

Byway of Wisdom

Byway - A path less traveled. Byway evokes a **sense of Discovery** or detour. It's often associated with charm or solitude.



- Gen 32:26 *Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."* I love Jacob's persistence to receive! He was devoted to *Hearing* what the Lord would say to him.
- Matthew 7:7 **Ask** and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
- Ephesians 6:18 And **pray** in the Spirit on **all occasions** with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Being persistent as Jacob, asking as Jesus taught, and praying on all occasions as Paul wrote in Ephesians, teaches us the significance of remaining committed. But, if we ask, we must also take equal time to *hear*. In our desire to receive or discover our breakthrough, we can often spend more time talking than listening. But a powerful **key to increasing in Wisdom** is understanding *she has already been crying out for us.*

Proverbs 8:1-9

- 1 Does not wisdom cry out,
And understanding lift up her voice?
- 2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill,
Beside the way, where the paths meet.
- 3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city,
At the entrance of the doors:
- 4 "To you, O men, I call,
And my voice *is* to the sons of men.
- 5 O you simple ones, understand prudence,

And you fools, be of an understanding heart.

6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent things,

And from the opening of my lips *will come* right things;

7 For my mouth will speak truth;

Wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth *are* with righteousness;

Nothing crooked or perverse *is* in them.

9 They *are* all plain to him who understands,

And right to those who find knowledge.

Wisdom is Calling for You!

In 2022 I became obsessed with Proverbs Chapter 8. I did not understand it, yet I could not stop reading it. Every *day*, week after *week*, month after *month*, year after *year*. Then in 2024, it hit me, “I think wisdom is calling for me and longs for us to discover her.” I told my wife. We went on a journey, not knowing what to expect. We didn’t know what to do, but after reading Benni Johnson’s book, *The Joyful Intercessor*, we learned of a place called Panthers Meadow where the spiritual atmosphere is thin. We drove north towards the massive mountains of Shasta County. We went to the base of Mount Shasta and drove as high as we could. We reached a point I had read about, Panthers Meadow, we sat in stillness in nature. We prayed alone, but when we came together, something unique happened. The calm day began to pick up with wind, the longer we continued to pray, the stronger the wind blew. When we stopped praying the wind would cease. **I expected wisdom to be imparted to me**, but what I found was wisdom was not a gift that you own. It is an **aspect of Jesus that we enter into relationship with**. Wisdom wanted to guide me, to be near me, to be part of my marriage. But for a guide to lead, the one who follows must continually listen. This day fundamentally changed my life. Why did it take me almost 2 years to get to this place? I believe I was busy, I was distracted, I knew there was more but my inability to listen caused some serious delays in my life.

What is Wisdom Saying to You

When should we pause to listen for wisdom?

- In meetings
- While shopping
- At work
- In prayer
- At games

- 1. Can you recall a time that *you had a plan but* Holy Spirit had a plan that rerouted the original thought?**
- 2. What was the outcome of this?**

3. What area of your life do you need the Spirit of Wisdom to speak fresh life to? Ex. business, location, expansion, books, etc.

Example: Getting out of my truck at the YMCA.

It is always a good time to listen.

When we view Wisdom as an attribute of Jesus, and *not a tool or gift* to possess, it draws us into a deeper relationship with the King of Kings. Have you ever witnessed someone who functions in high measures of wisdom? They are slow to respond, they are often slow to speak. Could it be, that they are continually listening? I believe Jesus modeled this to us when he said, “I only say what the Father says.” - John 12:49 To speak with Wisdom, we must Hear Wisdom. This became very real to me at 7,500 feet (Panthers Meadow). What I thought would be an asset, became a relationship. What I expected to be a deposit from which I could withdraw from, became close to me *as a sister*. **Proverbs 7:4** - *Say to wisdom, “You are my sister.”*



Level 2 Leaders Listen - Learn - Lead

John Maxwell, the leadership guru, has determined that there are 5 Levels of Leadership. Level 1 is Positional Leadership. This is the lowest level, here, people follow you because they have to. Your title alone has put you in a place of leadership. At Level 2, the magic happens. This the *Permission Level*. At this level, people **follow you**, not due to your title, but **because they want to**. There are 3 key things that level 2 leaders do, and this is what sets them apart.

