

May 13, 2018

Acts 6:8-15

Have you ever wanted to be a martyr? Perhaps we don't have to aspire to be one, but we should aspire to be like one: Stephen. A man full of:

1. the Spirit
2. Wisdom
3. Grace

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

Acts 13:52 ESV

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Nehemiah 8:10 ESV

10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT

15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Psalms 42:1-2 NLT

1 As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. 2 I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?

"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to talk."

Exodus 36:1 ESV

1 "Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the Lord has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded."

Proverbs 2:6 ESV

6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Proverbs 9:10 ESV

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 3:13 GNT

13 Happy is anyone who becomes wise—who comes to have understanding.

Proverbs 8:32 GNT

32 "Now, young people, listen to me. Do as I say, and you will be happy.

How to get wisdom:

1. Desire wisdom with all your might
2. Apply yourself to the study and meditation on God's word
3. Pray for wisdom
4. Keep perspective
5. You must come to Jesus

Colossians 2:2-3 ESV

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

"A person who understands and lives God's grace as seen in the cross also becomes a person who shows grace to others."

Grow in grace:

1. Have compassion
2. Don't compare
3. Give without expectations
4. Extend to others the benefit of the doubt
5. Willingly take second (or third or fourth) place