

Week 4 – Practical wisdom

Purpose – to think about how we know when we have discerned the mind of Christ, and to consider how we can individually grow in wisdom.

1) In her fourth video, Ruth says:

   "When Baptists discern the mind of Christ, we do it from a basis of Scripture, and we seek the Spirit's guidance, but we *check* discernment with how we feel, and we look for a sense of peace to proceed."

   Do you agree? Why/why not?

2) Have you ever experienced a sense of *feeling* God's presence or his peace over a decision (individual or corporate)?

3) How much weight or authority do you give to that feeling? How do you assess whether or not you can rely on it?

4) What does it mean to "discern the mind of Christ … from a basis of Scripture"?

5) How would you define 'wisdom'?

6) Think of someone you consider to be wise – what is it about them that makes you describe them as wise?

7) Read Matthew 7:24-27. What are the characteristics of people who are "like a foolish man who built his house on the sand"?

8) What are the two characteristics of people who are "like a wise man who built his house on the rock"?

9) Ruth describes this as "practical wisdom". It doesn't occur instantly but grows over time as we experience building our lives on Christ. Think back to your answer to Q6. Does this concept of slow-built practical wisdom describe the people you were thinking of there?

10) How many other scriptural examples can you as a group think of that teach us how to grow in wisdom? Look some up and pray for each other for the things the scriptures say. (E.g., for Matthew 7:24 you might pray that you would grow in putting God's word into practice.)