FIRST FRUIT FASTING EXERCISE Jan.22 – Feb 11. (Day 6)

Theme: JUMPING IN THE JOY OF JUBILEE

Texts: Ps.4:3-8; 32:11; 126:1-6 Topic: WALKING IN WISDOM

Sub-Texts: Pro.1:1-5; 4:7-9; 8:1-23,32-36

The subject matter of wisdom is humongous but amongst the least touted, causing untold losses to citizens of the kingdom. (Cons.Pro.1:20,24-28).

To explain the concept, let's take our drive from the ancient times who considered wisdom as the art of learning how to succeed in life. They understood that there was orderliness to the world to which they lived. These were seen as laws. They learnt that success and happiness came from living in accordance to that orderliness (Pro.22:17; 24:23). Some saw wisdom as a philosophical study of the essence of life. Yet another saw it as being more than the physical elements only, but that the real essence of wisdom is spiritual. This group said that it has to begin with God and one's faith in Him as Lord and Saviour (Pro.1:7; Job 28:28).

The heads of clans and selected/distinct class of people called sages were responsible for creation and preserving their wisdom. In the time of David names like Ahithophel and Hushai were mentioned (2Sam.16:15; 17:23). Solomon's reign marked the golden age of Israelite culture.

The word wisdom translated from Hebrew **Chokmâh** (*pronounced khok-maw*) covers:

(i) Technical skill or special abilities in fashioning something (Exo.28:3

- (ii) The knowledge and ability to make right choices at the opportune time and the consistency in making the right choice is an indication of maturity and development.
- (iii) Ability to interpret dreams (Dan. 2:30, 5:14,15).

NB: Chokmâh refers to practical wisdom.

At this juncture, it must be understood that there are 3 kinds of wisdom based on source or origin viz Heavenly (divine) Demonic, and natural (Jas3:13-17).

As citizens of heaven and joint heirs with Christ we must go the wisdom of our class – the heavenly, and true variety. This kind of wisdom is based on the fear of the Lord (Pro.1:7; 9:10).

Wisdom is also defined as the ability to make profitable use of knowledge.

There are Bible characters that became outstanding by the wisdom that they exhibited like: **Joseph** was separated from his brethren and consistently feared the Lord until his exaltation (Gen. 49:22-26), **Bezaleel** who was endowed with the ability to make the patterns shown to Moses (Exo. 31:3-6), **Abigail** whose act of instinct pacified David after the foolish utterance of her husband (1 Sam. 25:14-35).**Solomon** whose writings and judgment distinguished him as the wisest of the naturally born. (1 Kgs. 4:29-34)

Our Lord Jesus stands out as the wisest man that has and will ever exist. (Lk. 11:31)

Wisdom played out conspicuously in Apostle Paul's ministry as he overcame the challenges of life (Acts 9:24-25, 23:6). The Lord Jesus enjoined His disciples to be wise as the absence can cause premature termination of calling (Matt.10:16,23).

Wisdom is the agent of creation or development and it goes together with knowledge and understanding (Pro.24:3,4) and prudence – good judgment (Pro.8:12).

There is need for conscious engagement of wisdom in all areas of life: parenting and family life; church; business; career; health. For example: wisdom will make one to enjoy sabbath, exercise, eat moderately, do spiritual exercises: fasting regularly, prevent diseases by taking precautions — drink clean water, use mosquitoes nets, etc.

Every success has some wisdom behind it, and without wisdom there can be no success (Pro.8:18,21,35).

The believer must ensure that he is working with heavenly wisdom that has godly characteristics (Jas.3:17-18).

Those whose lives seem devoid of wisdom are to –

- (i) Submit to the Lordship of the Wisdom of God (1Cor.1:24,30)
- (ii) Pray for the manifestation of wisdom (Jas.1:5; Pro.8:17)
- (iii) Begin to live in the consciousness that God's wisdom is operational in your life and confess it (Rom.10:10; Mk.11:23).

Walking in wisdom will guarantee jumping in the joy of Jubilee.