

# SPirit OF WISDOM

Daniel 5:1-31



## SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Phil preached on the difference between King Belshazzar and Belteshazzar (Daniel's Babylonian man) - two men with same/similar names that were so different.

We see King Belshazzar deliberately hardening his heart towards God in arrogance and pride - following in the footsteps of King Nebuchadnezzar. Even though he has seen all that has happened, he still chooses to defile the sacred instruments of the God of the Jews by drinking wine out of the goblets taken from the temple in Jerusalem. His folly results in judgment of God as the chapter ends with his disposal and the end of the Babylonian Empire.

We look at Daniel and we see how different he is. Whereas King Belshazzar calls it the spirit of the gods, we understand that it is the Holy Spirit that resides in Daniel. This passage foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit that is working through Daniel that is ultimately given to the Church - you and me. We tend to minimize the role of the Holy Spirit or take Him for granted (since we don't seem to know as much about the Holy Spirit), but the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Wisdom - that helps us understand how to live a life of wisdom. He helps us understand that God is the one whom we will be standing before to give an account of the way we chose to live our lives and He causes us to order our steps properly from that perspective so that we can live lives pleasing and acceptable to Him.



## OUTLINE

1

### KING BELSHAZZAR'S FOLLY

Even though King Belshazzar knew about everything that transpired with King Nebuchadnezzar, he still chose to deliberately oppose God. This is unfortunately the reality of sin and how stubborn we can be in the sin patterns of our life. We can be so fickle and look back at previous generations and commit the same errors as them.

Proverbs 9:10 teaches us that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. May we live our lives with an appropriate and healthy fear of the LORD.

2

### SPirit OF WISDOM

Daniel has the "spirit of gods" within him. What the world doesn't understand is that this is the Holy Spirit that now dwells within us. Because of what Jesus has come to do on the cross - we are able to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit that ministers to us and ministers to those around us.

Ultimately, from this passage, we see that the ministry of the Holy Spirit guides us in truth, convicts us, reminds us and reveals to us the mysteries of God. He corrects us and rebukes us. He is more powerful than any other spirit. He even emboldens and empowers us to speak the words of God.

But ultimately, he teaches us how to live with wisdom - a life that honors God is a life lived well.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: What's "foolish" or silly thing you've done before that you can say you've learned an important lesson from?

2

What are examples in our lives of our own foolishness - repeating mistakes of the past?

3

What does it look like to have a right view of God and a right view of ourselves? How can that lead to living a life of wisdom?

4

Share some wisdom with one another based on what you've experienced (both conventional and biblical wisdom).

5

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit? Can you share an encounter with the Holy Spirit?

6

What questions do we have about the Holy Spirit?



## BIG IDEA

We may look at generations in the past and wonder how they could be the way they are - but we can often find ourselves repeating the foolishness and wickedness of times past. God has called us to break these cycles and to live a life filled with wisdom - to fear the Lord and honor him rightly. God has not left us to do this by our own strength, but by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom, we are empowered to live a life that gives proper honor and reverence to God.