The spirit of God's judgment will begin to work in you, and He will lead you in a path of judgment. He will lead us, He will cause us to go in those paths, so that He can cause us to inherit all that He has for us. A substance. A Kingdom.

Prov 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

This shows you a little of the other side of God's judgment. This confirms what He says in **Ecc. 2:26** and **Job 27:16-17**. The wealth of the sinner is laid up for me.

The other day I was talking to the Lord, and I said, "Lord, I believe it is your judgment that I will start getting some of that wealth off of some of those sinners. They have been laying it up for years, and now it is time for me to be able to spend it for your glory." I'm beginning to take His judgment now, and beginning to loose that, and it's about ready to be changed over now. The bank account is about ready to be changed over. Hallelujah! If you have money in stocks, oil wells, etc., you are going to find that it is going to be multiplied to you, and sinners are going to start failing.

Years ago the Lord showed me a vision. I didn't understand it then, but I do now. This was a black ball, pitch black, and I could tell that it was hung in space, but I couldn't see anything except that the ball was so black. All of a sudden on that ball, began to come little lights, and they began to cover the whole earth. I said, "Praise God, that is people who are being born again into the Kingdom of God and spreading the knowledge of the Lord," and the Lord said, "**No, Not so!**" All of a sudden that ball lighted up so I could see what was going on, and **the Lord said, "Those lights are MY businessmen, MY TRUE businessmen.** They will begin to prosper when others begin to fall. The sinner will not even trade with the sinner, but He will be drawn by the Spirit of the Lord to trade with godly people, and the merchandise of money will be changed from the hands of the sinner to the hands of the righteous."

I'm beginning to see it come to pass. I'm beginning to see more and more businessmen who are Christians today. They are prospering, and other businesses are beginning to fail and go into bankruptcy, so it is only God's judgment that is coming to

pass. It is not that the sinner wasn't wise in the things of the world. The only problem is that he was on the wrong team. No matter how good you are, without Christ you are dead, and when Christ says a thing is going to happen, His judgments are forever. They stand forever; they will come to pass.

So we are seeing today an influx into Christian businesses of finances that once went to the sinner, and the sinner is now going bankrupt. Isn't that amazing. Just think of the opportunities that you are going to have to witness now in true judgment. When a sinner who is in business says, "I have a real problem. My business is going under. What must I do," then you can simply say to him, "You need to be saved. You need to give your life to Christ, and your business to Christ, and it will prosper."

A very dear friend was in the boot business in Fresno, and other businesses were failing, and he began to prosper. Before he began to prosper, he dedicated his life to the Lord, and in his business he opened up a big prayer room. He had a big sign that said "Prayer room upstairs. Open to all." You came in his door, and I don't care how many people were in that store, he would yell, "Praise God, it's good to see you" and he has a loud voice. He doesn't talk about clothes. He talks about Jesus, and when he talks, everybody in the store can hear him. There was a continuous trail all the time up to that prayer room.

God's judgment is always right, and it will always be confirmed by His word. While we have been busy serving God, the sinner has been allowed to stock-pile money, and I believe that now is the time that it is going to be reversed. God had to keep it in circulation. The church didn't have enough sense to use it right, so He put it in a bank called the SINNER. Now that the church is getting lined up with God again, He's going to start causing men to give into your bosom, opening the windows of heaven, pouring out a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

There will be Christian businessmen telling you that when you need to go to Africa, or somewhere, and you need to go minister the gospel of Christ, they will pay your expenses. I've had it happen to me. Business people called me on the phone and said, "I heard you are going to India," and they paid my way to India. They paid all my expenses, and it didn't cost me a dime, and when I was ready to come back, I had \$200 left over and gave it to the preacher there. I want to tell you, friend, that the word of God and His judgments are true. We have to begin to believe it, and if we believe it, He is going to lead us in the paths and cause us to prosper.

Prov 13:23 Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

That is like going down and getting 32 loaves of bread because they were on sale, when you only need one, and trying to keep them. You found out that there's only you in the house, and you couldn't even eat one loaf in three weeks, so when you tried to eat the others, they were all stale. They were perished because of the lack of judgment. Have you ever done anything like that? I've done stupid things like that. I've

bought things that I didn't need but because it was on sale, I thought I could use it six months from now; and when I got ready to use it, it was ruined. I forgot to read that it wasn't good after 30 days. We are slothful in many things because the judgment of God is void in our heart. We spend a lot of time and we waste a lot of things because we don't have judgment.

I have been taught so many things in my lifetime. I've bought so many things because they looked good, and they were on sale, and turned around and found out that they wouldn't fit anything that I had, and I had to finally give them away. Thank God I got them on sale, and they only cost one-half as much to give them away. So the Lord says there are things that are destroyed because we are void of judgment.

You know, we have this problem: we put our money in bags with holes in them. We think we are doing a good job, and we are cutting corners, and we are doing this and that. God isn't interested in you saving money. God isn't on an economy kick. It doesn't impress God that gas costs \$1.50 per gallon. He is just as willing to pay that as He is \$1.12. We'll run around for five miles trying to get a penny off and it cost two to get there. Be honest about it. We have to get out of that kind of a judgment and get into God's judgment; not to be slothful but to take what He has given to us, invest it wisely, that the return on it will glorify Him. The Holy Spirit knows where you live in this, and there is no sense going to school if you are not going to learn something.

I used to hate to go to church, because every Sunday this preacher preached at me. I would do something that week and he would know about it. I KNEW he knew about it, because he would preach on it. It never made any difference what it was, I couldn't do anything and get away with it. That preacher knew it, because his sermon would hit me right between the eyes. One day I told my wife that I wasn't going back there anymore. I said that he wasn't preaching Christ; he was picking on me. That's all!

One day I went to him and I said, "Look, who is telling on me? I mean it." He said, "What are you talking about?" I said, "Well, in that message that you preached today, you told exactly what I did, and I don't mind being corrected, but I would rather you would do it in private." And he said, "What in the world are you talking about? The Holy Ghost preached that sermon." I decided I had better be a little more careful in what I was doing. There is a righteous judge that seeth all.

I almost quit going to that church; but you know, that was the best thing that ever happened to me. It made me begin to realize that nothing is done in secret, but the righteous judge seeth all things, and if you love Him, He is going to reveal it. I've done some crazy things that have been revealed, but thank God they were, because I have learned to walk away from those things and do the things of God. Isn't that good!

Prov 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Prov 20:8 A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

You are a king (**Rev 1:6**), and you will sit on the throne of judgment: God's throne. Isn't that what the Lord said He would allow you to do (**Rev. 3:21**). He would allow you to sit down in His throne with Him, as He also overcame, and has sat down with His Father in His throne. So the Lord expects you to reign as a king in this life, but to sit on the right throne. It is called a throne of judgment. It's been established. When that happens, the king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

You can tell the countenance of a man who walks in the judgment of God; people look in his eyes and watch them. There are things that happen when a man begins to walk with God. He has a brightness and a glow in his eyes. There is a reflection of something that happened. I cannot understand it, I'll be honest with you. That portion of it is just beyond me, but there seems to be such a reflection in a person's eyes. It doesn't have to say anything. You just look and you know what that person is thinking. Just an open book, and I think we should do all our things this way. Nothing to be done in secret, but all things to be done openly.

Prov 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Prov 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Prov 21:3 To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

He is not so interested in our sacrifices. He is more interested that we have a heart to do justice and judgment. To be even with all men. To put all men in the right perspective. Not to exalt ourselves or cause ourselves to be someone great, but simply to be one that sits with God in His throne and begins to do justice and judgment. God said, "That is more acceptable than sacrifice." God wants us to be an acceptable people, doesn't He. He says that if we do this, we are going to be blessed. I want to remind you of that again. If we do judgment, He says that we will be blessed. A man who loves judgment will be blessed.

Prov 21:15 It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

It isn't a sorrowful thing to keep the judgments of God if you are a just man. A just man wants to walk in the judgments of God. He wants to walk in God's divine decisions for his life. We have been taught for so long that we should fear the judgments of God. "They are awful, they are horrible," but do you know that everyone of you must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. I am looking forward to that.

We keep saying, "I want to be with the Lord," but we never really take that scripture into consideration. The word of the Lord declares that every one of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive the reward for the work that is done in the body (**2 Cor 5:10**). Now you are not going to be with Christ before you appear at His judgment seat. If I want to appear at His judgment seat safely and satisfactorily and have some rewards, I am going to begin to walk in His judgment now. I'm going to be trained in the things of the judgments of God and know what He wants, so that when I appear that day, I can have some rewards that will be left over.

Some years ago I was feeling like I was doing so much for God. I was so busy, and I said, "Oh boy, I'm going to have a lot of rewards when I get home." I went to bed that night and I had a dream. When I have a dream, it is a real corker. It seemed like I had gone before the Lord's judgment seat, and I had just read that scripture that we would be tried by fire, so I'm standing there with the Lord, with a big smile on my face. I said, "Lord, where are my rewards?" He said, "They are coming," and He raised His hand and this great big diesel truck with a trailer drove in. The driver got out and walked away, and a flame came and the Lord said, "Whatever is left, is yours." I looked and it was a pile of ashes. That was it!

It looked good, it looked great, but I was void in God's judgment in many areas of my life. I had just been working to work. I had just been doing things to be doing them. I had to stay busy to prove that I was loving the Lord. I was so busy about so many things, that I wasn't spending time with Him. I wasn't sharing with Him. I wasn't asking His direction in anything. I was just taking off in one hundred directions at one time, it seemed. Never accomplishing anything; starting all kinds of things and never getting anything done. Have you ever had a life like that?

