

The Wisdom of God

There are so many facets to God that to apply only one meaning to a symbol of His greatness does a great disservice to the body of Christ. When we think of wine as it relates to God, some think of communion and the representation of blood. Some think of the mention of wineskins in the Bible and think of wine as representing Holy Spirit. Both are valid.

In this article we are going to explore wine as a symbol of the wisdom of God, which is revelation understood through Holy Spirit and applied to our lives. This is just another aspect of God and there is so much more to know and experience of our wonderful God.

Let's begin by looking at Matthew chapter 11. A couple of disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus for assurance that He was indeed the one from heaven sent by God the Father. Jesus assured them and they went on their way to reassure John. Jesus then began to talk to the crowds about John the Baptist. He classifies John as one like unto the great prophet, Elijah. Jesus then relates a link to the Kingdom. This verse is quoted often without fully understanding what it really says.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11:12 (NKJV)

Most translations translate the one Greek word used in this text as "suffers violence", presenting a picture of the Kingdom of heaven as constantly getting bombarded by the violent in the world. With this mindset, many go about life with the idea that they are "just suffering for Jesus", because that is what happens when you surrender your life to God. Our purpose in life is not to suffer for Jesus. That is a lie and a deception from hell.

This is a topic for another time, but I will mention that the Greek word translated suffering means "to be affected by" and can be either positive or negative. The Bible tells us that God delivers us from all afflictions, so the emphasis is not on what happens to us, as these things are meant as training ground for us. The emphasis is on God and how He works through us.

We are called to advance the Kingdom, not live a life with emphasis on suffering. And we definitely do not suffer in order to please God. The word also means "to experience". Every trial, every event in our lives is for the purpose of our "experiencing" Jesus in a new way.

There is an old song by Andraé Crouch called "Through It All". Some of the words are "For if I'd never had a problem, I wouldn't know God could solve them, I'd never know what faith in God could do." If I never had these experiences, I would miss out on experiencing God and really getting to know Him. Paul, on the road to Damascus, became blind and had to be led around by others. It lasted three days, but it served a purpose in his life and was meant to produce something in Paul that would cause strength to arise in him. He would begin to understand his purpose and how to really advance the Kingdom of God in the earth.

In the 0 verse from Matthew chapter 11, the Greek word *biazō* is a verb meaning “strong, forceful, applying force or violence”. It is the Kingdom of heaven that is strong and forceful. And those who are strong and forceful take all the Kingdom has to offer and move it forward in the earth. In other words, they are pressing in to fulfill the mandate given to mankind in the garden. They are overcoming every event, every trial. Let’s look at another verse that clarifies this thought.

The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. Luke 16:16 (NKJV)

The word translated as pressing in this passage is the same word used for violent in the passage from Matthew. The Kingdom of heaven is moving forward with power and force, and those who want the Kingdom to come to earth just as it is in heaven are pressing in for that to become a reality.

What does this have to do with wine? Let’s go back to Matthew chapter 11. After Jesus talks about the Kingdom of heaven and what it takes to advance it in the earth, He continues with His message by telling them why this process is hindered. He talks about the generation on the earth at that time and could apply today as well.

The Pharisees had asked Jesus why His disciples did not fast, but John’s disciples did? Jesus basically said it was because of their lack of discernment. They did not discern that John represented the old and Jesus was bringing in the new. He then went on to show further evidence of their lack of discernment. They did not discern the right way to eat and drink of spiritual things.

Jesus mentioned the people in the marketplace (the leaders – those who were supposedly in control) instructing those around them to either rejoice or be sad. The people were not listening to their leaders. He brought out how they looked at John as having devils because he came to them not eating or drinking. They thought Jesus had devils and He was doing the opposite of John. He came to them eating and drinking. They accused him of eating too much and drinking too much wine.

The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children. Matthew 11:19 (KJV)

There is an interesting phrase at the end of that verse, “but wisdom is justified of her children”. What on earth does that mean?

It is obvious there is a lack of discernment, a lack of interpreting what is needed in a particular moment by the people of that generation. They were laughing when they were supposed to be crying. They were crying when they were supposed to be laughing. They lacked understanding and wisdom to discern the events of the day.

