

THE DAILY AMEN Devotional

January 25, 2018 by Amy Dalke

God promised to give you wisdom.

“Her know-it-all attitude was the foundation for solid decision-making, skillful life management, and a wildly successful life.”
—said No One Ever.

(Well, except for fools, and according to scripture, it never works out well for them in the end.)

Foolishness = Doing It Your Own Way
Wisdom = Doing it God's Way

You probably don't have to look further than your teenage years to get a decent visual of what foolishness looks like. But if you need to borrow an example from me, I'll show you the entire decade of my 20's (minus maybe 2 years).

From the beginning of way back ever, men and women have been faced with the choice to do life God's way, or their own way. Go take a skim through the books of Kings and Chronicles, and notice how the kings of Israel and Judah are all described:

- (a) They did what was good and right in the sight of the Lord...OR
- (b) They did what was right in their own sight and evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- (c) There is no option c.

Oh! Wait a minute. Didn't Adam and Eve eat the fruit of that tree because they wanted to know good and evil for themselves?? Isn't this issue how the whole ship went down in the first place?

Bingo.

You see, God is the only one who can truly define *good* and *evil*. (Dear post-modern world, there is no such thing as relative truth.) Besides that, the whole “your truth is your truth, and my truth is my truth” thing is just a different way of saying, “I'm going to do what is right in my own eyes.”

The good news is that God has promised to give us wisdom. Which basically means that he gives us the ability to see things his way.

And do we ever need it.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (James 1:5 ESV)

Here's how it works:

You: "God, give me wisdom here. I'm clueless."

God: "Okay."

Y'all. Wisdom is OURS for the asking. Anytime. Anywhere. Whatever we need. Whenever we need it. That's a PROMISE.

God has laid out for us an open invitation to come and find in him the wisdom we need to live well. He's not holding back the secrets of the good life. He WANTS to give us guidance so that our lives glorify him as we were created to do!

But let's be clear: the scripture does not say to ask God for wisdom, and then consult our Facebook friends to make sure God's wisdom lines up with their opinions. (The wisdom for you here would be to get new friends if the opinions differ.)

Now get a load of this. James wrote to believers who were undergoing persecution and immense suffering. That's monumental if you think about it. Because what do suffering people need most?

WISDOM.

Fact: There will be trouble in this life. (Jesus said that.)

Suffering on earth is inevitable, but our suffering is not wasted when we maneuver life's circumstances with God's wisdom. Because God-given wisdom helps us to see what human wisdom cannot: that in the trial and trouble, God CAN and WILL work things out for our good and His glory.

Human reason won't tell you that. It shouts all sorts of things like, "It's all God's fault," and "If God were really good, people would not suffer."

But like those kings I mentioned at the beginning, we have a choice.

- a) We can choose God's definition of good, by faith, trusting that He knows far more than we do.
- b) Or we can live according to our own made-up definitions of good and right...and just hope that works out somehow.
- c) There's still no option C.

I choose A. (My 20's would applaud that choice.)

Your friend (the one who is loud-whispering in your ear, "CHOOSE A...!!"),
Amy