

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

(John 14:26, NKJV)

- God has placed us here on earth at this time with a purpose
- This purpose cannot be accomplished without Him

“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:9–10, NKJV)**

The Holy Spirit searches for things that have never been seen or heard by human eyes and ears

The truth is we are hosting the very presence of God

- Not just for miracles
- He desires to bring the atmosphere of heaven through a person
- This forces a shift in the atmosphere over a home, business, or city
- By design heaven is to influence earth – Kingdom come!

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” **(John 14:12, NKJV)**

Culture

Culture is basically the values, principles, beliefs, and attitudes that influence how life is lived in a specific location

The goal is that people should be able to taste and see what it would be like to have Heaven's culture shape the value system of the world we live in

- It seems like a huge task – and it is
- Start with our homes and the local church and go from there
- Everything in Heaven thrives because of the presence of God
- There is nothing in Heaven that exists apart from His presence

The measure of Heaven to earth is seen in the importance we place on His presence, His values, and His lifestyle

A single act does not create a culture

When core values become instinctive reactions to problems or opportunities, they become the culture

God is Good – Dream Big!

Nothing is Impossible – Take Risks

Jesus Blood Paid for Everything – I Owe Him My Complete Trust

Each Person is Significant – Serve Well – [John 13:3-5](#)

The culture of heaven has got to become a preset in my life as it affects my worldview

- They have got to influence my immediate reaction to a problem or opportunity
- They must be more than concepts
- They must become burning convictions based upon what God says about life
- We cannot allow our values to be shaped by secular culture or disappointments – including Church History
- A culture deeply influences the way I can perceive His purpose and plan for my life

If I develop a culture for my life that is different from His, supporting my view on life it will contain errors in thought, ambition, and faith

Our expressions of faith are intended to affect the death, loss, and destruction we face on a day to day basis

- We are not only here to occupy space and wait for His return
- God sent His only Son to redeem, restore, rebuild, and renew
- You and I are a big part of God's plan in propagating the Gospel and releasing His Kingdom here on earth
- This will take us walking in God's wisdom in every area of our lives

According to Scripture wisdom is the principal thing and is to be sought after as a priority

“For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”

(Proverbs 8:11, NKJV)

- Many things around us are good, important, and desirable
- Yet nothing we could desire is better than or equal to wisdom
- Wisdom is what releases the blessings of God in all areas of our life
- Whether health, finances, position, and title, or the beauty of meaningful relationships
- Jesus has become wisdom for us, therefore we have His wisdom on the inside of us to draw from

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—” **(1 Corinthians 1:30, NKJV)**

- Wisdom is a person
- Living in wisdom is a relationship where we learn to truly see through His eyes, gaining His perspective
- That is what enables faith
- Wisdom gives faith a context in which to function
- Wisdom gives faith a direction or target to shoot for

Wisdom reveals the nature of God

“Blessed is the man who listens to me (wisdom), Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.”

(Proverbs 8:34, NKJV)

Compare

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” **(Matthew 7:7, NKJV)**

- Jesus says to ask, and wisdom says blessed is the man who listens to me
- Jesus says seek, and wisdom says to watch daily at my gates
- Jesus says to knock, and wisdom says to wait at His doorposts
- This is an illustration of the covenant of prayer available to us

Wisdom is so much more than the ability to solve problems or make difficult decisions

- It is to influence culture through creative expression
- You could say that wisdom can manifest the culture or atmosphere of heaven

Wisdom captures and expresses the emotion and intellect of heaven itself

- The Father celebrates wisdom

Proverbs chapter 8 helps us to see wisdom's role in creation in a way that could otherwise be forgotten

Several facts stand out to me in this chapter:

- *Wisdom is the architect of creation (vs. 30)*
- *Wisdom is the Father's delight (vs. 30)*
- *Wisdom rejoices before the Father (vs. 30).*
- *Wisdom rejoices (celebrates with laughter) over the inhabited world (vs. 31).*
- *Wisdom delights in humanity (vs. 31).*
- *Wisdom in us increases our favor with God (vs. 35).*

As wisdom is the architect of creation it stands to reason that wisdom enables us to be creative

- Even though creative expression includes the arts it is so much more

Everyone in Christ – the doctor, the accountant, the schoolteacher, lawyer, business owner or manager, stay-at-home mom, etc. can express wisdom through creativity

- This is where wisdom becomes manifest and impacts the world around us

The Queen of Sheeba came to Solomon with all kinds of questions

- He answered with such depth that she was overwhelmed

“And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.” (1 Kings 10:4–7, NKJV)

- Nothing could be more mundane than plates, clothes, and stairs
- Yet those are the things that reflected Solomon's wisdom and excellence
- Some of the more boring parts of life we sometimes take for granted
- Every area in life can be touched by God's excellence
- They can be moved from the boring to the significant
- From the mundane to the things that reveal God's nature

Excellence can manifest anywhere we allow it

- When we allow excellence to become part of our culture we find out that nothing is impossible with God
– **Matthew 19:26**
- Perfectionism is religion
- Excellence is Kingdom