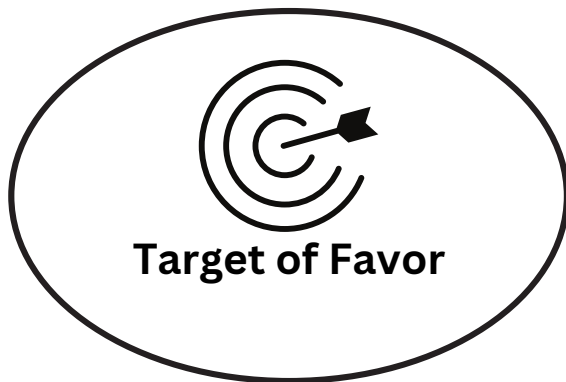
1. **Listen** - Level 2 leaders are intentional when they walk down the hallways of their offices. They are intentionally listening to their co-workers or employees. They listen to what they say, and what their common themes are, and they hear any pain points one is experiencing. Level 2 leaders *listen*. Are you picking up on the connection to Wisdom?
2. **Learn** - When we listen, we also learn. We learn how people feel, we learn how they were raised, we learn about their values and principles. Intentional listeners will always learn.
3. **Lead** - When we listen and learn we are now in a position to lead from a different place. It is relationally driven, and results in much higher outcomes.

Example; At work, I needed to produce some results, we needed a big intake of clients. But, I couldn't do it alone. I would need the help of our tech guy, Nate. And our marketing director, Val. Nate is such a great guy. I loved spending time with him, and he always taught me about his role. I didn't just know him for what he did though, I began to know Nate. I knew his passions, I knew about his musical gifting, I knew about his dogs, and I knew about his hours spent volunteering. I listened, and I learned. So when it came time to lead, I did not receive a half-hearted effort, I received all of Nate's wonderful gifting. The same was true for Val. So

when the time came for me to schedule the meeting to discuss how we would land the highest number of new clients we ever had, it wasn't met with opposition, but with openness. I set the meeting location and the time, I had their coffee ready before they arrived, and the meeting went phenomenal.

I do believe this is wisdom for the Marketplace. But **how do I approach the Spirit of Wisdom with this?**

1. **Listen** - I continually listen for the voice of Wisdom. It will often look different. But acknowledging that we want to hear, and practicing listening is a great place to start.
2. **Learn** - When we hear, we learn. We learn when we should speak, and when to stay silent. We learn when to press hard, and when to receive as a child. The unlocking that comes from the Spirit of Wisdom will accelerate you into new dimensions of breakthrough and favor that few ever step into.
3. **Led** - We never lead, but are always led. What a great place to be. Paul says, "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your life." When you listen, you learn and are led, you will be taken to magnificent places! Promotion, restoration, financial abundance! I could go on and on! To lead others well, we must be led by the one righteous, true king, Jesus Christ. Wisdom is a component of Christ that we get to access!



Proverbs 8:34-35

“

Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and **obtains favor from the Lord.**

”

Favor

The 2nd byway of Wisdom is **understanding that We are the Target of Favor**. Favor opens doors that no man could close. Favor is a gift from God. “Whoever finds me finds life, and **obtains favor** from the Lord.”

- Exodus 3:21 - I will give this people *Favor* in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.



This is amazing to me! They don't possess any earthly treasures yet, but, they are promised Favor. **Favor released results in treasures to come.** Exodus 10:35-36 shows us that when the

children of Israel left they asked the Egyptians for their clothing, their silver, and their gold. “Because the Lord had given them Favor, the Egyptians *gave them what they requested.*”

It’s as if the Israelites were wrapped in a Jacket that wasn’t seen by the physical eye, but it was realized by the spirit.

Have you ever had someone bless you with something or they went above and beyond to get you access to something?

Could it be, they were aware of the Jacket of Favor that was wrapped around you?

We know that when we find Wisdom we find life, but we also obtain *favor from God*. Favor can result in many amazing things, but as with the children of Israel, we too must ask. **Favor becomes something you are aware of, and when you are aware of this “Substance” it can cause blessings to break loose.** I wonder if the Israelites would have received silver, gold, and clothing, had they not asked for it. We must not settle, but thank God for His Favor that brings us opportunity! Here’s my example:



December 1, 2023

Luisa and I were so excited because we were asked to speak at a church in Southern California! They paid for our hotel Saturday night but we got there early because we love the ocean and that area so much. The only problem was that we did not have much money. The hotel we could afford was not nice. In fact, the last time we stayed there, someone tried to break into our room at night. But, it was the only option for us, except God. We pulled into Huntington Beach, California, and drove by the cheap hotel. We really did not want to stay there. So we pulled into the hotel we could not afford, it makes me laugh remembering this moment.