Finally I came to a point where I said, "Lord, I am going to just start one thing at a time, and I'm going to work on that thing until I get it done. That was God's judgment. Now I do pray that there will be a day when I will go before the Lord and if that white truck comes in, it will be bigger than a wheelbarrow, and when it is tried by fire, there will be more than ashes left. To me it is a joy to do the judgments of God. It is a joy! Praise the Lord! When I have to make a decision between right and wrong, I can choose right now. I can choose the things that are right. We CAN do what is right, because we have the spirit of judgment working in us.

Prov 29:1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Prov 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Prov 29:3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

Prov 29:4 The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

Here God is saying that there is a right way to establish your life. It is not by things that people give you. It is simply by walking in God's judgment. Do you want a life that is really solid and established? Do you want a life that is unshakeable? Do you know what you are going to do? You are going to go in God's judgment. You are going to walk in God's judgment. You are going to execute God's judgment. You are going to love God's judgment. You are going to take His decision over all men's decisions. You are going to take His decisions against the popularity trend.

Somebody said, "We're a minority." No, we need to open our eyes, like Elisha the prophet of God, had the Lord open his servant's eyes. The servant came running to him, and said, "We are surrounded by the enemy and we are going to perish. Don't you care about us?" The prophet said, "There be more for us than there be against us. Lord, open my servant's eyes that he might see." Pop! His eyes came open and around Elisha there was a multitude of horses and chariots of fire. Elisha prayed and asked the Lord to smite the enemy with blindness, and God smote them with blindness, and they were defeated (**2 Kings 6:15-20**).

God is a majority all by Himself. He fills heaven and earth. Sometime when you feel like there are only a couple of us, and how can God do anything with such a small little group, did you know that God always separated down to a small group before He moved out. He always brought it down from the multitude to a seemingly minority and went out and got the victory. He told Gideon, "I am going to separate it down to nothing, so that man cannot say that he has done this thing. The glory will be mine" (**Judges 7:1-7**).

If you are looking in the natural, begin to let God give you spiritual eyes. The angel of the Lord encamps around about us (**Psa 34:7**); the heavenly host is with us. If God be for us, who can be against us (**Romans 8:31**). That's God's judgments! We don't need to be afraid of men. God is greater. I don't need to be afraid of men's opinions; it is God's opinion that counts. Men's judgments come to nought, but God's judgments stand forever. It's a JOY for me to do the judgments of God. It is a joy today for the king to reign by judgment.

Here is where we really have to begin to let the mind of Christ operate in us. We as a natural person have a tendency to judge everything right now. Paul said, "Judge nothing before the time, for God will bring every hidden thing into light" (**I Cor. 4:5**). It doesn't make any difference what it is, there is a time for it.

Ecc 8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

Ecc 8:6 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

Ecc 8:7 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

In other words, there is a time to judge a situation. You never want to judge a thing before the time. When you walk with God, in the **6th verse** it says that there is a time. You can see a situation that doesn't look right, doesn't sound right, and right away you want to go change it. But the thing to do is to wait until God makes the time, because He may be preparing a heart on the other end, or He may be doing a work to bring to pass some great thing. When it comes the time to speak, the opportunity will be right. It will be made right, but if we go and judge a thing before the time, and speak before it is time, we bring a confusion into that heart. We are so worried about getting it out right now, when God said there is a time for all things.

We judge after the seeing of the eye and the hearing of the ear, and we make a snap judgment, when we should do this, "Lord, give me the time. Give me the wisdom. Give me the understanding. Give me the counsel. Give me the might. Give me the knowledge, that this judgment that I pass will not be of myself, but it will be your judgment." Then when it is God's judgment, it will bring conviction, not condemnation. Our judgment brings condemnation. God's judgment brings conviction. There is a lot of difference.

When Jesus Christ came, He was the judge. His Father was of course, **THE** judge, but the judge was in Him. He himself judged nothing (**John 5:30**). He didn't come to condemn the world, but He came that through His judgment (through God the Father's judgment) the world might be saved. If He had judged the world at that moment before He died and rose again, and put the world under condemnation, there couldn't have been any salvation. The world was already condemned. The world was already judged. If He had brought at that moment, the judgment of God to it's fulness, there would have been no salvation. When He comes again, that judge will come and He will appear, and then after the 1000 year reign with the Lord, there shall be the white throne judgment. That will be the end of all judgment. Hallelujah!

Isn't it great that God is making you judges to rule with him 1000 years, king and priests. Judgment has been given into your hand to begin to use it now in the church, but to use it wisely. We should come in the spirit of meekness. We should come in the spirit of compassion, that when judgment from the Lord does come, it's not a judgment that will condemn men and women. It's a judgment that will save men and women.

I need that kind of compassion, not a condemning compassion, when I have a problem; a convicting compassion that shows me that I am wrong, but there's a way to be right. See, we need to understand that just because God has given us judgment, there is a right way to use it. There's a right time to use it. There is a right place to use it.

Isaiah 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

The only redemptive power there is, is through the judgment of God. Whenever you see a lost person you are judging them lost, and you are bringing God's judgment to them. You are saying, "Listen, you can be saved. You can be redeemed. You can be brought back because Jesus Christ paid the price." That's God's judgment working through you. The only way a man can be redeemed is by his own judgment, judging himself either to be worthy or unworthy.

Paul had an accusation against the Jews in the synagogues. He went preaching the gospel and really ministering to them, and he loved them and had compassion. He said, "Seeing that you have counted (judged) yourself unworthy of this gospel, I will go to the Gentiles" (**Acts 13:44-48**). You are passing judgment every day of your life, whether you want to admit it or not. Sometimes you don't want to realize you are doing it, but here God is showing us how to make right judgments against which there is no penalty of sin; against which there is no loss. This judgment is all gain for us.

When you go out preaching the Kingdom of God and telling people to repent, you've already passed judgment on them that they need to repent, but you've brought God's judgment, haven't you. John the Baptist wasn't afraid of it. He said, "The day of the Lord is at hand. Repent! Repent! Repent every one of you." We need to come to a place where we say, "Hey, look! This is great. God is trusting me with His judgment. He is trusting me. He is trusting me with a great and powerful thing; the very spirit of judgment works in our lives."

Isaiah 5:16 But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

If you want to exalt the Lord in your life, begin to make right judgments. When people see that you are making right judgments, it really exalts God in their eyes. They see that man can walk in that kind of a life, and can live in that kind of life, and can live in such a state that joy, peace, and righteousness are continually with him. That exalts God! God has done a great work. He has done a mighty work and you are just showing forth the might of His great work. You're exalting Him in the judgments that are made in your life.

It makes you want to be a little more careful when you go to counsel somebody. You want that spirit of judgment to be working, so that when you are through counseling, God will be exalted, not man. You see, when you give your counsel, you are exalting yourself and moving God over in your own mind. That doesn't exalt God in the way that it should. It exalts God when it is His judgment that is enacted. When His spirit of judgment begins to flow in your life, that is what glorifies the Lord. It brings forth glory and honor unto Him. Hallelujah!

Isaiah 28:5 In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people.

Isaiah 28:6 And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Isaiah had tremendous wisdom and knowledge imparted to him from the Lord. When I read **verse 5**, I wanted to weep and shout. I said, "Lord, that is **Isaiah 60:1** being fulfilled: And the glory of the Lord shall be seen upon them." The way He is going to be seen upon them, is through the judgment they execute.

He didn't stop there, **"...and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate."** In other words, they will not let unclean spirits enter into the congregation. They will stand as a strong defense in the name of Jesus. Here it is in Eph 6:11: "Put on the whole armour of God that you might **STAND** against the wiles of the devil; that you might protect the body." Hallelujah! Only a full mature son can put on the armour of God; the breastplate of righteousness, or the breastplate of judgment. Right on your heart; having the names of the children of God close to your heart. Having truth and light close to your heart in that breastplate that we studied about.

When you counsel somebody, don't you realize that the glory of the Lord is seen upon you. In the judgment that you pass, He is known by the judgment He executeth. See, there is a crown on you; there is glory on you. It is His crown, His glory that is seen upon you when you begin to execute righteous judgment. When you counsel people, they are seeing something in your life or they would not have come to you. If they are walking in the flesh, they will not want you to counsel them. They will find flesh counselors. But if they want to be right with God, they will come to you and they will see the crown of glory, the crown of God's glory, His judgment being executed through you.

I learn something every day of my life in the word of God. I saw that, and I said, "Oh, Lord, I love you!" That's why when people say, "You're not very intelligent in the things of the world," I don't need to be intelligent in those things. The world is dead. I have enough intelligence to get around in it. That's all the intelligence I want. I want to be intelligent in God. Amen!

I want to be wise in God, because I know then that I can execute judgment that will take care of every area of my life, whether it is a physical realm or whether it is a spiritual realm. I will have enough wisdom, enough knowledge, enough understanding, enough counsel, enough of the might of God, to begin to bring the judgments of God to pass in my life. So when I saw that scripture, I said, "Oh, thank you, Lord." Prophecy being made known, and manifested in our lives today. It should excite you a little bit!

Isaiah 33:5 The Lord is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

Jesus said in Matt 5:6 "Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled," and the word 'filled' means to be saturated. You do not have righteousness without some judgment. When judgment begins to totally fill you, the Lord is totally exalted. When righteousness fills you, the Lord is totally exalted. **"The Lord HATH filled."** It is past tense. It is not something to be done; it is something that has already happened. Do we want to be filled with the Spirit of God? Then there are some things that happen when the Spirit of God comes. There are some tremendous truths that begin to be revealed to us. We know things that we don't know. We had no way of really knowing where we got them from.

