

## The Wise and Foolish Virgins: Steps to Obtaining Wisdom

From the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, we can easily see how the Bride is to prepare for the Bridegroom. Let's first make a few observations.

The 'Wise' Virgins were wise. They had Wisdom. The Foolish virgins were not so. They did not have Wisdom. Where did this Wisdom come from? And why did the Foolish virgins lack wisdom? Let's find out.

### What is Wisdom?

We all desire to obtain this Wisdom. But what is it? And where does it originate? It is apparent that Wisdom is not intelligence, but is a quality far beyond man's own abilities. The Scriptures describe this Wisdom in detail, so let's look there to find the answers.

Scriptures show us that Wisdom is both given by YHWH, and developed by the recipient. To have Wisdom, one must develop the Scriptural characteristics of Wisdom. Therefore we will first look at the characteristics of Wisdom, as our goal, and then notice the steps we may take to obtain Biblical Wisdom.

### Some Characteristics of the Wise

Scripture reveals some of the characteristics of those who are wise. These characteristics include:

- a) They have the Fear of YHWH (Pr 9:10; Prov 15:33)
- b) They keep ("take, fetch, buy") the Bridegroom's Commandments (Prov 10:8; Eccl 8:5)
- c) They keep the Law ("Torah") (Prov 28:7).
- d) They hearken — they hear, and obey (Prov 1:5).
- e) They love those who rebuke (reprove, correct, chasten) them (Prov 9:8).

How can we attain these characteristics of the Wise? We might begin with the following response:

- a) **Pray** - Let us ask Father to give us Wisdom. Father gives Wisdom to those who ask Him for Wisdom (James 1:5).
- b) **Read** - The Proverbs are a daily-dose of instruction in Wisdom, which will cause us to grow in Grace (Prov 1:1-9; Prov 4:9).

After we ask YHWH for Wisdom, let us then understand that the 'beginning' of having Wisdom is for us to have the 'Fear of YHWH' (Prov 9:10). But knowing this reveals a choice that we must make — we must 'choose' the Fear of YHWH (Prov 1:29).

### The Fear of YHWH

If we desire to have the Fear of YHWH, we must turn (repent) from our own way, and begin to walk in His way. When we first turn (repent), we become Born-Again, and we begin to "see" spiritually (John 3:3). Being Born-Again is a one-time event, just as our natural birth.

After we become Born-Again, we are able to allow the Life of Yahushua-in-us to provide His Grace – His ability within us – to walk in obedience. Without His Grace, we are nothing, and we can do nothing. Through His ability, His Grace, by our willingness and

obedience to Torah, we are then able go on to develop and nurture the Scriptural characteristics of the 'Fear of YHWH.' Let's look at some of these characteristics.

Some of the characteristics of those who have the 'Fear of YHWH' include:

- a) They receive the Bridegroom's Words, and hide (treasure-up) His Commandments (Prov 2:1,5).
- b) They hear, obey, and Keep the Bridegroom's Commandments (Deu 5:29; Deu 8:6; Psalms 34:11).
- c) They delight greatly in the Bridegroom's Torah (Ps 112:1; Rom 7:22).
- d) They fear their Heavenly Father — they keep HIS Sabbaths (Lev 19:3).
- e) The Fear of YHWH is their 'Treasure' (Isa 33:6).

Those who desire to have the Fear of YHWH will read, and meditate in, His Torah day and night (Ps 1:1-2). They have a hunger and thirst after Yahushua and His Righteousness (Mat 5:6; Mat 6:33). They will commit to walk in His Ways, by keeping His Commandments (Deu 8:6; Deu 11.22), and by walking in His Torah, from *'The Beginning'* — from the Book of Genesis onward (Ps 119:1-3; 2John 1:6). They will come to 'delight' in His "Torah" (Romans 7:22; Ps 40:8; Ps 119:77,92,174).

Those who truly desire the Fear of YHWH will grow in the understanding of YHWH's Word. They will come to know and love Him who is Truth. They will, out of Love for their Bridegroom, begin to abandon all the Doctrines of Men that prevent full obedience to Torah.

They will abandon man-made religious celebrations and practices. Instead, they will begin to keep *YHWH's* Sabbath Days and Feast Days (Lev 23:2-44), just as Yahushua did 2,000 years ago, as our example. They will not allow anyone to intimidate them regarding their obedience in this matter (Col 2:16), but instead they will 'overcome' in this Eternal Covenant matter (Ex 31:16; Heb 13:20), and as a result will be granted entry into the City of the King (Rev 21:7; Rev 22:14)!

How can we acquire the Fear of YHWH? We might begin with the following response:

- a) **Pray** - Let us ask Father to give us the Fear of YHWH, the starting point of Wisdom. Let us tell Him, out loud, 'I choose the Fear of YHWH!' As we continue to ask Father for Wisdom (Jas 1:5), let us then begin to obey the Scriptures as the Set-apart Spirit opens our understanding.
- b) **Obey** - The first step to growing in the Fear of YHWH is for us to 'hearken' — to hear and obey the Scriptures. This means "keep Yahushua's Commandments." For example, if we already keep 9 of the 10 commandments, let's try something new: commit to keeping the Biblical 4th Commandment — of remembering, and keeping, HIS Sabbath Day! (The Biblical Sabbath Day is Friday sunset to Saturday sunset-as attested to by Jewish synagogues everywhere). Let us do what Yahushua did!

As we take baby-steps of obedience, Father will then open our eyes *further* to the Scriptures, to see the Truths of this obedience. For now, let us commit ourselves to keep those things Yahushua kept! We may lose friends over this, but that is another issue.

