Proverbs 4:5-7

5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
6 “Do not abandon her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you.
7 “The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your possessions, acquire understanding.

Understanding that Builds Life

The Hebrew word for understanding is (tavun) comes from the verbal root (biyn) meaning to “understand” but the deeper meaning of this word can be found in a related verbal root (banah) which means to “build.”

In order to build or construct something one must have the ability to plan and understand the processes needed. This is the idea behind the verb (biyn) and its derivative noun (tavun), to be able to discern the processes of construction.

Understanding Processes Create Progress

Hebrews 11:1

says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...”

Substance - Hypostasis - (lit: an underlying), (a) confidence, assurance, (b) a giving substance (or reality) to, or a guaranteeing, (c) substance, reality. Evidence - élegxos (a masculine noun) – inner conviction focuses on God confirming His in birthing of faith (“the internal persuasion from Him,”

This talks of two things that reveal the practicality of faith: Evidence of things hoped for and Substance of things not seen. The evidence and substance will come through a process. The process of the heart and spiritual realities creates progress of life.

The Centurion’s Faith

Matthew 8:5-13

5 And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, begging Him, 6 and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, terribly tormented.” 7 Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 8 But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” 10 Now when Jesus heard this, He was amazed and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.
Authority of the Word
Great - tosútos – properly, so much in this (that) case.
Authority – exousia - (a) power, authority, weight, especially: moral authority, influence, (b) in a quasi-personal sense, derived from later Judaism, of a spiritual power, and hence of an earthly power. (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence: --authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.
Authority is really about relationships. Authority can only be exercised over those who accept a relationship that either requires their submission or invites their submission. Authority is a two-way street.

Understanding that Builds Life
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Authority to Submit
Do you respond to the world as one under another’s authority? Or do you operate on the basis of power?
Want to know a quick way to tell the difference?
Power is all about control. Authority is all about submission.
When we step into God’s worldview, we stop trying to control our environment and look for the places where God has given us authority, not where we have the power to act on our own.

Understanding the Heart
Matthew 15:10-20
10After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, “Hear and understand! It is not what enters the mouth that defiles the person, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles the person.”
12Then the disciples came and *said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?” 13But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. 14Leave them alone; they are blind guides of blind people. And if a person who is blind guides another who is blind, both will fall into a pit.” 15Peter said to Him, “Explain the parable to us.” 16 Jesus said, “Are you also still lacking in understanding? 17Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? 18But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and those things defile the person. 19For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, acts of adultery, other immoral sexual acts, thefts, false testimonies, and slanderous statements. 20These are the things that defile the person; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the person."
The Heart – The Place of Progress and Process
Romans 10:10 - For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
Romans 8:7, the carnal mind is enmity against God and not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can it be. The carnal mind can’t operate in God’s law of faith.

Faith works in the heart. We need to understand that faith is a spiritual force. It works in the heart of man and impacts the head of man. It doesn’t work in the head, first it works in the heart first.
Mental assent works in the head. Some mistake it for faith. But mental assent is not faith. Mental assent working in the head says, “Yes, that’s in the Bible.” But they really don’t believe it. If it’s only in the head, you don’t really believe it. Mental assent says, “Yes, it’s truth, because it’s the Bible.” But is it truth in your life?

If it is not true in your life then it’s not yet in your spirit. If you have the faith of God in you, it will produce the reality of that thing. But it has to be in the spirit (heart).

Matthew 15:21-28

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman
21Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely demon-possessed.” 23But He did not answer her with even a word. And His disciples came up and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us!” 24But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” 26Yet He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” 27And she said, “Yes, Lord; but please help, for even the dogs feed on the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28Then Jesus said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed at once.

Understanding Persistence
Answers can give great encouragement, but delay checks our sincerity and forces us to be more fervent, strengthening our faith.
He rewards persistent faith that includes a full assurance of hope. Faith overcomes obstacles, personal trials, and the world. The apostle John writes, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (I John 5:4-5).
Building the Full Body of Faith – Take away’s

- Mature Faith grows in the heart, then to the mind and then to your life.
- Mature Faith understands process and plans.
- Mature Faith understands authority and ability of the word.
- Mature Faith understands the power of persistence.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Your generosity is positively changing lives in our church, community, and around the world. Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 that whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously. Thank you for continuing to help others see the generous nature of the body of Christ through your giving.

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