I remember when I was a young preacher, I preached things that I had never read in the Bible. I would say, "Uh, oh! Where in the world did I ever get that?" It sounded right, it sounded good, it bore witness with my young spirit, but I would go home and get my concordance, and I would start looking and sure enough that scripture was there, maybe not in the exact way that I had spoken it, but it was there. I would go, "WHEW". It was a relief, because I was afraid that I was saying something that wasn't written in the word of God, and I knew that if I did that, I was going to be in BIG TROUBLE.

A brother corrected me one time when I was preaching in his church. I was teaching on the Kingdom of God, and I was putting it in such heavenly realms. That night on the way home from church, he said, "Brother Krider, that sermon thrilled my soul. That's got to be one of the best sermons that I have heard on the Kingdom of God, **BUT!**" He was going to pass a little judgment on my sermon, see! I thought his judgment was pretty good up to that point; that he **KNEW** a good preacher when he saw one. You see, I was young and cocky, and he said, "But! It's wonderful to preach a heavenly message like that, but you seemed to forget one thing: you never gave them a ladder to climb up to it."

You see, that judgment was good for me. For a minute it made me angry, because I thought I had done a superb job, and he had just said that I did. Then he had to add that little word, "BUT", and just literally destroy me. I lived with that man for almost seven weeks and every night he did that to me. Pretty soon I would just go along waiting for the BUT to happen, and no matter what he said in front of it, there was going to be a **"BUT"**.

That was the best seven weeks schooling that I ever had in my life. After I got through preaching, he would say to me, "I want to ride home with you, Brother Krider. Would you drive my car." He'd keep me up until three o'clock in the morning telling me all about the BUTS. When I left that man in seven weeks, I didn't even think I could preach anymore. I thought for sure it was all over with, but he said, "I want you to be filled with that knowledge."

Isaiah 51:3 For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her

desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 51:4 Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

Isaiah 51:5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

Isaiah 51:6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

"For a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light (or illumination) of the people." Jesus said, "You are the light of the world" (**Matt 5:14**). You should walk in such a way that the judgments of God are illuminated to the people. Made manifest. Making the right decisions, making the right choices, making the very judgments of God come to pass so God can be exalted in you and me.

This is not a prophecy totally yet to come. Portions of this prophecy have been fulfilled, but Peter wrote later on the portion about the heavens and the earth would be on fire with a fervent heat, that even the elements will melt thereof (**2 Peter 3:10**). **Rev 21:1-5** says there would be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. I want people to escape that total loss. If they have to lose everything in this life to gain that one, it is going to be worth it.

If we pass judgments that really prick the hearts and the conscience of people for them to make choices toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they will be there with us forever. And if we make choices that will just satisfy the flesh for a few days or for a season, they will not be there. They will be lost forever! I pray that it is not because of any counsel of any member of the body of Christ, that a man will make decisions that will cause him to suffer loss in the world to come.

You see, God has set you as a light. There is no way that you can get out of it. The moment you accepted Christ, you became the light of the world. That's why He said of John, "Of those born of women, there was none greater than John the Baptist, but I say that he that is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he" (**Luke 7:21**). Why? Because **John 1:8** says: " He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light." But you must say, "I AM that light." You are a part of Jesus Christ. You are a part of Him, and whatever He is, you are to be in this present world. You cannot back off and say, " I am NOT the light." You **MUST** be the light of the world. That light is a manifesting power that lets the world see the true judgments and the pure judgments of

God. It wasn't because John wasn't a great man. John loved the Lord. Friend, there had been people already gone into the Kingdom that were greater than him.

We should get excited about this. It puts a responsibility on us, doesn't it, but that responsibility has great reward in it. Hallelujah! Then you begin to walk a little more in the fear of the Lord. After all, that's what it is all about. **THE FEAR OF THE LORD!** When that begins to happen, you will begin to have knowledge and wisdom and understanding.

Isaiah 61:7 For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Isaiah 61:8 For I the Lord love judgment,...

There will be a lot of things happening to you in the flesh that you don't necessarily like, but hang in there, stay in there, adhere to the judgments of God; for one day you will walk out of the furnace. One day you will come through that lion's den. One day you will come out of the Red Sea. One day you will cross Jordan. You'll get it all done; it will all be done. **PRAISE THE LORD!**

Everything will be done, and you'll have a double reward. You'll rejoice in the reward in that day. You can joy in the Lord now, you can rejoice in Him now, but we only know Him partially, and **THEN we will KNOW HIM and be known as HE is known.** Then you will see through eyes that don't have a shadow over them; you will see Him face to face (**1 Cor 13:12**), and you will rejoice in that day. Oh, hallelujah! **Face to face with the Lord!** Can't you see Him with His arms outstretched, saying, "Come unto me, come unto me, oh thou good and faithful servant. Let me love on you a little bit." Can't you see Him just waiting there and saying, "Come on. Come on."

You are compassed about with such a great cloud of witnesses (**Heb 12:1**). Don't you know that every saint of God is encouraging you on. Don't you know that all the angels in heaven are encouraging you and **Jesus Christ Himself is saying, "Come on. You can make it. It's worth it all. YOU CAN MAKE IT! No matter what the price is, you can make it. I won't allow you to be tempted above what you are able. I'm faithful. I'll make a way of escape that you might be able to bear it or carry it" (1 Cor 10:13).**

You see, you want to counsel with this kind of counsel, don't you. If you see a man in trouble, don't try to get him out of trouble. Just stay in there with him. Tell him, "Look, the Lord is in there with you.

Jer 4:1 If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the Lord, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove.

Jer 4:2 And thou shalt swear, The Lord liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

Glory to God! If we counsel people to turn to the Lord and turn away from themselves, and turn away from all that the flesh realm has, and begin to turn to the Lord, and seek Him with a whole heart, they would find Him, they would not be removed, they would not be shaken.

The shaking is already happening in many places. Wherever you are, you can't outrun it. It is going to happen. It's going to take place. **(Heb 12:26-29)**. You shouldn't be afraid of it. You talk about a tight fellowship in those days, we're going to have one, because there is not going to be anyone come among us that is faking it. There won't be anyone dare join themselves to us, for the fear of the Lord will be in the house of God again.

Jer 22:1 Thus saith the Lord; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word,

Jer 22:2 And say, Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates:

Jer 22:3 Thus saith the Lord; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.

See how the Lord wants you to begin to have some excellent judgments. He said, "I want you to execute judgment. I want you to execute righteousness, and when you have done that, there is going to be a deliverance that comes." Isn't that beautiful! Deliverance comes with judgment. Judgment shall deliver the just. He said, "Deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, and do no wrong."

When you are doing the judgment of God, there is no wrong. When you walk in God's judgments they are righteous, they are true altogether. You can walk right before the Lord. You can walk uprightly before God. How else could you walk uprightly unless you walked in the judgments of God. He said He would withhold no good thing from them that walked uprightly, or in the uprightness of His righteousness **(Psa 84:11)**. You see, judgment and righteousness just go hand in hand right down the road. You see somebody oppressed, give them the judgment of God. You see somebody that is bound, you give them the judgment of God. Many times you won't even have to pray for them.

When I was younger, and with a lot of zeal (I thought it was boldness, but it was zeal), this lady came to me, and I said, "The joy of the Lord is our strength, and in the

presence of the Lord is FULNESS of joy," and I just started preaching to her and I didn't know what I was doing. Pretty soon, she started shouting and said, "Oh, Praise the Lord. I feel much better already!" I didn't even pray for her. Didn't have to. The will of God, the judgment of God, hit her in the heart, and strengthened her and made her stand uprightly.

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou comdemnest thyself: for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Romans 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

We've used **Matt 7:1-5** for a cop-out for years because we did not understand it. He is telling you right here what it is. The judgment that you judge after the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear, you are just as guilty of it; you've been into it yourself. But He said, "We do know this, that the judgment of God is righteous, it is right."

Now when we walk where God wants us to, we're not walking in the flesh anymore. We're walking in the spirit. When we pass God's judgments as we are told to do, then it isn't flesh judgment; it is eternal judgment. It is a judgment that standeth forever. It is a joy that delivers the spirit man out of captivity, out of bondage, out of all the things that he has bound himself with, and sets him free. It is not a flesh judgment.

That was what Jesus was saying in **Matthew 7**. He said, "**You can't judge a man by a man, because there is no man righteous enough to judge by. Everyone must be judged by the righteousness of the spirit of judgment.**" That's why we are foolish. We counsel after the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear, because eventually we have to pass on judgment according to the intellect of the natural man. But when we speak after the spirit of judgment of God, it is not us that speaketh but the Holy Ghost that speaketh through us, and He is not judging the flesh man; He is speaking to the spirit man. Isn't that good!

Don't become a judge of the natural man. What good is it? You waste a lot of time. It's like trying to plug a hole in the Titanic. It's going down anyhow. Just a matter of how it goes down, and that's all. The natural man is corrupt (**Eph 4:22**); that's all that he is. Giving counsel to him isn't going to do you much good, I'll tell you that for sure.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit,...

This could happen at just any time, but if you haven't been practicing judgment, what kind of judgment seat are you going to get.

Rev 20:3 ...and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and THEY sat upon them,...

Who are 'THEY'?