With excellence of heart, we give the best of our time, efforts, thoughts, prayers, and talents to be fully invested in any responsibility

- Every person has access to function in excellence
- However, it will take effort, discipline, and humility
- It must become a lifestyle
- A commitment to excellence in every area of life
- When it comes to talent and skill our abilities vary
- Yet we can have the heart of excellence in everything we do

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,” (Colossians 3:23, NKJV)

- Excellence of heart is available to all of us
- It's from the heart that all issues flow

“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23, NKJV)

Excellence is sought after and even required by kings of the earth

- Whether a CEO of a corporation or the president of a nation
- They all have an appetite for excellence
- The way that appetite is expressed is not always right
- We must guard our hearts and motives

“Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite.” (Proverbs 22:29–23:2, NKJV)

- We see here that excellence is the way to promotion
- Kings have an appetite for it
- If you want to keep your place of influence you must self-impose restrictions on your appetite for more

Many get promoted because of their excellence in work but lose the excellence of heart in the environment of promotion and abundance

- There is nothing wrong with gain
- However, when we are only concerned with personal gain and promotion we can fall into a trap
- We must protect and guard our hearts
- Contentment and gratitude are key
- It's about His Kingdom, not mine

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

(1 Timothy 6:6, NKJV)

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

(Hebrews 13:5–6, NKJV)

We have two realms that we're aware of

- Natural and Supernatural
- God only has one – Natural
- The Supernatural is His Natural
- He made the Natural, so it is His Natural realm as well
- The Natural Realm is not evil
- It mirrors the Supernatural Realm
- When He's at work, they flow together seamlessly

I think we often don't understand how much God values the Natural World

When God took Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land He lead them through the Wilderness

- In the Wilderness, He manifested among them as a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night
- They entered the wilderness through the parting of the Red Sea
- The two walls of water came crashing down to destroy the Egyptian army
- Manna appeared on the ground daily, except for the Sabbath
- On the sixth day, He provided double so they wouldn't have to (work) gathering it
- He provided water out of a rock

God provided for them in the Wilderness through many miracles

He then took them into the Promised Land where they would have to work for food

Most of us see the picture of God Supernaturally providing our needs as the Promised Land

- That's not how God saw it
- He wanted them to be trained in the Supernatural so they could learn to trust Him
- He could then in turn trust them with the abundant supply He intended for them in the Promised Land
- Remember, God has always wanted co-laborers

They learned how to trust God with little and be thankful, training them to do a good job in stewarding His abundance

Some of us don't want to work hard and just trust God to meet our needs

- This may sound spiritual, but not necessarily true
- Many times when we live this way we are just living off of the compassion of others so we can eat and pay our rent
- The one receiving the money calls this living by faith

God does call some of us to this kind of lifestyle, but those who are called by God to live this way don't broadcast it to everyone so people feel responsible to take care of their needs

It takes great faith to believe God for the increase and grow a business that not only provides for your needs but the needs of many more who are employed by you

In reality, there is no secular job for a believer

- It's not the task that makes it holy
- It is based on the One who has given us the task – The Great Commission
- His call is always holy
- My approach to the call determines my effectiveness
- I don't mean to lower the esteem given to the five-fold minister or missionary
- We need to raise the value for all vocations that are sanctified to the Lord for His purposes
- Saying yes to God sanctifies the work

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” (1 Peter 2:9, NKJV)

In our jobs, we each have the privilege of representing and mirroring the heart and nature of God in all we do

- We all should have an intentional approach to our responsibilities
- Adding our faith to what we do will transform every area that is under our influence
- It ultimately positions us for the next reformation
- Bringing the influence of Jesus into every sphere of society

We desperately need people filled with the Holy Spirit in politics, entertainment, medicine, education, etc.

- Only then will the effects of heaven on earth be realized

“Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” (Matthew 13:33, NKJV)

- Leaven is quiet, subtle, and spread out
- Yet powerfully effective to everything it touches

The story of Solomon is one of the greatest tragedies in all of history

- The wisest person to ever live fell into sin and absolute foolishness
- He married foreign women and began to embrace their cultures and worship their gods
- He even built temples in Jerusalem for some of them

Some say that it took Israel 300 years to recover from the effects in culture brought on by the sins of Solomon

- The decisions and sins of a leader have a negative effect beyond their personal lives

The irony in Solomon's story is that God had given him the wisdom that would have kept him from error

- His greatest mistake was that he didn't live by what he knew to be true
- Knowledge without personal application will deaden the impact of specific truths
- When we don't apply the truth that is known we become insulated from the conviction of the Holy Spirit
- Wisdom is intended to impact our lifestyle

The book of Proverbs is full of warnings about associating with those given to sin

- In fact, there is an entire chapter warning us to stay away from the immoral woman – (**Proverbs 7**)

The effects wisdom has on integrity are seen and measured in our relationships, thoughts, ambitions, use of money, and even where we focus our eyes

- Wisdom builds with eternity in mind
- It has a present-tense effect with an eternal purpose
- Wisdom connects the present with the eternal
- This is why it is important to build a Kingdom Culture

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (**James 1:22, NKJV**)

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (**James 1:25, NKJV**)