There are so many confused people today. They live in confusion, delusion, chaos, and lack of wisdom in knowing what to do. They operate out of their mind and emotions, instead of their spirit. The children of the Kingdom do not operate this way. They operate from wisdom, which as King Solomon points out in the book of

Proverbs, is the personification of God. The mature saints operate from their spirit which is in constant communications with the Spirit of God.

The word “justified” in this verse means “to render righteous, to declare what is righteous and upright”. In other words, the children of the Kingdom have the wisdom in their spirits from God, who is wisdom, to determine in every situation what is right or wrong in the sight of God. This is true discernment. This is the bread of heaven. This is the wine of God.

Eating and drinking from this chapter, I believe represents a people who eat and drink revelation from the heart of God. They do not eat and drink the philosophies of the world. They pursue the wine of wisdom and press in to drink it. They operate differently than the world.

Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom

God uses a 1-2-3 process with us. There are so many things in scripture that point to this. Step 1 represents where we currently are in God. He comes to us in this place and presents us with the challenge to move to a new place in Him. He reveals Himself to us, little by little, precept upon precept. We could not handle it, if He revealed His entirety all at once.

He comes to us, encouraging us to move forward. We must make a choice. Do we stay where we are comfortable or do we trust God to move into the unknown? The desert is the place of the unknown. It is the place of “suffering” or “experiencing” Jesus. It is step 2. In this place, God will strip us of the old (yes, this can be painful at times) and begin to prepare us for the new. Old mindsets must be torn down before we can build what is new.

This is the process God described to Jeremiah when He called him as a prophet.

Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah 1:10, 11 (KJV)

We go through a spiritual process of metamorphous where our old mindset is torn down and a new one is created. When a caterpillar goes into a cocoon in preparation for becoming a butterfly, its whole structure is disassembled and built into something completely different. It does not just rearrange a few things. It becomes a new creature.

We cannot come fully out of the desert without this process. We can choose to step out of our comfort zone to move on with God into the desert. Then we have more choices in front of us. When we begin to catch a glimpse of what God wants to do, He comes to us to destroy the old mindset that is not good for us. Are we willing to let that be destroyed?

At this point we can choose to forsake the new mindset all together and return to step 1, where we settle and our mind is set. If we settle in step 1, we mainly operate from our flesh or emotions. We have knowledge, but we lack understanding and wisdom.

Instead of returning to the old entirely, we could choose to settle in the desert (step 2). We choose not to allow God to tear down. We end up mixing the old mindset with the new revelation and it is tainted and unpure. Whatever is built from this is built by us and not by God. This is why as priests it is important to discern between the holy and the common or defiled.

We are making a decision to live from this place which is still in step 2. We operate from some knowledge and understanding of God, but He wants us to have more. We often operate from our mind and intellect in this place, rather than being directed by Holy Spirit. It becomes a mixture of the new and the old and God is not pleased.

If we say yes to God and let Him tear down and destroy the old mindset and then let Him rebuild us with a full understanding of the new mindset, we move into our inheritance of knowing Him more, step 3. In this place we have gained the wisdom to know how to apply the new mindset to our everyday life. We move forward, living in the new revelation of our inheritance, step 3.

We enjoy this place until God invites us to enter more of our inheritance, more understanding of who He is. Then we are back in the place of Step 1, being prepared to move to a new level of glory. In life, we travel from glory to glory.

The 1-2-3 process is important in a believer's life and illustrates the process of a advancement from believer to disciple (student) to mature saint (stone in the Ekklesia). This is also encapsulated in the picture of the Old Testament tabernacle.

There was the outer court (step 1-believer). This relates to knowledge. There is some knowledge of God, enough that we become believers and understand salvation as far as it relates to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many believers remain in this place all their lives.