Rev 20:4 ... and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their forehead, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

I am going to be in the first resurrection. If I truly believe that, I will want to be ready for that. I don't want one of those lower seats. I'll take a lower seat here at a feast, but in that one I want to snuggle up to Him. In that one, I want to sit on the seat right next to Him. I want to sit down in the throne with Him. I want Him to reach out and put His arm around me, and say, "You are the prettiest bride that I ever saw." But you see, I have to qualify now for it. There won't be any qualification after I leave the body. It will be simply because I have yielded my spirit and my soul and my body to the Lord Jesus Christ. That is worth any price you can name. You cannot buy it. You cannot purchase it. You cannot become wise enough in the natural to ever receive it. It is simply becoming like a little child and being converted, and then grow up into all the things that God has for you.

You see, judgment is given to you now, and judgment will be given to you then. But I want to operate today in His judgments. They are righteous and they are true. His righteous judgments are to be sought after. Look at the rewards that you are going to get. Doesn't that make it worth it all. What if you lived upon the earth all of those years, and you missed this. What would it profit you. "Oh, I would just die and that would be the end of it." No! There's going to be a second resurrection. There is going to be a place called the "White Throne Judgment" that the dead, both small and great, will stand before. If you look at that resurrection, there is no living one, they are all dead.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a GREAT WHITE THRONE, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the DEAD, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the DEAD were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the DEAD which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the DEAD which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 11: 25- 26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were DEAD, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Isn't that beautiful! We need to walk in that realm of His judgment, letting the judgments of God be declared and seen throughout the world. When you counsel people from now on, say "Wait a minute; let's find a place where it is written." Don't be ashamed if you don't know what the book is, or if you don't know the exact answer; get a concordance.

You should get acquainted with this Bible, this handbook. You should get acquainted with the judgments of God and know what is written therein. Jesus availed Himself of the judgments of God when He defeated Satan. Three times He said, "It is written, it is written, it is written." Three times He said, "It is the decision of God, it is the decision of God, it is the decision of God. It is God's judgment, it is God's judgment, it is God's judgment." We could save ourselves a lot of trouble, couldn't we, if we would ever learn to really begin to walk in God's judgments and desire them; to desire them more than anything we could possibly ever desire.

Now do you begin to feel a little more like not being so free with your counsel. Do you feel like sending the person to somebody else? Moses father-in-law said to him, "This is too much work for you. You are killing yourself. Put some men under you, let them discern, let them judge, and if there is something too much for them, let them bring that to you." Now Moses adhered to that plan. He said, "I want you to judge these things righteously, but if there is something too hard for you, just bring it to me." (**Exodus 18:13-26**).

There have been times when I have had to bring it to somebody else. If I couldn't find the place where it was written, I'd just call somebody and say, "Look, do you know where that scripture is?" They would say, "Yeah, I've got it", and then I could turn to that person and say, "It's over here, in that little book that I lost yesterday," and they would say, "Wow! I didn't know that. I've been told a lot of things but that is the first time I've ever been told that."

They could have gone to 100 true counselors and they would have always gotten the same thing. That's the beauty of this. You see, when we really counsel according to this, no matter who it is, and no matter how many times they come to different individuals who are serving the Lord, if it is a true counselor, they will always get the same word. It will not be a word that is different. It will be the same word.

AMEN!

COUNSELING

CHAPTER 8

"SPIRIT OF BURNING"

This chapter is on the spirit of **BURNING**, which we find in **Isaiah 4:4**. Let's read the verses **1-4** as we start this study.

Isa 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

Isa 4:2 In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isa 4:3 And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living of Jerusalem:

Isa 4:4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

The Lord says that this is His Spirit and if it is His Spirit, then it should also be in us. When we give counsel, there should be a fire in that counsel. There should be a fire that burns away the dross. There should be a fire that should begin to burn through the spirit of counsel that will cause a change in men's lives. We have, so often, given lukewarm counsel which has allowed anybody to do anything they wanted to, but the spirit of burning is also a spirit that accompanies the spirit of counsel. When that spirit of burning comes, friend, it changes people's lives.

Matt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with FIRE.

Some people read this "Holy Ghost only", or that He shall baptize you with the "Holy Ghost and tongues." We like to read it that way, but that's not the way it reads. There's another word there, called "**fire**".

Wherever the Holy Ghost of God is, there is fire. It doesn't make any difference whether we like it or not, that's the way it is. When Jesus baptizes you with the Holy Ghost, there is a fire that comes with the Holy Ghost. He begins to do a job called "**purging**": burning away, purging the conscience from sin, from dead works to serve the living God (**Matt 3:12**).

It takes the spirit of burning to purge your conscience. It takes the fire of the Holy Ghost of God to burn away the dross of your mind and the corruptibility of the conscience and bring you undefiled before God. **Heb 12:29** says that our God is a consuming fire. Now if He is a consuming fire, how in the world are we going to get close to Him? He said He would dwell in you, didn't He? He said we would dwell in Him. He said, "If My words abide in you, and you abide in Me, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done" (**John 15:7**).

The only way I can possibly abide in Him is to live in the same Spirit He dwells in, and it is the spirit of burning. Whenever you counsel somebody, you're going to set a fire under him. You're not going to sear him; you're going to burn him. When you talk to a man that's lost and bring the righteous judgment of God, the spirit of burning is there with him, and it begins to set his conscience on fire. He begins to know he has to make a decision. He gets pricked in his heart. Why did they hate Jesus? Because He made manifest their sins. The word "**fire**" means "**light**." You are the light of the world; you're the fire of the world. You're the illuminating factor of the world.

When you come into Jesus Christ, He baptizes you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether and moreover by them is your servant warned. There is a light here that begins to burn in us, warning us, showing us, guiding us, directing us. "**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path**" (**Psa 119:105**). Isn't it amazing? Now we need to come to the realization that there's a fire burning in us. You can cross that out if you want to, but it still won't change it. You can cut the whole page out and it will still read the same.

You might say, "Well Lord, I didn't know I had that fire." God will say, "It is written." You should really say, "Lord, I didn't take time to read the word." A Christian ought to have so much fire in him that a sinner can't stand him unless he wants to be converted. Righteousness and sin cannot walk together. Light and darkness can't walk together. How can any two walk together lest they be agreed? (**Amos 3:3**).

The Christian church is a living church. The true Church of God is going to come alive; going to begin to rise and shine. The Church is going to let the fire of God be seen; the spirit of burning is going to be made manifest so the world can see it.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Matt. 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The flesh, the old man. When the heat of God comes into your life, the old man begins to die away.

Luke 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

There was that spark of life; there was that fire always there. That kindled fire was always there. The spark was there, but when the Holy Ghost came and breathed on the day of Pentecost, it wasn't just a spark any longer. It kindled, it exploded into a great flame of fire. When the Holy Ghost came, **Acts 2:1-2** says "**The house wherein they were seated was filled with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and upon each of their heads appeared cloven tongues of fire.**" When the Holy Ghost breathed upon that kindled fire, it exploded and began to be scattered around the world. That fire is a consuming fire now. It is a kindled fire. It exploded when that fan began to blow on it. When Jesus began to blow on it by the Spirit of God, it began to burst into flame. Don't tell me you can walk with a consuming fire without getting burned if you're not in the same fire.

The three Hebrew children had a fire that was greater than the fire that was burning in the natural (**Dan 3:25-27**). When you walk in that consuming fire of Jesus Christ, the world fire doesn't bother you. The things of the world don't bother you. Jesus Christ came to bring fire. Illumination! He said, "If I had not come, you would not have known that you had sin. You could have gone on in darkness. But because I have come, because the fire, the light, the illuminating factor has come, you know you have sin" (**John 3:16-21; 8:12**). It's made known to you now. Everything that makes manifest is light. Isn't that so? And when you counsel people who are walking in error, and they want to know the truth, the fire, or the light of God, will appear unto them in such a way that the scripture is illuminated, so they can choose right from wrong.

There was no light that men could really walk in. They rejected it. But He was made manifest in the form of a body named Jesus, then He sent the Holy Ghost back. Praise the Lord! When the Holy Ghost came and breathed in that upper room, He breathed fire. He began to spread the fire of God. Instead of it being a spark in a prophet here and a spark in a prophet there, a spark in a holy man here and a spark in certain ones, it was a fire that began to be built through the church. It was a fire that was to purge the church. It was a fire to purge the conscience of men, to bring them into right standing with God so that they could walk in the light.

I want to show you how important that light really is. Don't try to separate light from fire. You can't do it. They didn't have electric bulbs back then. All the light they had was fire. Something else happens where fire is: there's power. You can generate power through heat. I want to tell you, if there's enough fire in you today, there's enough power in you. You've got all kinds of power in you.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

You may belong to the same body of believers but that doesn't mean you have fellowship with one another. There are four steps to fellowship. The first one is relationship. We are all born of the same Spirit so we automatically have the same Father. We begin to grow a little bit and we have an acquaintanceship with Him. We know that He is our source, and we know that He provides for us. And then the third one is friendship. We begin to be able to call Him our friend, and walk with Him and begin to understand Him a little bit. But the fourth one is fellowship; the place where you sit down with Him and become an heir of God. But more than that, you become a joint heir.

Romans 8:17 says that we are heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, and that we will be glorified together if we suffer with Him. Here He's saying that there are four steps into fellowship. This is illumination power; this is fire burning in you to burn out the dross. You must decrease but He must increase. There must be a passing away of the old man and a putting on of the new man. First, you are related by birth to Him through the blood. Second, you are acquainted with Him. Third, you become a friend with Him. And the last step is fellowship.

