

A VOICE OF ALL NATIONS
NEW YEAR MESSAGE
January 2014



Solomon said to the Lord: "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil." 1King 3:9.

Interestingly, Solomon did not ask for wealth or power for dictating those he governs or for destroying his enemies. Rather, he prayed for wisdom so that he may distinguish between right and wrong.

This is the best prayer for the New Year. We need to pray for wisdom from above. As the Apostle James puts it "the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, the peace-loving, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." This wisdom is fruitful. Those who possess this wisdom are peacemakers. They saw in peace and raise a harvest of righteousness. James 4: 17-18.

Those who lack this wisdom are partisan, with dead faith, they have form but no substance, they are dry wells, with untamed tongue, impatient, earthly, and unspiritual. The Apostle Paul would clarify these as sinful nature. "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry(worship of self, money and power) and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits and rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like." Paul concludes that "those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." We could add that they are not in the Kingdom of God-for the Kingdom of God is where God's will is being done.

When we submit ourselves to God and repent of our sin the word of God has good news for us: " If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1: 9. When this precious work is done, we become like wise virgins who had oil in their lamps. We automatically attain wisdom from above. We bear the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patient, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

When we live with and in Spirit the reward is great both in this world and the world to come. Jesus put it this way: "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruits; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Our prayer for you is that you be filled with wisdom from above that you may bear the fruits of the Spirit. We pray that you will submit your time, talent, treasure to God that at the end of all things the Master will say to you: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:21

The Lord bless you and Keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

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