Only priests could enter into the holy place (step 2 – disciples or students). In this place were the candlestick, incense, and the showbread. All these things represent Jesus. In this place we know about God, but knowing God intimately was a different story. Priests were to point the way to God. They were to know God and His ways and to keep the purity of the gospel. According to Moses, God instructed the priest to be able to discern the things that were holy and to distinguish between what was holy and what was common.

and to make a distinction and recognize a difference between the holy (sacred) and the common (profane), and between the [ceremonially] unclean and the clean;
Leviticus 10:10 (AMP)

Ezekiel is given further instruction from God. The priests who know how to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong, what is clean and what is unclean are to teach the people to be able to do the same.

The priests shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the common or profane, and cause them to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.
Ezekiel 44:23 (AMPC)

In this place the priests were tasked with certain things, like replacing the bread every seven days, making sure the lamps were still lit. It was a place of works, of doing for God. It was a place of understanding, which is more than just being taught. They understood some of who God was and what He was doing. But it wasn't God's best. He wants us to be more than priests who minister to Him.

There are millions of people who live in this place today. They have a lot of head knowledge about God and the Bible and they have their own pet doctrines. They are all about works and performing to get God's favor and blessing. They know God but not to the extent He wants them to know Him.

In this place, the revelation of God interacts with our brains and we form our own opinions of who God is and what He wants to do. If we are to rule and reign with Him, we must also become kings. That requires entering the Holy of Holies.

We are priests, but we do not understand yet how to move from the Levitical priest to the Melchizedek priest who is both priest and king. The curtain between the holy place and the holy of holies was torn apart at Jesus' death, so we could all become priests and kings and enter into the heart of God.

In the holy of holies there is nothing but the ark of the covenant. It is in this place to find God's presence. Only the high priest could enter and only once a year under fear of death. Today we are all invited into this place, but most choose to live in the outer court or the holy place instead. We choose to live in what we have been taught all our lives, or we move into the desert and settle where we make the new revelation fit into our old understanding.

It is in the Holy of Holies (step 3 – mature saint and a stone placed in the wall of the Ekklesia) that we enter into the heart of God. We are no longer separate from Him. We live and move and have our being in Him. Nothing else matters. It is not our will, but His. We are hidden in Him. Nothing can touch us. We possess Him. It is no longer about works. There are still works but they are not done out of performance, but rather out of love. Jesus does His works through us. We are in the place of rest. We cannot have rest outside the heart of God, where we are one in Him and He is in us.

In this place the new revelation becomes real and we live in it. We have discernment. We operate from wisdom where we have been taught and have understanding, but also a knowing how to apply righteousness and justice in every situation we face, because we hear the voice of our God clearly and we obey. We have come to know our God, not just know about Him. We love as we see His love for those around us.

Few live in this place, but it is where God is calling us to live, not visit, in this crucial hour of history. It is from this place we begin to rule and reign with Jesus and can effectively advance the Kingdom of God in the earth.

God Hates Mixture

When we are moving from glory to glory, we must pass through the desert. We must allow the stripping away of the old or we are in danger of mixing the old with the new. When God gives us fresh revelation, there are some old mindsets that may clash with that new revelation. God hates mixture. This is why the Israelites were told to not wear clothing that was mixed. They were to live their lives illustrating this truth of God before the nations of the world.

Do not plant any crop in the same field with your grapevines; if you do, you are forbidden to use either the grapes or the produce of the other crop. Do not hitch an ox and a donkey together for plowing. Do not wear cloth made by weaving wool and linen together. Deuteronomy 22:9-11 (GNT)

A mixture meant they were following God's standards in part, and the world's standards in part. These were a people who were supposed to be set apart for God and to show the world who God really is. They could not do that by following both God and the culture of the people around them.

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. I Kings 18:21 (ESV)

Elijah confronted the prophets and the people of his day with the same thing. Choose between the two, but don't mix things up by following both. To the body of believers in Laodicea, Jesus had some strong words about the result of mixture in believers.

I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. Revelation 3:15-16 (ESV)

God takes mixture very seriously. It is where a great majority of His people settle today. Many, if not most, "churches" today are mixing worldly ideas with Godly standards and it doesn't work. It results in deception and chaos and lack of discernment. It results in distortion of the real message. This is why Jesus said what He did about wine and wineskins.

Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved. Matthew 9:17 (KJV)

This parable is found in three of the four gospels. It must be important for us to understand. It was in response to questions being asked of Jesus by the disciples of John the Baptist, as well as the Pharisees. John the Baptist was a forerunner who was sent to lead people from old revelation to new revelation. He came to reveal the one who was the Son of God.

Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy. Prophecy is the revelation of who Jesus is and what He is doing. Here is the verse from the book of Mark.

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.
Mark 2:22 (KJV)

Marred means “destroyed, useless, ruined”. The verse from Matthew is translated perish. It is the same Greek word. When we, as human vessels, receive new revelation into an old mindset, we become useless in the Kingdom of God. We are in effect trying to understand that new revelation with our mind instead of our spirit.

Many so-called prophets today are operating in this realm, some call it the second heaven. They see something that God wants to reveal, but instead of relying on Him to give the interpretation of what they are seeing or what He is saying, they interpret it through their own mind, their old mindset, their own limited understanding of who God is, their own experiences. This is mixture and God hates it.

Destroying Old Mindsets

We must allow God to tear down old mindsets and establish new ones. We must learn and submit to this process in our own lives before we can truly understand spiritual warfare and our weapons and how to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
II Corinthians 10:3-5 (MEV)

Our weapons are spiritual, not carnal, meaning they are not controlled by our human nature but they are controlled by the Spirit of God. In order to use these weapons, we must be able to hear the voice of God and we must be willing to obey Him. What is the purpose of these weapons? Interesting.

We go about a lot of hoopla in our attempts to fight demons and use our spiritual weapons. But most of it has the same effect as chopping air or stepping on clouds. We do not understand the purpose of the weapons. We look at the condition of the world as it seemingly gets worse and we expect it not to get better tomorrow. The mind and the emotions say that nothing can change this situation except for Jesus to return to earth.

There is a lot of hopelessness and fear. We think these wicked people on earth are so far gone that nothing can save them. We want them destroyed, removed. That may very well happen to some, but it should not be our focus. We do not understand the strength of our God, nor the strength of the weapons He has placed in our hands. This passage from the Bible says those weapons, given to us by God, are strong enough to pull down strongholds and cast down EVERY high thing that exalts itself against God.

Strongholds, imaginations and high things are mindsets. Mindsets cause people to put into practice the things that are in their minds. If we want people to stop doing the things they are doing, there needs to be a change in mindset, a paradigm shift. Paul was killing Christians by the dozens before the stronghold in his mind was pulled down and changed.

The purpose of our spiritual weapons is to tear down mindsets, so something great and beautiful can be built. This applies in our own lives, but it also applies in our neighborhoods, our cities, our states, and our nation. Our countries are in the shape they are in because believers do not know how to use their weapons. We must allow God to tear down our old mindsets, so He can pour new wine into us, new wine that will birth strategies to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth, new wine that will set people free from old mindsets.

We must stop mixing godly standards with the world's standards, and enter the Holy of Holies where we live in Him and allow Him to do what He wants to do through us. We then truly live out the truth of this verse.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Galatians 2:20a (MEV)

It is the level of wisdom that we know and walk in that prevents us from being deceived. The more we allow the 1-2-3 process in our lives, the more wisdom we have with more ability to discern (or judge) what is right and what is wrong in the sight of God. That is why the Bible talks a lot about not judging, yet it also tells us to judge. Which is it?

We should not judge by our emotions or what we feel. We should not judge from our mind or what we see. We should judge by the spirit, and what God tells us and shows us. Only then can we do spiritual warfare accurately. Only then can we effectively rule and reign with Jesus on His throne where the pillars are righteousness and justice.

When we know what is right in the sight of God, then, through wisdom, we can apply the keys of the Kingdom to bring justice and make right the situation. The anointing breaks every yoke of bondage and sets people free. The wine gives us the understanding and wisdom of what is in the heart of God and what is right according to His standard.

The problem is not that there are so many mindsets that operate in the world today against God. The problem is, God's people do not understand they have the ability and the privilege of fighting against these mindsets to the point of tearing them down. We need a people not just taught and trained, but prepared to operate from the heart of God and to drink of the wine Jesus wants to pour into us.