John is writing to the church here. He's not writing to sinners. He said, "We write this that we might have fellowship with you." We walk around with a lot of people and think we're having fellowship with them. We wonder why we're having a hard time getting along with them. Why don't they want to stay with us very much? Why don't they like to be around us? They may have the same Father, but they are not walking in fellowship with you!

1 John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Remember what Jesus said? **"The prince of this world cometh and he hath nothing in me" (John 14:30)**. We should walk like that. When the prince of this world comes, he doesn't have anything in us. He has nothing that he can even interest us in. Nothing that he can take hold of us with. Everything should be pure and lovely and holy inside of this tabernacle.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

It's better to say, "I'm His child," than to say, "I'm having fellowship with Him," and be walking in darkness. We're lying to ourselves. If we live in the flesh, even though we are begotten of the Spirit of God, and we're not walking in the spirit, we're still walking in darkness. We're stumbling around. Have you ever done that? Walk into a wall here, a wall there? I'm talking about spiritual walls now. Every time you allow your flesh to get the upper hand, you're not walking in fellowship with God. You're saved, but you're not walking in fellowship.

Talking about walking in the spirit, there is a difference. **Gal. 5:16** says, **"If we live in the spirit, then let us also walk in the spirit, for if we walk in the spirit, we shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."** As long as we fulfil the lust of the flesh, we are not walking in the spirit. We are walking in the flesh even though we are saved. That's called carnality; that's called the Corinthian Church.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another...

That's the only time we have fellowship. Now we can have relationship. That's why Paul said, **"I speak wisdom to those that are perfect, but yet not the wisdom of this world" (1 Cor 2:6)**. We need to examine ourselves through the light or the fire of God to see where we really are, recognize it, admit it, and say, "Okay, Lord, now let the fire of God be increased in my life. Whatever is not pleasing to you, let it be taken out."

That's why when you counsel people and they're walking in the darkness of their own flesh and their own mind even though they are Christians, you have to find out what realm they're in. You have to know by the spirit of judgment that God has just let you walk in, what realm they're walking in. You have to know where they are. Paul said, "You're carnal!" **(1 Cor 3:1)**. We wouldn't dare call anybody carnal, would we? We might offend them. "Well, I'm not Paul." No, but you are supposed to be like Jesus.

How are you going to minister to somebody if they're in a kindergarten; you surely can't give them graduate food for college. It would kill them. If they have to have milk and you try to give them meat, you'll destroy them. You've got to know where they are, and if you walk in the light, as you're in the light and he's in the light, then you're going to have fellowship with God and with one another. Otherwise, all you've got is relationship, acquaintanceship, or friendship. Isn't it wonderful how the word of God is always true?

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Not LIVE in the light; not CRAWL in it; not SIT in it. We're to WALK IN IT.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If you say that in your flesh there is no sin, you lie. If you don't think it is, just quit reading the word of God, quit studying the word of God, or let somebody get angry for a minute. See how quick that thing jumps up. The will to do is always present with you. Paul says in **Romans 7:18** "It's just sin that's in my flesh for there is no good thing in me." But if we walk in the flesh, then we will fulfil the lust of the flesh, even though we are a child of God. That's why we need that fire burning in us continually, until it just burns away the old flesh man and there's nothing left but Jesus.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Romans 3:23 says that **ALL** have sinned and come short of the glory of God. If you allow the fire of the Holy Ghost, the spirit of burning, first to walk in you and work in you, you're going to begin to have fellowship with the Father. That's important. To be a full grown counselor, it's important that there be no darkness in you; that you walk in the light as He is in the light. Then you're going to have fellowship. You don't have fellowship until then. I don't care who lies to you. You can put a hundred signs on a building and say, "This is a Christian fellowship," but that won't make it so unless a man walks according to the word of God. Unless a man has a spirit of burning working in him, illuminating power, light of God, he doesn't have fellowship with God. He has relationship, he has acquaintanceship, he has friendship.

Let's read **1 John 2:12-14**. I will show you there are three stages here. This has to do with that spirit of burning I'm talking about, the increasing of that light in our lives.

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

Isn't that the first thing that we know? When we're first saved we don't know what the Kingdom of God is. We don't have any idea what they're talking about. So, we're little children for the simple fact that our sins are forgiven us. How much fellowship does a child have with his parents? None! Children are continually asking for something; they take things. In fellowship you share things.

1 John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning...

You have a full relationship with Him. Paul said **"You have thousands of teachers but very few fathers" (1 Cor 4:15)**. How many fathers of the faith do you really know? How many of them can sit down on any subject and counsel you, or show you the right way, or live such a godly life that you'd like to live like them? I'm talking about spiritual people who have grown up into the father realm where they're having fellowship with the Father.

1 John 2:13 ...I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the father.

You can go on and find out he verified this again in **vs. 14**. He called young men strong, and **said "...the word of God abides in you."** The trouble with a young man is that he depends more on his own strength. Someone said to me, "Brother Krider, I've never been on that stage. I'm still on pabulum. Just found out about it." The trouble with being a young man in the Lord is that you trust more to your own strength than you do to the mind of Christ. There's nothing wrong with being a young man in the Lord. You've got to be that before you can be a mature man. There's nothing wrong with being a child in the Lord. You've got to be that before you can be a young man.

The Lord is simply saying here that as you begin to grow and let that light work in you, you're going to come to a full revelation of Him and you're going to **know Him**. This is not that which used to be, but that which is from the beginning. **You're going to know Him from the beginning to the ending**. You're going to walk as an example to the flock, and your light is going to shine, that all men might see your light and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. They're going to see your works. They're going to see your light. It's going to be a manifested life, isn't it?

No wonder Paul said, **"Follow me as I follow the Lord. I'll be your example" (2 Thess 3:7,9)**. According to Bible history, he had a group of up to 90 people traveling with him all the time, except when he was in jail. Then it was usually by himself or one other one, whoever they could catch. But he lived in such a godly life that he was not afraid to say, "Follow me as I follow the Lord." How many of us could truthfully say, "That's where I am." He wasn't boasting on Paul. He already said he counted

everything he knew as dung (**Phil 3:8**). All the wisdom he had was nothing. All the knowledge he had before was nothing. Now what he had was Jesus, and he was a living epistle. He could be seen and read of all men.

We should be able to say that today. We've got to come to that point where people come for counsel and they can have confidence in the words you're speaking because they see the life you are manifesting. See, that spirit of burning has to be there. First of all, it reveals to you where you really are in Christ. Second, it begins to reveal the Spirit of the Lord in the depth of counseling, and third, it will cause your life to be manifested. Talking about that life, your life is Jesus Christ. **It will not be you, but Christ living in you, and the life that you live in the flesh, you now live it by the faith through the Son of God who loves you and gave Himself for you (Gal 2:20).**

I don't have to worry about anything any more. I don't get ulcers or have nervous breakdowns. There's no strain now to serving God. His word says it; that settles it. There's no argument on my side. God said, "Do it!" I just do it. That's the way we must become so men and women can see our counsel, see our understanding, see our knowledge in Christ, see our judgment in God, because the burning is continually there. We're walking in a consuming fire that is consuming away the old flesh day by day, and revealing Christ more and more through us.

Heb 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Heb 12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Heb 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

You cannot live in a kingdom that is on fire unless you are in the fire. God is trying to teach us something. It's simply this: that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to burn in us. In Hebrews 12:26-29, He tells us that everything that's going to be shaken, and can be shaken, will be shaken, and He's going to remove everything by His fire. It will be revealed as not good and the Lord will say to get rid of it.

When you let the fire burn in you, then you can begin to see things in your life that you thought were good, but they aren't any good. Your desires begin to change and things you once loved, you now hate. Things you hated, you begin to love. Why? Because the true fire of God is beginning to shine in your life, illuminating your mind and

your spirit with the living word of God; showing you that which is good and that which is not good, that which is right and that which is not right.

If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and with God the Father. That should be our desire for others. If they don't have that fellowship, don't pick on them. Let's show them how to have it. Through counsel we can tell them. Many times we have allowed people to walk on in their own darkness. They would come to us for counsel and what would happen to them? Did they get good counsel? They got what we had in our carnal mind.

The Lord is simply saying to you and me, "I'm giving you a Kingdom; you're receiving it right now. But to walk in that Kingdom, you're going to have to have a consuming fire living continually around you." If you are in God, if you are in Christ, then there has to be a consuming fire around you, and that's why a lot of people don't like you. They can't handle the light. It isn't that they have anything personally against you. It isn't that you're really that fanatical. It's that you don't know what you're really saying many times. You don't listen to the words that come out of your mouth and those words are the words that glorify God, so it's better for them to get away from it. They don't want to glorify God. That fire is burning them. The spirit of burning is working and causing them to get burned a little bit, so they say, "Wait a minute. Let's talk about something else for awhile. Let's talk about Aunt Susie or Uncle Jim, or let's turn the fire down and start talking about one another."

When you walk where God wants you to, there's going to be a consuming fire. You can't help it. You don't have any choice; it's just there. The spirit of burning is beginning to take its place in your life, burning away the dross, purging and cleansing, taking out everything but Jesus. Glory to God! **I found that the best person that ever happened to me was Jesus Christ. I want all of him living in all of me.**

Zech 2:1 I lifted up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand.

Zech 2:2 Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.

Zech 2:3 And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him,

Zech 2:4 And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein:

Zech 2:5 For I, saith the Lord, will be unto HER a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of HER.

