

Ancient Wisdom for Modern-Day Times
Two Types of Wisdom (part 2)
Week 8: April 28, 2024

The thief who comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

How do followers of Jesus bring their wants and desires to God?

- A. To keep the burglar out of your heart and soul is to bring your wants and desires to God!

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire BUT you do not have, so you kill, You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God! (James 4:1-2)

1. In prayer.

When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)

2. In humility.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy against God. (James 4:4)

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:5-7)

3. In anticipation.

Come near to God and he will come near to you. (James 4:8a)

How do Followers of Jesus Come Near to God?

Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn, and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up (James 4:8b-10)

1. You repent of your sins.
2. You submit to God.
3. You will be lifted up...
4. Jesus lifts you up to lift others up.

How do Followers of Jesus Lift Each Other Up?

Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. (James 4:11)

1. We are to encourage one another, not slander one another.

When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgement on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor? (James 4:12)

2. We are to show compassion to one another, not judge each other.

“...be transformed by the renewing of our minds.” (Romans 12:2)

Discussion Questions:

1. How has the burglar, the devil, tried to come into your mind and heart and steal the goodness of God in you? Share a story.
2. What practical ways have you resisted evil, sin, and the devil?
3. How can you come near to God with your wants and desires this week?

News and Notes:

- o 75th Anniversary Banquet tickets are available TODAY. Register at back table.
- o Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy Tuesdays from 11am-noon. Blue House Basement.
- o Services, events, ministries, programs, and small groups are online at www.vcpc.ca.
- o Introducing the HK Newcomer Study Group: a 13-week Bible study journey tailored for Hong Kong new immigrants. Dive deep into faith, friendship, and community. For more information please reach out to Christine Wong