## **Hindrances to Obtaining the Fear of YHWH**

There are many stumbling blocks and hindrances that would prevent us from gaining the Fear of YHWH, and from gaining Wisdom. These hindrances are given to Blind Leaders by YHWH Himself, as a deception and a delusion to those who 'have not the love of the

Truth.' These hindrances are in turn given out to others who do not yet have the love of the Truth. (2Thess 2:10; Jer 6:21; Eze 3:20).

We will not be able to overcome these hindrances if we are half-hearted Believers. The true overcomer must fight with all his might to overcome all the hindrances and opposition he will face, while yet maintaining respect, honour and submission to YHWH's delegated leaders, whether Blind or not.

Most of these hindrances are seen in the following forms:

**a) Doctrines and Commandments of Men** - These actually turn men away from the Truth (Titus 1:14). This Doctrinal baggage, learned and accumulated perhaps over many years of church-going, is the Born-Again Believer's greatest hindrance to gaining further Scriptural Truth.

**b) Peer Pressure** - This comes from friends and family, and from well-meaning but deceived Pastors and spiritual Leaders. Once a Believer sets out to grow beyond being 'Born-Again,' he will meet resistance from all quarters!

**c) Our own Eyes** - Our spiritual eyes of understanding are still '*mostly*' closed, because most of us want to 'figure it out,' and want to 'understand' the Scriptures before we obey them. However, Father opens the eyes of our understanding only as we begin to walk in a Truth!

How can we avoid these hindrances? How can we remove the stumblingblocks? We might begin with the following response:

**a) Pray** - Let us ask Father to give us a Love for the Truth!

**b) Pray** - Let us ask Father to open our eyes to the Truth of Scripture. Let's pray out loud to YHWH, the prayer in (Psalms 119:18); then cry out to YHWH, and ask Him for what (Jeremiah 33:3) promises!

**c) Decide** - Let us decide to no longer remain "carnal," and therefore an enemy of YHWH. The apostle Paul tells us that one who is of a 'carnal' mind is an enemy of YHWH, because he is not *subject to the Law* (the 'Torah')(Romans 8:7). Let us then act on our decision.

**d) Pray** - Let us ask Father to give us a Love for, and Delight in, His Torah — like King David, and like the apostle Paul! (Psalms 119:97; Romans 7:22).

These on-going prayers, along with the daily reading of His Word, will be daily reminders to us, and will help us to avoid the hindrances.

## **YHWH Opens our Eyes - that we may Know Him**

Many have a hunger to follow Yahushua, and to walk in His way, but don't know how. While on the road to Emmaus, Yahushua's disciples were walking along with Yahushua. But even though they were walking with Him, their eyes were held closed, so that they did not really 'know' Him (Luke 24:16). It was not until later, that their eyes were opened, and they knew Him (Luke 24:31). YHWH holds our eyes closed, and He also opens our eyes. It is in the opening of our eyes that we 'know' Him.

We may be walking with Yahushua today, just as the early Disciples of Yahushua. But our eyes will remain closed, until YHWH opens them. The first step in truly knowing Him comes when He opens our eyes, so that we would know Him.

How can we have our eyes opened more? Our response might begin with:

**a) Pray** - Ask Father to open our eyes, to see the wondrous things that come forth

from His Torah (Psalms 119:18).

**b) Search the Scriptures** - For the 'Covenant' issues that tell us how to 'know' Him.

**c) Harken** - Begin to 'Believe' (become a "DO-er" of) what we read in the 'Torah' (John 5:47).

As we become "DO-ers" of Torah, YHWH opens our eyes to such an extent that it is comparable to the Blind receiving sight! But there is another choice to be made. We must choose to know Him.

## Choosing to Know Him

The Foolish virgins were told, "I never 'knew' you." The Wise virgins, however, must have been 'known' by the Bridegroom, because those words were not spoken to the Wise.

Notice that YHWH gives all of us a choice — either to serve Him, and know Him, or not to serve Him, and know Him (Josh 24:15; Prov 1:29). He has given to His People the Everlasting Covenant 'sign' ("token, ensign, or banner") to those who have chosen to 'know' Him. These tokens or signs can be seen in (Ex 31:13; Eze 20:12; Eze 20:20). But notice this 'sign' is not given to everyone, but only to *His People*, including those who are grafted-in to the *commonwealth* of His People (Matt 2:6; Rom 11:17-22; Eph 2:12-13).

Again we see our choosing is a vital part of the picture, when we see that choosing the Fear of YHWH is not only the beginning of Wisdom, but also the Beginning of knowledge — of the knowledge of YHWH (Prov 1:7; Prov 1:29).

How can we choose to serve YHWH, and to know him more? Our response might begin with:

**a) Pray** - Let us ask Father to identify all hindrances that would prevent us from truly 'knowing' Him in accordance with His New Covenant.

**b) Pray** - Let us ask Father for His Grace (His ability within us) to remove all those hindrances He identifies. (We may have to remove ourselves from the hindrances, if they are in the form of Doctrines of Men in a particular congregation.)

As we continue to ask YHWH for Wisdom, and for the Fear of YHWH, and for open eyes, what is our next step? YHWH gives us the following answer:

"Come, ye children, and hearken unto me (YHWH) [hear and obey]: and I (YHWH) will teach you the Fear of YHWH" (Psalms 34:11).

## Conclusion

These are the first baby-steps we must take, if we would be among those who desire to obtain Biblical Wisdom. For those of us who have begun to take even these little steps of obedience, the Bridegroom will perhaps recognise, maybe even '*know*' us when he knocks on the door!