He's not talking about natural Jerusalem. He is talking about the holy city that the 12th chapter of Hebrews talks about, and that John the beloved talks about in **Revelation chapter 21**. **Read it! "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her."** See, it's not going to be "some day". It is now. We are that Jerusalem he measured. We are that holy city. We are that bride that cometh down out of heaven. **And here He said, "I will be a wall of fire round her, and I will crown her with glory."**

Let's read it again in **Zech 2:5: "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her."** Unto **HER**, not unto **IT**, not a town, but unto **HER**. That's **US** without any shadow of a doubt. **The Lord our God in the midst of us, is mighty, IS MIGHTY!**

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." **Isa 60:1-2** and **Eph 5:14** are a confirmation of that prophecy. Is it really any wonder then, that people don't want to fellowship with you? Is it any wonder that you're not always that welcome around people that don't like to talk much about Jesus, and you thought there was something wrong with you.

When I was a young Christian, I had such a zeal for God, but I didn't have a lot of knowledge. I wanted to talk about Jesus everywhere I went. I noticed that a lot of my old friends quit asking me to come over. I couldn't figure out what I had done to hurt their feelings. I would call them on the phone and want to apologize if I had done something wrong, and they would say, "Well, it's all right. Good-bye!" It dawned on me one day: that wall of fire separated me from them. We were living in two worlds, and the two could never coexist together.

Now you can begin to counsel with some fire in your bones. Begin to let the world know by the life that you live, that you're not afraid of anything any more. There's a wall of fire round about you, and the glory of the Lord is in the midst of thee. So he's just trying to teach us that we must begin to recognize and accept that spirit of burning so the completeness of God can work in us. I cannot stand lukewarm preaching. I'm not picking on anybody, but I have to be fed by fire. I've got to be fed the burning of the word of God. I've got to be fed that word of God that is all fire.

Jer 23:25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

Jer 23:26 How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

Jer 23:27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbor, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

Jer 23:28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord.

Jer 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

The Lord said, "My word is like fire; it's burning. It's a fire that really begins to move." Jeremiah said, "I'm not going to preach it any more. I'm tired of fooling with these people." Then he said, "Oh, I repent; it's like a fire shut up in my bones. I can't withhold it any more."

When that word is really down in you like a fire burning, even consuming in your bones, you've got to let it out. You might want to keep it shut, but you can't. It's like Peter out there trying to hide walking with Jesus. Cursed and swore and didn't know the man. This little maid said, "Your speech betrays you. We know you're one of them; you talk like him." Peter cursed, "I don't know him" (**Matt 26:57,69,75**). People don't have any real use for backsliders. They don't fit in the world, and they can't get along with anybody anymore. They're like they are in a limbo state. The best thing for a backslider to do is just get on fire again and re-fire and go on for God.

Too many Christians want to retire. That should be changed to "**refire**"; get on fire and go for God. Jeremiah said, "I can't do anything with it. I can't hide it. I can't put it away." Jesus said, "**You're like a city set on a hill that cannot be hid**" (**Matt 5:14**). Once you become a Christian, you must not think you can backslide and enjoy the world any more. You just don't fit any more. You've been cut out of it. The hole you got cut out of, got covered over, and there's nowhere for you to fit any more. You keep trying long enough, and you're going to go over the gulf and never return.

Do you feel like there's a little fire in your bones right now? You just want to jump up and down. I've preached in nations where they're not reserved like we are. The fire and the presence of the Holy Spirit starts running through those rooms. I've seen people just fall out of their chairs under the power of God. They looked like somebody shot them; down they'd go.

Gen 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

God made His covenant with Abraham. He passed through the sacrifice with the spirit of burning. The fire began to illuminate his vision.

Gen 15:18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Gen 15:19 *The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,*

Gen 15:20 *And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*

He said, "I've given you everything," but He didn't do it until illumination came. That burning spirit of God had to pass through the sacrifice that Abram had made; accepting it. Then He began to say to him, "Now I'm going to make the covenant with you. This day, here it is. It's all yours."

Num 19:1-6 is a picture of Jesus Christ; of His supreme sacrifice: REDEMPTION!

Num 19:1 *And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,*

Num 19:2 *This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord hath commanded, saying Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:*

Num 19:3 *And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp...*

Heb 13:12-13 says: "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate (or camp). Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."

We have to come to a decision. When the spirit of enlightenment or fire comes to you, you can't just sit around any more and hold and fold your hands with people that are just making seemingly spiritual sacrifices unto God. We're going to have to go outside of religion and get into salvation; into the realms of the almighty God.

"Are you preaching leaving the church?" NO! If the church you go to preaches Christ in His fulness and His power, stay in there and rejoice with them. But if they preach a weak, lukewarm, watered down gospel, get on your gospel horse and get out of there. Get outside of that camp and begin to suffer the reproach of Christ. "Well, Brother Krider, I can just do my own thing." No, you're not going to do your own thing and please God. That spirit of burning is going to burn you until your desire is so hot you can't stay.

Num 19:3 *And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face:*

Num 19:4 And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times:

Seven, God's perfect number. God's perfect spirits are seven. The finger is the authority of God.

Num 19:5 And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn:

Num 19:6 And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

Our God is a consuming fire. He doesn't want sacrifices of the physical man any longer. He doesn't want sacrifices unto the law anymore. **He wants you to become a "living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1-2).** It is your reasonable service for this body to be a living sacrifice that the glory of God may burn in this vessel. The spirit of burning may continually dwell there that the light of God, that light which you have become, that burning which you have become, may enlighten me. Outside the camp; outside of religious people.

The world has never had religion like the Jews had. They had the most beautiful religious ceremonies the world had ever seen. Do you realize that in that holy of holies, it was all gold. There was no brass or silver there. It was all pure gold, and once a year when the priest would come into the presence of the Lord, with that blood of the goat, the heifer, the lamb, the glory of God would fill that room.

Don't you know that you have a High Priest that went outside the camp of religion, rejected, despised of men, took your name to the Father. He wore it upon the breastplate of His heart, bore you to the Father, and forgave you all your sin. He came through the spirit of burning. Our God is a consuming fire.

One time I was baptizing some people in a river, and I think this was the first time I ever experienced this spirit. It was cold, in the middle of winter, but this sister had to be baptized, and she didn't want a bath tub or a swimming pool. She didn't even want a baptistry. She wanted a river in the middle of winter. It must have been about 33 degrees outside and I said, "All right. I'm going to baptize you," and I started praying, "O Lord. O Lord. I can survive one of them. That won't be too bad," but the Lord said, "Ask others if they want to be baptized." I knew what that meant. God never makes any silly statements.

I said, "Is there anybody else that wants to be baptized?" There were twelve or thirteen that wanted to be baptized in the river. "Lord," I said, "I'm going to get purple. I'll probably get frost-bitten in that river." The Lord said, "No, I want you to walk right out in it." I walked out in it and my feet got cold; but as I began to walk out into it, it felt like I

was in a warm tub of water. As the Lord is my witness, the water around me was warm. The spirit of burning was working.

Have you ever felt the healing power go through your body and you said, "Whew? I feel hot!" That's the spirit of burning that is burning out the infirmity. Don't you realize that? When you lay your hands on the sick, and you're walking where God wants you to walk, the spirit of burning goes through that body and the spirit of infirmity has to leave. It isn't anything to do with you. I stood in that water and it was just warm and nice. It wasn't cold any more. But the minute I got out of that water, I got cold. As long as I was doing the will of God, there was a heat, a glow, a warmth.

I remember an incident in Stockton several years ago. There was a lady on the back row and I was preaching on the divine presence of God. She turned as red as a beet. She started wiping her head. Everybody around her was cool. She had come into that room in need of a healing, but she got caught up in the presence of the Lord, and she had forgotten about the healing. Now while she was listening to the word of God, the spirit of burning began to work.

When that service was over, she was still just as red as a beet. She said, "Whew, it's awfully hot in here, Brother Krider." She had her coat off, her sweater off, it's winter time, and she was burning up. I told her that God had healed her of her infirmity. She started shouting and praising God. She said, "It's gone, it's gone, it's gone." Why? Because the spirit of burning was in the building. If we would allow God to live in us in that fire like He wants to, and we would walk in Him in that fire, we would raise our hands in the name of Jesus and the sick would be healed.

There's another kind of fire; it's called a strange fire. They tried to offer it up a few times in the Old Testament and got killed for it. Read the accounts of Korah (**Numbers chap.16**) and Uzziah (**2 Chron chap.26**).

Prov 16:27 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is a burning fire.

This kind of fire is not pleasing to God. There's a counterfeit religion, and there's counterfeit doctrine, and there's counterfeit gospel, and it has a strange fire to it. It comes along and separates people. Instead of building the body, it separates people. It burns in there and separates friends. God is saying, "I want you to be aware of this kind of fire. I don't want that."

When you counsel, let it be the true spirit of burning, that when the word of fire comes out of you, it will be a fire that will burn out the dross. It will bring a unity in the body. It will bring a healing in the body. It will bring a closeness together in the body of Christ. It will burn out gossip and envy and strife and jealousy and heresy. It will burn out the work of the flesh until all that's left is Jesus Christ.

Isaiah had a little fire in his bones too. He cried that he was a man of unclean lips, and an angel had to take a coal off the altar and touch his lips with it. Took the spirit of burning, didn't he? Touched Isaiah's lips and the words that came out of his mouth from then on were words that glorified the Lord. When that spirit of burning gets ahold of you, that fire of God, it'll burn out until even your language will change. You're going to begin to speak with a new tongue; a tongue that will glorify the Lord.

Isa 3:24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink, and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

When you're walking against God that spirit of burning is still going to work, but it is going to work against you instead of for you. Now realize that the natural man cannot abide the spirit of burning. The spirit of burning is for the spirit man, the man that wants to walk in the presence of God. The natural man has to imitate this fire. He has to imitate it if he wants to look anything like God. But this fire that the Lord sent, is not for the natural, but for the spiritual man.

