

Fresh Surrender - Week 8

The Call to Godly Wisdom

Mal 3:6-7 "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

2 Chron 7:13-14 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Jer 2:11-13 Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD. "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

- If fresh surrender is ever going to be the focus of our lives, we must learn how to deal with **temptations** that come after us.
- We must understand when we **emotionally**, relationally, and spiritually depart from the Lord, He disciplines us in love to draw us back in focus.
- Many believers struggle with what I call the big black hole in us that we try to fill with everything but God's will and **wisdom**.
- Celebrating New Years ought to be the time for us to release the God of love to this world by the **changed** life they see in us.
- The call to return to God, and God's favorable response has one "fly in the ointment" and it's the word **IF**.

The promise of God has some **requirements**. There are four requirements for the presence of God and the **forgiveness** of God to work on our behalf.

1. **Humble** Yourself

- God does not let us set the **conditions** of what repentance should look like.
- The word repentance carries with it the need first for humility and then **turning** and going another direction.

2. Come to Him in **Prayer**

Most of our prayers are seeking the **hand** of God, not the face of God.

3. **Seek** His **Face**

- James calls us to come to God when tempted or tried with a **positive** attitude, not doubting, expecting God to answer us with godly **wisdom**.
- This coming to God for wisdom gives us the **opportunity** to develop perseverance and a steadfast spirit.
- Without this maturity and godly wisdom, we have no **ability** to stand fast when difficulties come our way.
- Ok what is wisdom? It means broad and full; intelligence; really full **knowledge**.
- The context here is speaking of prayer and spiritual growth. It's being **steadfast** and mature, living the life of Christ.
- Paul defines wisdom as a depth into insight, being able to **discern** what is best.
- God is always **pleased** when we ask for wisdom to do His will. God wants to answer that kind of prayer.
- There are two kinds of wisdom:
 - Wisdom of this **world**
 - **Godly** wisdom
This wisdom enables the believer to live according to the will of God, and it reflects Godly **character**.

4. **Repent**

- The process of change and repentance is threefold:
 - I. When we repent, our **mind** changes
 - II. When we repent, our **heart** changes
 - III. When we repent, our will and **actions** change
- When our hearts, and mind, and actions change us, we no longer **flirt** with sin--we run from it.

Final thought:

How do we get godly wisdom? How do we learn how to change? **Ask!!!**