As a family, we prayed together in the car outside the hotel, here is what we said, “*God thank you for the Favor you have put on our family. Thank you that you always show us favor when we go to Southern California.*”

I walked into the hotel and spoke to the front desk. I said, “*Hey, we need a room for tonight. Do you have any specials or promotions going on?*” I knew this was absurd because they

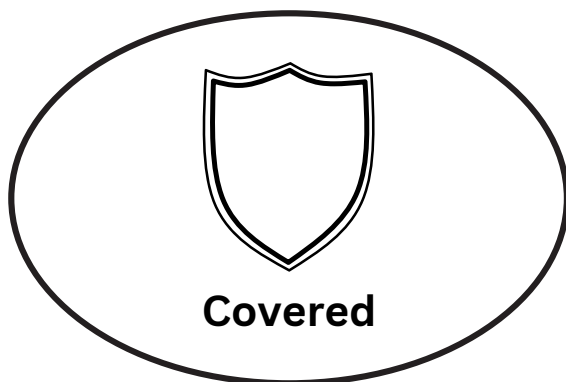
would have been marketed online, but I was going in confidently. The front desk employee said, “What do you want to pay?”

I was shocked! What do I want to pay? As if I can choose? I was stunned, so I said the price of what the ghetto hotel charged. He told me that sounds good to him! They gave us an upgraded room, on the beach, at a price so cheap that no one would believe me if I told them! This hotel typically runs \$400-\$500 per night!

We thanked God for Favor. It was almost as if **we made ourselves aware** of what we had access to. And then we were blessed tremendously. We would not have had this amazing experience had we not asked. Which leads me to this question.

What Area Do You Need Favor In?

1. Let's thank God for the favor He has blessed us with
2. Let's ask God for outrageous favor to show up in our lives!



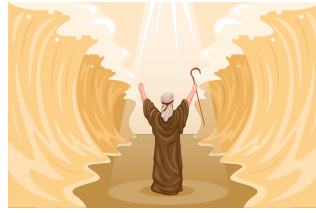
“For You, Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield”

Psalms 5:12

”

A shield is something that can block an attack. It is held by one in battle to protect them. Here is the definition of Shield - *a broad piece of metal or another suitable material, held by straps or a handle attached on one side, used as protection against blows*

A shield BLOCKS you from being hit. But, the *Shield of Favor* not only protects us, it guides us! It creates light for us to see where we go, yet blinds the enemy. It opens doors for us but shuts them on the enemy. The shield of favor is not one-dimensional in its covering. For the Shield the Lord provides, **Surrounds Us**.



Exodus 14:19-22

¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided.

²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

When we are Surrounded by **the Shield of God** it **provides a path to lead us**, yet it also blocks attacks that are aimed at us. Just as with the Israelites, God will lead you and He will protect you. Why should we worry when God has provided a supernatural shield for us? If His shield can part a sea it will surely provide a way out for you.

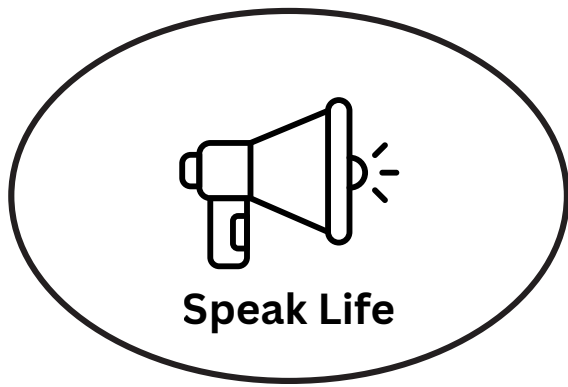
- Is there something you are facing that you need shielding from?
- Is there a path that you need to be opened?
- Can you recall a time when God created a path for you that you did not think was possible?

If the Shield protects and *creates pathways*, how amazing must these paths be?

Psalm 65:11 - You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your path drips with abundance.

What area of your life is dripping with abundance?

What area of your life doesn't feel like it's dripping with abundance?