Isa 9:1 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

Isa 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

In **Luke 1:78-79** we see the fulfillment of this prophecy. It has already been fulfilled.

Isa 9:3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy:...

How can you multiply a thing and not increase it? The joy is so full it cannot be added to. More people can be added, but joy is not increased.

Isa 9:3 ...they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest...

Not many people joy in planting or tilling the soil. Not many enjoy watching it grow, hoping that no famine comes or a drought comes. They want to see it grow until harvest, and the great joy is in the harvest. That's why He said, "Grow not weary of well doing. Ye shall reap if ye faint not" (**Gal 6:9**). He said, "You're going to have a time of harvest if you don't faint, so you ought to rejoice today in the harvest." Looking to that which is; looking to the fulness of what Jesus did.

Isa 9:3 ...and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

Isaiah 53:12 says He divided the spoil among the strong.

Isa 9:4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

Isa 9:5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

On the day of Pentecost this was fulfilled. The spirit of burning was given to man. The Holy Ghost came with the fire and the fuel of that fire is the word of God. The more of the word of the Lord you know, the more fire you have in your life. The more ability you have through Christ, in the spirit of might, to see the spirit of burning work in your life.

This battle was won without a shot. It was won without the rattle of a sword. It was won through the spoken word of Jesus Christ off the cross of Calvary. **He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). "I am come to send the fire upon the earth" (Luke 12:49).** Today we are already in a finished work if you can receive it. The work is done. We may as well rejoice as those at harvest. Quit struggling with it, fighting with it. We need to enter into the rest of **Heb 4:10**. Enter into that rest where we have ceased from our own works when we have entered into the finished work of God.

Isa 10:16 Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.

The Lord got tired of all their foolishness and sent a fire and it began to consume away the old religious nature, all the religious works, and brought forth the glory of the Lord.

Isa 10:16 ...and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of fire.

You are the light of the world; you are that fire and on top of you is a crown of glory. Thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee (**Isa 60:1**).

Isa 10:17 And the light of Israel shall be for a fire...

Or a fire shall be her light. Aren't you excited that there's a spirit of burning in you. That spirit of fire, that spirit of burning is working in you and there's a glowing in that fire: **the presence of the Lord.**

Isa 10:17 And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame:..

Heb 1:7 says His ministers are a flame of fire. They're not ice cubes; they're not dead coals with no fire. They are a flame of fire.

Isa 10:17 ...and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;

Isa 10:18 And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standard-bearer fainteth.

Isa 10:19 And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them.

When God gets through burning with that spirit of burning, there's not going to be a multitude. Many are called but few are chosen (**Matt 20:16**). Few there shall be that will walk upon that highway, **"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"** (**Matt 7:14**).

God is going to separate us out of all this religious mess. God is going to separate us out of being Pentecostal, or Full Gospel, or Baptists, or Lutherans, or Methodists. Pretty soon we are going to get burned to the point where all we are is the **"Church of the Firstborn"** whose names are written in the Lamb's book. We're going to start walking in such a way that we don't care if anybody knows anything about us except we're Christians. If that was a name good enough for the early church, it would be good enough for the finished church. I'm a Christian.

Isa 30:27 Behold, the name of the Lord cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:

Isa 30:28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.

Isa 30:29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the mighty One of Israel.

That light is going to guide you. It's going to lead you so you need not stumble, because you're going to walk in the light.

Isa 30:30 And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

Isa 30:31 For through the voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.

Isa 30:32 And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the Lord shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.

"AND IN BATTLES OF SHAKING!" Once more will I shake not only the earth but the heavens, and everything that can be shaken will be shaken, and that which cannot be moved (only the Kingdom of God) will remain. **ONLY THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL REMAIN!**

Isa 30:33 For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

What did Jesus come to do? He started a fire. It was already kindled, but when He fanned it with a breath, it sprung forth. Praise God! We can walk in the light and come singing unto the mountain of Zion; come rejoicing into the presence of God. We can walk in the day and not as those that walk in darkness for they that walk in darkness shall stumble; they shall fall (**John 11:9-10**). You need not to stumble or fall, for you walk in the spirit of burning, for your way is illuminated by the power of Christ.

Jer 20:7 O Lord, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Jer 20:8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the Lord was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.

Jer 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

There wasn't anything Jeremiah could do. No matter what God did to him to bring glory to Himself, there wasn't anywhere he could run. There wasn't anything he could do to deny it; there was a burning in his bones. It's like having an itch you can't scratch. You just have to do something about it. Here the Lord said that it was like a burning in his bones. It had to come out.

You know why He chose the bones here? Because the marrow of the bones produces the life cells for blood; the red cells are produced in the marrow of the bones. Out of the very life source came the word of God. A burning flame of fire flowed through his blood stream. He couldn't do anything else; he had to shout the victory. He had to tell people how good God was even if he got killed doing it, and he came close to it

several times before his final day of rest. They threw him in jail; threw him in a pit, mocked him, scorned him, and told him he was crazy. He just kept going on. It was like a burning fire inside of his bones and he couldn't do anything else.

Have you ever sat in a place and you had a word from the Lord and you wanted to give it, but people just kept talking about everything in the world? You kept waiting for somebody to shut up for a second to jump in there. That's like Jeremiah. He had that thing but it was causing him to be a reproach. Every time he would speak what God had told him, somebody would want to kill him. Every time he had something wonderful to say to Israel, they wanted to shut him up. He finally said, "I'm going to quit it. I've lost all my friends. All of my neighbors have turned on me. I'm just a reproach. I'm not even going to make mention of Him any more." All of a sudden, he said, "I just can't help it; it's burning me alive. I've got to tell somebody about the Lord."

Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Rev 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

His eyes were as a flame of fire.

Rev 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

He walked in the fire when He appeared with the Hebrew children, and the king said, "There's a fourth man there and he looks like the Son of God." It was the same that John saw. He was able to walk in the fire because He was the one that created the fire, and the creator is always greater than the creation. The fire had to be obedient to him. "...and his eyes were as a flame of fire." Do you think you can look on that kind of a God and live? Not in the flesh, you won't. You're only going to be able to behold Him in the spirit. That fire is around Him. It is a consuming fire. Our God is a consuming fire. His eyes were as flames of fire. His feet were as they were burnt in the furnace.

We're not serving some God that can be destroyed by fire. We're not serving some God that can be chopped to pieces by an ax. We're not serving some God that can be voted out of business. We're serving the only true God. We're serving the God that created all that we see, and with the spirit of burning, He was able to walk through the fire.

This is the kind of God we serve today. When we give counsel, why don't we let that kind of God talk to people? Why don't we let that spirit of burning flow through us and burn away the dross, burn away the old flesh stuff, burn away everything until all that is left is the mind of Christ and the Spirit of God. **BEING MADE COMPLETE IN HIM!**

Adam and Eve had separated themselves from God by their own choice. They could not walk in the presence of God any longer because the pureness that once was there was gone. Sin had entered the human race. God is a God that hates sin and He had to take Lucifer out of heaven, (the highest covering angel) because of iniquity that was found in his heart (**Luke 10:18; Rev 12:7-9**). God cannot walk in the presence of sin. When Adam sinned, God sent him out of the garden.

Gen 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

Gen 3:23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword...

"**...and a flaming sword.**" So the first picture we get after sin enters in and man separated himself from God, is a flaming sword. For man to get back into the presence of God, a spirit of burning must be allowed to take it's work and do that which is right in the sight of the Lord, until we come through that fire and are able to walk in it.

Gen 3:24 ..and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Not to destroy it, not to shut it up, but to keep the way of the tree of life. The word is like a fire, and the word will always continually point you toward Jesus Christ. The scriptures always testify to Jesus. That spark of life, that spark of fire, that illuminating power. Those that dwelt in darkness hated Him. They would not receive the light. But those who loved Him, but dwelt in darkness, saw a great light.

This isn't something that's going to happen. This is something that has already happened. When Jesus Christ came, He was that great fire. He was the light, and now you are the light. It isn't a question of whether you are a light or not. It is a question of how much you are letting shine. **Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works (know exactly where you're walking) and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt 5:16)**. Who is it today that's able to walk with the Lord? Only those that walk in the same fire He walks in, and the only way they can walk in that spirit of burning is to walk in Him. To be a new creature.

That shouldn't be so strange to us. The new creature is made like Him. The new creature is the light of the world. The new creature is the salt of the earth. The new creature is able to walk where God walks. He is in heavenly places in Christ Jesus right now. The only way you can be in Him, is that you're made of the same material that He is, and He is a consuming fire. His feet are as they were burned in the fiery furnace. His eyes are flames of fire. What are you going to look like when you're revealed? You're going to look just like Him, for you shall see Him as He is. There is a man like Him inside each one of us that is saved. There is a new creature in each one of us that is born in the fire of God. You won't smell smoke; you won't even be contaminated with the things of the world.

Psa 15:1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Psa 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Psa 15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.

Psa 15:4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

Psa 15:5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh regard against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

David is saying, "Who is it Lord, that shall abide in your tabernacle?" I happen to be the tabernacle of the Holy Ghost. We are the body of Christ. We are lively stones being built up together, a spiritual habitation unto God (**1 Peter 2:5**). If God is a consuming fire, He doesn't turn off and on; He stays the same every day. **Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."** Then He's still a consuming fire, and if I'm going to stand in the tabernacle with Him, I'm going to have to be as it was down through the ages. It always lit men and illuminated them to the fact that there was a Savior they could put their trust in. Worship God, for He will be a consuming fire. Our God will come; He will not tarry. He will save us.

