

Study More:

Lesson 2 Now what?

The new birth:

The first step in understanding the world around us is to recognize that God exists and governs the universe. The second is that God introduced Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, who was sacrificed for the sins of humanity. He then provided a living document (Bible) explaining His intent and the purpose for life. To believe and act on these revelations is life changing. By accepting these simple truths, we are born again into the family of God. No longer in dark confusion, we now share the light of Gods wisdom. It's like standing in a dark room searching for the light switch. When you find and flip the switch, you are no longer confused but able to see all the room clearly. We see God for who he is, the creator and governor of the universe. The moment we accept Jesus as Savior our spirit is reborn. This conversion is not a simple change of mind. It is an actual alteration of our person executed and completed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus referred to it as being born again. Our natural birth comes through the birth canal into the physical world. The new birth happens when the Holy Spirit engages with our spirit to cause a spiritual rebirth. A religious man once questioned Jesus about this transformation.

*Jesus answered, "I assure you, **everyone must be born again.** Anyone who is not born again cannot be in God's kingdom." Nicodemus said, "How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?" Jesus answered " Anyone who is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter God's kingdom. **The only life people get from their human parents is physical. But the new life that the Spirit gives a person is spiritual.** Don't be surprised that I told you, 'You must be born again. (Jn. 3:3-7)*

The Benefit:

When we live according to Gods word, He shares His wisdom with us. (Not just natural wisdom, His wisdom) For example, **He knows the future and reveals it to us through His prophetic word. If we know something that hasn't happened yet, we are very wise indeed.** To be educated in the Word of God and know the outcome of life is worth more than all the worldly wealth we can accumulate.

*“ Those who find **wisdom** are fortunate; they will be blessed when they gain understanding. The profit that comes from **wisdom** is better than silver and even the finest gold. **Wisdom** is worth more than fine jewels. **Nothing** you desire has more value.” (Prov. 3:13-15)*

We live in a world wrought with trouble, and there is no escaping the circumstances, but when we do as God instructs, life becomes more manageable and less difficult. **The word of God is a flashlight that becomes our most valuable guide through life.**

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And **He shall direct your paths.**” (Prov. 3:5-6)*

The Bible is more than words on a page to be quoted. It is a living instrument full of the knowledge of God. **Wisdom is knowledge combined with good judgment.** Our earthly knowledge is limited to what we can see, hear, touch, smell, and taste. Anything beyond our five senses is conjecture and cannot be trusted to make a good judgment. Doesn't it make sense to live according to Gods wisdom rather than our frail limited understanding? After all, He created the universe with His knowledge and wisdom.

*“With **wisdom** and understanding, the LORD created the earth and sky. With his **knowledge**, he made the oceans and the clouds that produce rain.” (Prov. 3:19-20)*

Not only does the Bible provide instruction to live by, but it also rewards those who live by the instructions.

*“ With her right hand, Wisdom offers **long life**—with the other hand, **riches and honor**. Wisdom will lead you to a life of **joy and peace**. Wisdom is like a life-giving tree to those who hold on to her; she is a **blessing** to those who keep her close.”(Prov.3:16-18)*

Wisdom:

When we view the world through the eyes of God, we gain a different perspective of the creation. We become observers rather than participators. No longer are we concerned about the uncertainty around us. We learn to set our affections on future things, when love, peace, and prosperity are commonplace. Perspective is simply a mind alignment. Have you ever noticed how your point of view differs from others? You just can't understand how someone could see the same issue another way. Wouldn't it be reassuring if everyone were on the same page? **The Bible is a microcosm of God's knowledge regarding earthly affairs.** He knows the answer to every question no matter how personal or worldly the question may be. God's wisdom is for all believers willing to search the Scriptures. When we are spiritually born again, the Holy Spirit can communicate with our spirit to open our mind's eye to the truth. **For this process to work properly, the Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures as a reference to teach us the knowledge of God, giving us a supernatural understanding of Bible passages.** Knowledge with good judgment is the most valuable asset we can possess. If we have access to the mind of God, we will make the right decisions more frequently. Our life will be affected at every level from family to the workplace to casual relationships. **We will be more considerate of others, less self-centred, more eager to help than conflict.**

*“But the **wisdom** that comes from God is like this: First, it is pure. It is also peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This **wisdom** is always ready to **help people** who have trouble and to do good for others. This **wisdom** is always **fair and honest.**” (Jas. 3:17)*

Since the relationship with others is the most important component of our existence, the wisdom God offers is essential for a stable content life. **Because men refuse to believe God, He has no choice but to let them form their life strategies without Him.** The result is a world of trouble! For believers, the trouble acts as a test to hold God to His word.

*“My brothers and sisters, you will have many kinds of trouble. But this gives you a reason to be very happy. **You know that when your faith is tested, you learn to be patient in suffering.** If you let that patience work in you, the end result will be good. You will be mature and complete. You will be all that God wants you to be.” (Jas. 1:2-4)*

God knows the difference between lip service and faith because he knows the heart of people. When God declares something like, “*Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full,*” (John 16:24) the promise is granted by faith. **Along with wisdom comes life changing faith.** Everything Jesus did while on earth was through the same faith all people are provided. **Everyone is born with the same amount of faith.** As we study the scriptures, our faith will mature and increase.

Faith:

The first thing to know about faith is what it is not. It is not a good idea, mindset or emotion, nor is faith magic, or a Genie in a bottle. **Faith is a disposition of trust that what God has promised will happen.** It is a universal law that supersedes all other laws including the physical laws of the material universe. Faith is the energy used to create the universe.

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.**”(Heb.11:1)*

A miracle is an event that transcends physical laws. Bible miracles fall into this category. When Peter saw Jesus walking on the sea, he asked Jesus if he could come to Him walking on water as well. Jesus said yes, come ahead.

*“So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, **he walked on the water** to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”(Matt:29-30)*

Peter got his eyes on the circumstances, and his faith began to waver, he started to sink. Jesus gave him a hand back to the boat but chastised him for lack of faith.

*And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**” (Matt.14:31)*

Faith is a supernatural power source so phenomenal it can't be understood by science but can be used by people with little or no education. Faith is the force God used to create the material universe.

*“God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which **do not exist** as though **they did**” (Rom. 4:17)*

A degree of faith has been given to everyone born to Adams race. We all have enough faith to believe and accept Jesus as Lord and savior.

*“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to every man and woman a **measure of faith.**” (Ro.12:3)*

Once we acknowledge by faith, that Jesus is our lord and savior, it becomes our individual responsibility to renew our mind with the truth of scripture.

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Ro.12:2)*

The more scripture we absorb, the more our faith matures enabling us to receive the many promises God has given to all who will believe Him. Faith is the shield that stands between us and the enemy's of our life, worry, stress, depression, anger, and death.

*“So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear? **These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers,** but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.’” (Matt. 6:31-32)*

*“Don't worry about anything; instead, **pray about everything.** Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:6-7)*

If we honor faith seriously and don't waver, it will empower us to trust God, to do everything He has promised. The secret is to know what He has promised. A thorough examination of scriptures will give us plenty of opportunities to apply the faith God has already supplied us with.

*“**Abraham never doubted that God would do what he promised.** He never stopped believing. In fact, he grew stronger in his faith and just praised God. Abraham felt sure that God was able to do what he promised.” (Ro.4 20-21)*

And finally, faith destroys death, the greatest enemy of mankind.

*“Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that **will never die** this Scripture will be fulfilled: “**Death is swallowed up in victory.**”*
(1Cor.15:54)