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“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (Proverbs 18:21)

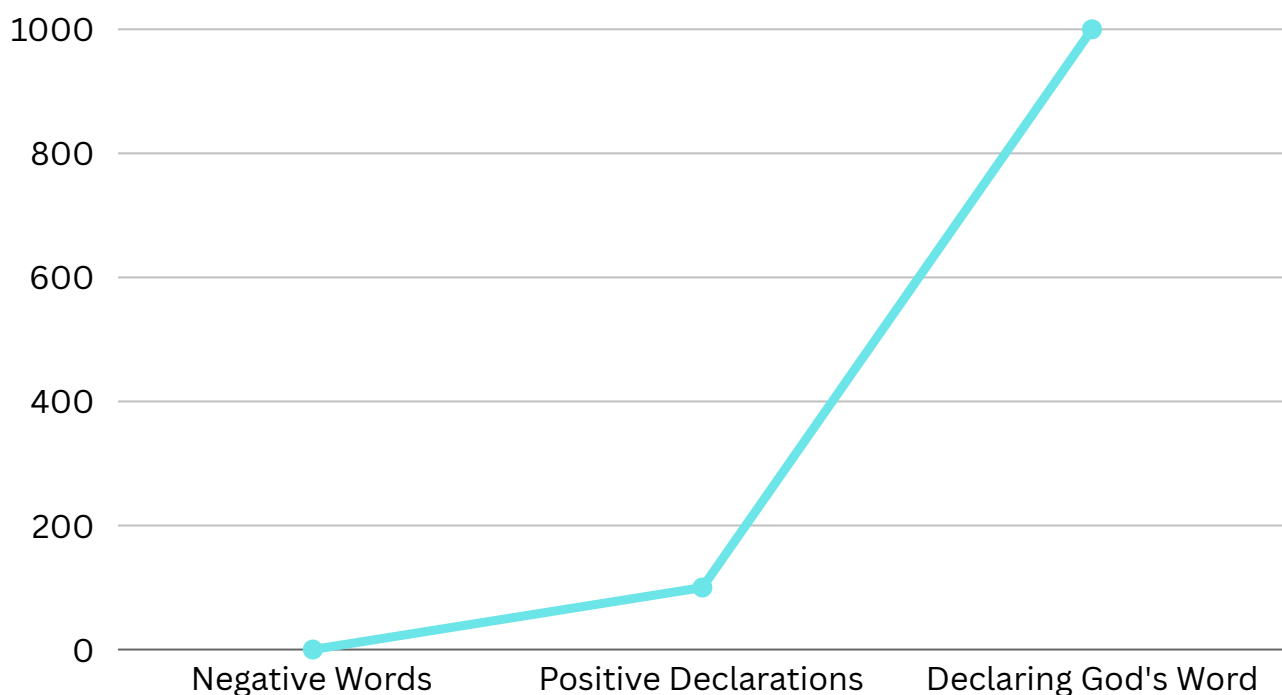
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Has Culture Caused Death to Dreams due to *common phrases*? If I speak with lack then I can not **declare with faith**.

Common American Phrases

- “It is what it is”
- “That’s the way it goes”
- “It’s out of our hands”

Success Chart



1. It is what it is → 2. If it’s not good, then God's not done (*while this is great, and a massive step in the right direction, it’s still lacking the authority inside of you that desires to be activated!*) → 3. *Yes! I tell you that whoever does not doubt in his heart but trusts that*

what he says will happen can say to this mountain, 'Go and throw yourself into the sea!' and it will be done for him. Mark 11:23



PROSPER ; ISAIAH 55:10-11

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,

**So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

God himself tells us, His word will not come back empty-handed. We can also see the abstract nature of his communication to us. **The rain falls for a purpose**; it waters the ground, which brings a harvest. **Your words are like the rain that comes down**; it will water the ground where you live, and there will be a harvest. Eat the GOOD fruit of your positive declarations and reading of scripture. You WILL win, You WILL succeed, You will THRIVE in all areas of life.

G's Declarations

1. God is on my side; therefore, I can not be discouraged or defeated.

- *Psalm 18:32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.*
- *Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future.*

2. **I expect that today is going to be the BEST day of my life, spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and financially.**
- *Psalm 18:35-36 Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.*
3. **Opportunities will fall from the sky because God has called me to steward this destiny.**
- Ephesians 1:13 “When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession”*

Jesus is modeling this for us



Matthew Chapter 4

The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ **Jesus answered**, “*It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’*”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ **Jesus answered** him, “*It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’*”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ **Jesus said to him**, “*Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’*”

Jesus did not “think” His way out, He SPOKE His way out.

Is there any area you need to declare Truth to?

What Truth do you want to declare?

What scripture comes to mind?