The first thing we see after a man sins is the fire of God. The last thing we will see at the end of creation is the fire of God, and the only ones that will come through that fire are those that are made of fire. When the heavens melt, when the earth melts, you're going to be just like the book of Job. At the laying of the foundations of the earth, the sons of God rejoiced to see it (**Job 38:6-7**). When this earth is burned, and the new heaven and the new earth are created, you're going to be right there rejoicing in it. You can't be burned up. You'll be just like the Hebrew children. You won't burn. You can't burn. They had the spirit of burning walking with them.

Isn't it good to know that there's a spirit of burning that you can absolutely trust in; that God knows exactly what He's doing? The first thing we see then when man sins, and it separates him from God, is fire. The sword comes out of Jesus' mouth in **Rev 2:12**. It's a flaming sword that separates man from God. It will be that same flaming sword that will separate men once again from God.

Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

Mal 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Mal 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Mal 3:4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

Mal 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of host.

Mal 3:6 For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

God is not going to change. He will always be a consuming fire. He will always be fire because fire is light, and God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all (**1 John 1:5**). Our problem is that we think that He's talking about a physical fire. He is not. You are not a physical light to the world. You are a spirit. You are a spirit of burning. A part of your life is a spirit of burning, and when He came with that spirit of burning, when He became that work in me, when I counsel people, there ought to be enough fire to bring the fear of God to their hearts. There ought to be enough illuminating factor there to bring the fear of God to their hearts.

If we will walk in the spirit of burning, it will burn away the dross. It will purge me. It will cleanse me, because it will be the water of the washing of the word working through me. The fire is fueled by that word of God. Some of us have a few little lines put in there so the fire's not very bright.

It's kind of like it was in the day that Jesus was invited to the marriage at the feast of Cana. He said to the servants, "Go and get the water pots and fill them with water, and bring them here" (**John 2:6-7**). They were sanctified or purified after the washing, according to the Jews' custom. **We have been purified according to HIS custom, through the blood of Jesus.** They filled them with water, and when they brought them to Him, He changed the water to wine. That's like us; when we fill ourselves with the word of God, it becomes new wine. It is changed in the spirit. Not just the letter of the law, but it is changed in the spirit, and in the Holy Spirit of God there is the spirit of burning. Isn't it good to know that you can walk and talk with Him now?

Who shall abide in the day of His coming? I'm excited about His coming. I was excited about His first coming and that brought the fire then. For me to be excited about His second coming, I've got to be walking in the fire now. **HE IS COME. HE IS LIVING IN YOU AND ME NOW.** He is going to manifest the Kingdom and He is the King of it. We're going to be kings and priests in that kingdom for a thousand years.

Psa 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psa 24:2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Psa 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

Psa 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psa 24:5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

How was it that Moses was the only one that was able to go up into that mountain, and he said it was covered with smoke and fire. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who is the hill of the Lord? **WE ARE!** We are Mount Zion. We are the body of Christ. We are His holy hill, but we haven't realized it. We have been taught that we're flesh and blood, and that's all we can be. We've been taught that we're just overcome, day by day. That we're conquered day by day, we're walked on day by day. We're a pawn of the enemy; he does what he wants to with us. I have news for you:

YOU ARE THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF GOD!

For you and me to walk in that Holy Mountain, we're going to have to be the same fire that He is. We are going to have to be the same flame that He is. To walk back into the presence of God, we're going to have to come through the flaming sword. God is putting together today a people around the world.

Another problem we have a lot of times, is that we're trying to reflect the light. That isn't what He says. He says you **ARE** the light. He lives in you. The question isn't whether we are the light of the world, but how much light are we allowing to show? If you really want to get into the presence of God, there isn't going to be anything left of you. People can knock you down and take what they think is advantage of you, and you're going to say, "The Lord bless you." They are going to curse you, and you are going to bless them. They are going to spitefully use you, and you are going to pray for them. The first sermon that Jesus ever preached was to His disciples, and He said to them: **"Pray for them that spitefully use you. Bless them that curse you, that you may be called the children of your father which is in heaven" (Matt 5:44; Luke 6:27-28).**

When that light is really working in you, there is no darkness left, and it really doesn't make any difference what people do to your flesh. The spirit of burning is there, and people can look at you and say, "I'd like to be like that person. Every time you talk to them, they just talk about the Lord. They don't have a bad word about people. They don't have a revengeful spirit. They are just forgiving everybody; all the time forgiving people. They're not human." You can say, "Thank God I'm not just human anymore; they recognized it. I'm born of the Spirit of God. I'm born of the fire."

I have these seven spirits in me and so do you. Do you see why it's necessary to be compactly joined together? When that begins to work on you, they're not going to see you anymore; only Jesus is going to be seen. When the devout Greeks came to worship at the feast, they said, **"We want to see Jesus" (John 12:20-21)**. People are coming to the church saying, "We want to see Jesus, but all we've seen is religion. All we've seen is a form of godliness. All we've seen is a partial power of God. We haven't really seen what God is like. We haven't seen what God can really do today. We want to see Jesus."

Don't you realize the cry has not changed? Don't you realize that the fire has not changed? People are coming to you expecting to see Jesus. Coming to you expecting to find the same fire that came in the form of the man Christ Jesus. Expecting to see the same light. Expecting to see the same kind of spirit radiating out of your life. You say, "But Brother Krider, I can't do it." I know that. It's Christ in you. It's by the Spirit. Quit trying. You can quit getting frustrated. You can just start doing it. You say, "Well, I can't love you." Yes you can; just try it.

See, the Lord is a consuming fire, and the only way for me to be able to walk with Him is I must walk with Him in that fire. He's not coming out of it. Everywhere He goes, the flame of fire goes. Everywhere the Lord goes, there is a flame of fire, and I thank God today for that flame of fire. I thank God that it's **"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord" (Zech 4:6).**

God is saying to us, "You can do it if you want to do it, but you'll never do it if you don't want to do it." I want to be where the Lord can speak to my heart and I can see the restoration of all that God is going to restore according to the holy promise.

Joel 2:21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.

Joel 2:22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

We are walking in the end time. We have received the former and the latter rain. We have received the fulness of God. Up until the time of Pentecost, no one had the fulness of God in them, but now we have received of His fulness.

Joel 2:24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

If you want a restoration in your life of everything that's been robbed from you, don't give up. Just begin to rejoice and be glad. Rejoice and begin to sing for the fire of God has destroyed your adversary. The strength of the Lord hath prevailed and He hath multiplied unto you the blessing of God.

Joel 2:26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Joel 2:27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

If the Lord is a consuming fire and He is in the midst of you, you're going to have to walk in that fire. Flesh cannot stand it. We're in it. He set us free. The captives have all been set free. There are no more yesterdays, or tomorrows, or today's. We're in eternity. We are in the last generation, not thirty or forty years.

I want to clarify something for you that might have just slipped by. Let's look at **1 Peter 2:9**:

1 Peter 2:9 BUT YE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION!

Generation = Conc. #1085 = nation, kindred, offspring, stock.

You are a chosen generation. Not "generations." Generation does not mean thirty or forty years as the human man desires you to believe it. A generation is a period of time, from the time of a beginning of a thing to the time of the end of a thing.

They that believed in Christ, they that believe in Him, and they that will believe in Him, will all be of one generation. **The chosen generation** that began with Jesus being the firstborn from the dead and being made the head of the church. He is going to be the one that shall be called the everlasting Father. He has fathered this generation and brought it forth and we are a part of that generation. So when you see in Matthew 24:34 that this generation shall not pass away until all of these things be fulfilled, the word simply means this generation shall not end until everything is done, and then shall the end come. I am in that generation. Somebody said, "I can't believe this. I never read it like that." I can't help how you read it. That's the way it reads: **GENERATION**.

Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Gen 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens...

If you try to go on generations and man's time, you're going to be messed up. One day is as a thousand years with the Lord, and a thousand years is one day (**Psa 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8**). When we're in the spirit with God, there's no such thing as days and times and seasons. We are eternal. God did not need days and times. He did not need to sleep. He is Spirit. When He rested, He wasn't tired. It means He ceased and rejoiced and He made the seventh day for man.

He brought man out of the sixth day, brought him into the seventh day and said, "Now, have a ball. I've given you the world. I've given you the earth. I've given you dominion over everything. Just go ahead and enjoy it. You're in My rest now." But the minute they sinned, they left the rest of God and had to toil and work the ground. My God is a consuming fire. The spirit of burning has to be there. When that spirit has it's way, it will burn us up, and all that will be left is Jesus.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

No wonder Jesus could say, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father. Have I not been with you so long and you don't yet know me. Philip, you don't know who I am. If you've seen me, you've seen the Father. I've done everything the Father told me to do. I've done His perfect will. I've been everything He wanted me to be. I was Him manifested in the flesh." Just like the church today is Jesus Christ manifested in a flesh body.

All of these spirits are ours today in Christ. Isn't that great? So when you counsel somebody, are you going to counsel them a little more carefully? Are you going to counsel with the word or are you going to counsel them in how you feel that day in the flesh? You have a bad day with your wife or husband, and somebody comes to you for a little counseling, are you going to say, "Get rid of all of them. I don't feel like messing with them any more." No! You're going to begin to say:

"O GOD, FEAR AND TREMBLING IS MY PORTION HERE. LET ME ANSWER THIS WITH WISDOM AND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD."