



2023 3Q Ephesians—Lesson 9 Living Wisely

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

How would you explain what it means to live wisely?

It means to understand and live in harmony with objective reality, in harmony the laws God built reality to operate upon.

Jesus taught this when He said:

- “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24 NIV84).

Jesus was saying the wise understand God, God’s character, methods, principles, design laws and put them into practice, and their lives are built on the solid foundation trust in God and harmony with His never-changing protocols for life.

Jesus did NOT say the wise man accepts my vicarious legal payment in his behalf and gets a legal declaration that proclaims his life to be righteous while he remains unrighteous.

Why is it foolishness to build on the penal legal system of salvation? Because the penal legal system of salvation is made up, fantasy, built on the lies of Satan that God’s law functions like human law.

Let’s examine more wisdom Scripture and see if you can identify the consistent theme that wisdom is harmony with God and the laws He built reality to operate upon:

- The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. (Proverbs 12:15 NIV84).
- A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke. (Proverbs 13:1 NIV84).
- The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin. (Proverbs 10:8 NIV84). [What is described? What does it mean to listen to advice, heed instructions, and accept commands? Does it mean mindless, thoughtless, blind obedience—simply doing what someone else tells us? No! It means acknowledging reality—that we are finite beings and do not know everything, and that other people have perspectives, knowledge, insights, understanding, truths that we may not have yet understood ourselves. The wise person is willing to listen, to hear, to consider, to examine, to grow through assimilating truth from others. The fool thinks they know it all already and they cannot learn for they will not listen to anything that doesn’t agree with what they already think. And where does truth, learning have its impact? Is the change that comes from accepting truth, direction, instruction, a legal change



in record books or actual change in thought and when applied functional change in the individual?]

- The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. (Proverbs 11:30 NIV84). [How does fruit come forth? Under what type of law? Is fruit legally proclaimed to exist when in reality it does not exist?]
- Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (Proverbs 12:18 NIV84).
- The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. (Proverbs 13:14 NIV84).
- The path of life leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down to the grave. (Proverbs 15:24 NIV84). [Why do the words of the wise bring healing? Why are the teachings of the wise a fountain of life? Because wisdom is how life works, teaching the laws of health, not legal adjustments, but objective reality.]
- He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20 NIV84). [Do you know of a New Testament passage that teaches the same thing? “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” (1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV84). Is there a law involved here? The law of exertion and worship, by beholding we become changed.]
- Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. (Proverbs 20:1 NIV84). [What is it saying? Is the Bible making a rule that if you ever ingest any ethanol containing substance you are sinning? So, any cough syrup with alcohol needs to be confessed and paid for by the blood of Jesus or else you will be burned in hell for it? No! it is not setting up a rule, it is describing design law, the laws of health. Alcoholic beverages when consumed can intoxicate, interfere with higher cortical function, problem solving, diminish self-restraint, impair judgment, and result in impulsive and destructive decision making. If consumed repeatedly it can alter neural circuits, people can become physically addicted and lose their freedom to a substance and the need to take more of the substance to avoid withdrawal. All of this is unhealthy and therefore unwise.]
- Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. (Isaiah 5:21 NIV84). [What is being described here? Why is this foolishness? Because it closes the mind to truth, to development, to advancement. Cuts oneself off from God who is the source of ultimate truth.]
- The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of **rules taught by men**. Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.” (Isaiah 29:13–14 NIV84).

When Jesus quoted this text in Mark 7:7, He quoted it as:

- They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. (Mark 7:7 NIV84).



[What is going on? Aren't these people wise because they praise God and worship God with their words and singing and go to religious meetings? Why does Isaiah, and then Jesus, say that their praising of God is in vain, is worthless and ultimately foolish and not wise? Because they do it legally, rules taught by men, rather than living out objective reality, rather than living in harmony with God's design laws of truth, love, and liberty.]

Are you seeing a theme in Scripture yet—wisdom is living in harmony with God's design laws, foolishness is breaking them, either in direct rejection and rebellion, or replacing them with man-made religious rules, a legal system of salvation. Consider this passage from Jeremiah:

- How can you say, “We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,” when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely? (Jeremiah 8:8 NIV84). [What is the message here? Do we see this today, people claiming wisdom because they have the law, the Torah, the Bible, the Commandments and claim to obey all Ten, yet they have Romanized Christianity and made God out to be like a Roman Caesar who makes up rules and is required by law to use His power to inflict death. They handle the Bible falsely, the law of God falsely and in reality are worshipping a creature, a being whose functions no differently that a created being, they are not worshipping the Creator who built reality and sustains it.]

So what is wisdom?

- This is what the LORD says:
“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,
but **let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,**
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”
declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23–24 NIV84, emphasis mine). [What is wisdom in this text? It is knowing God, as Jesus prayed life eternal is knowing God, not knowing about God. Why is this wisdom? Is getting such wisdom the same as getting a doctoral degree in theology? What does knowing God look like? When we know God we have intimate connection with God, and to know God is to trust God. And when we trust Him we are restored to righteousness, we receive new hearts and right spirits, we have the living law of God written in our hearts and minds.]
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10 NIV84). [What does this mean? What law is involved? Is it speaking of terror and dread? No, it is speaking of awe, admiration, reverence, what we revere. And when we do have awe, admiration, respect and reverence for God then by beholding Him in truth and love we are changed. We surrender ourselves to Him, an intelligent being who is superior to ourselves that we have come to know as completely good and trustworthy and we



eagerly want to be closer to Him and more like Him; we are eager to be corrected, instructed, and directed, because we want to learn of Him and from Him, we want to be His student, pupil, disciple—and that is the beginning of wisdom.]

- Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (Romans 1:22–23 NIV84). [Why did they become fools? Is there a design law involved here? The law of worship, by beholding we are changed.]
- Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. [What is the wisdom of the world? The strong survive, the weak die. Might makes right. The ends justify the means. The more you take the more you have. Survival of the fittest, is the wisdom of the world. But that is foolishness because it violates the design law that God built reality to operate upon. It is actually the law of sin and death. But it seems to work in a world infected with evil, so the godless, those who don't know God, those without true wisdom think it is wise to dominate, control, and abuse others to make themselves feel safe.] Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (1 Corinthians 1:19–25 NIV84). [It is foolish to base one's security in miracles for miracles can be counterfeited, but miracles suggest power and power suggests dominance and control over others and that appears wise to the worldly. It is foolish to look to the philosophies of the world for they are all corrupt with selfishness and advance some form of survival of the fittest, which is the law of sin and death. True wisdom is found only in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. But the message of self-sacrificial love is contrary to the systems of this sinful world and thus appears foolish.]

And of course, could we discuss biblical wisdom without considering Psalm 19:

- The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. [What kind of law can revive a soul? If someone ties a plastic bag over their head, transgressing the law of respiration and they are not yet dead, but have passed out. What happens if we remove the bag and put them back in harmony with the law? They revive!]
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. [When we understand the laws that God built reality to operate upon and live in harmony with them, we grow in wisdom, because we not only get healthier, we also see more clearly why and how things are designed to work, and we notice things that we didn't notice before. How many of you have grown in wisdom as you have embraced and applied God's design laws to your life?]
The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. [From where does joy come? Happiness is the byproduct of healthiness, which occurs from living in harmony with God's design laws. Joy is the byproduct



of fulfilling our calling, our purpose in God's kingdom, and some common purposes we all have is to love God and others, to live lives of honesty, integrity, and service. When we do this, we experience joy.]

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:7–11 NIV84). [Why are God's ordinances, laws, precepts sweet and why is there great rewarding in keeping them? For they are the protocols of life and it is so sweet to be free, healthy, happy, and joyful; and freedom, health, happiness, and joy are only possible in harmony with God and the laws He built reality to operate upon. Satan tricks people into substituting pleasure seeking for happiness and often pleasure seeking violates the laws of health and makes people worse.]

So how would you describe wisdom? Do you see true wisdom is found only in God and in embracing, understanding, and living out the design laws that He built reality to operate upon? It is foolishness to promote a penal legal religious system because such a system is fantasy, make-believe, fraudulent, a construct of the great liar.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph,

- Paul urges the believers in Ephesus to walk in love, a call important to this section (see Eph. 5:8, 15). This “walking in love” (see Eph. 5:2) is to be modeled after Christ's own love for us (compare Eph. 4:32), expressed in **His atoning sacrifice**. Paul affirms four things about that sacrifice: (1) It is motivated by both the love of God the Father (Eph. 5:1) and of Christ Himself (Eph. 5:2); (2) it is substitutionary, with Christ dying in our place. Christ is no passive victim but gave Himself up for us; (3) under the imagery of the Old Testament sanctuary service, **Christ's death is also a sacrifice, which is made to God**; and (4) **the sacrifice is accepted by God since it is “a fragrant offering”** (Eph. 5:2, ESV; compare Exod. 29:18, Lev. 2:9, Phil. 4:18). (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 73, emphasis mine).

Any concerns with this paragraph? Any truths mixed with error and thereby promoting a false gospel and causing confusion?

I find statements like this so sad, because it so misrepresents God whom the people who wrote this claim to love and worship. So, I find it sad when someone is tricked into doing something evil, harmful, while they think they are actually doing something good.

First, let's affirm the truth:



- God is love and God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are love and they love us.
- Jesus became a real human being, lived a sinless life, became the second Adam, and as it says in 2 Corinthians 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might **become** the righteousness of God.” So, yes Jesus became our substitute so that we might become the righteousness of God, and by restoring us to righteousness we are brought back into unity or at-one-ment with God. So, we believe in the substitutionary atonement of Jesus as our Savior.

But the lesson then reveals how it has accepted the lie about God’s law and has Romanized the gospel making it penal legal rather than healing, how it misrepresents God, when it says:

- **Christ’s death is also a sacrifice, which is made to God; and (4) the sacrifice is accepted by God since it is “a fragrant offering”**

They reference Ephesians 5:2, so let’s read this verse in several translations and see what you think. This is an excellent exercise because it will demonstrate how the translators, can in all innocence, use legitimate translation options and unknowingly translate in their own penal/legal biases and thereby change the meaning of the Scripture.

In other words, every translation I am going to show you are legitimate translations, none of them violate the rules of translation, none of them are malicious, manipulative, or deceitful. They are done by people of integrity seeking to do their honest best. But when one has accepted the lie that God’s law functions like human law, and is translating and then has the option of translating something in a legal way, those choices get made and errors of meaning creep in.

- live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice **to** God. (Ephesians 5:2 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- live in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering **to** God. (Ephesians 5:2 NET, emphasis mine).
- walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice **to** God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Ephesians 5:2 NKJV, emphasis mine).

So, we see that this idea of offering a sacrifice to God is commonly translated into the text.

But, do the following translations, which are also legitimate options, mean the same thing:

- Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice **that pleases God**. (Ephesians 5:2 GNT).
- Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a **pleasing aroma to God**. (Ephesians 5:2 NLT).



Do these suggest the same meaning as the others? What do these translations suggest?

That God was pleased by what Christ did, because of Christ's sacrifice accomplished something that was pleasing to God—and what did Christ's sinless life and substitutionary death accomplish?

- Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might **destroy him who holds the power of death**—that is, the devil—and **free those who all their lives were held in slavery** by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14–15 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- Christ Jesus, who has **destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light** through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the devil's work**. (1 John 3:8 NIV84, emphasis mine).

So, Jesus came to Earth to destroy Satan, Satan's power, death, Satan's work, and FREE humans from the slavery to fear, selfishness, sin, and death.

And who sent Jesus to do this?

- For **God** so loved the world that **he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For **God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him**. (John 3:16-17 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- **God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ**, not counting men's sins against them. (2 Corinthians 5:19 NIV84, emphasis mine).

So, what is the truth here? That God was pleased with Jesus because Jesus accomplished God's purpose, God's will, God's desire, God's goal to destroy sin and Satan and death and to restore humanity back to perfection and unity with Him.

Nothing is being done to God, or paid to God, or offered as a sacrifice to God.

But what is being presented to God is the victory, the success, with its results—the redeemed, the cleansed and perfected humanity and that pleases God very much, because this was God's whole purpose in sending Jesus!!!

What about the Old Testament sacrificial system and the aroma of the burnt offering being pleasing to God?



The Old Testament sacrificial system was theater; it acted out in symbolism the larger reality, but it was not reality. And what did that theater act out? The eradication of sin, the curing, healing, saving of humanity from sin, and the restoration of humanity back into at-one-ment with God. Thus, the burnt offering represented the burning out of the lies, rebellion, selfishness, distrust—the burning out of sin that has taken root in the hearts and minds of people. The burning representing the killing of the carnal man, through Jesus' become human, being tempted in all points like we are but, not giving in to any temptation but taking that humanity to the cross and killing it, and arising in a purified humanity free from that infection of fear and selfishness.

It would be like a physician using radiation to burn out the cancer that was killing his child—seeing the cancer burn away and his child saved would be quite pleasing.

This is what the imagery is depicting.

MONDAY

Read third paragraph,

- The phrase “the wrath of God” is a challenging one. That it is the wrath or anger of God suggests a contrast to the usual, moody human variety (compare Eph. 4:31). It is the **just response** of a long-suffering and righteous God against stubborn commitment to evil, not a crazed, volcanic reaction to some minor infraction. Moreover, mentions of divine wrath most often occur in the context of inspired, biblical warnings about the **coming judgments** of God (e.g., Rev. 6:12–17, Rev. 16:1–16, Rev. 19:11–16). **God warns of His own coming judgments**—an act of grace, since human beings are “by nature children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3, ESV), subject to those judgments. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 74, emphasis mine).

There is no question that the Bible uses the words, wrath, anger, judgment. But what is the first question we must answer before we can accurately understand the true meaning of these things?

What law lens are we thinking through—if we accept the Romanization of Christianity, that God's law functions like human, Roman, imposed laws, then judgment is judicial, wrath and anger are inflicted and so-called just punishments.

But when we return to worshiping God as Creator and understand His laws are the design protocols reality is constructed to operate upon, then we understand that His wrath is letting go, **the cessation of the use of power** and allowing beings to reap what unremedied sin does—just as the Bible describes repeatedly, including in Romans 1:18-32. We recognize God's anger is directed at sin, at the disease, at the unnecessary loss of His creation, like a doctor is angry at disease and wants to destroy disease, but is not angry at the patient.



And if the disease is a disease of the mind that causes the patient to refuse the healing remedy—which happens sometimes. We doctors hate, are angry, at the brain disease, but we are not angry at our patients, we are sad for them.

And God's judgments are His accurate diagnosis of what is wrong and His therapeutic judgments of what is necessary to heal and restore, and in the final end the judgment of the lost is God's accurate diagnosis of what is, that the lost are beyond healing, that they have destroyed within themselves the faculties that respond to truth and love and no further amount of truth and love will have any redeeming, healing or saving impact—in fact more truth and love causes them to suffer, so God stops using power to shield them and keep them alive in a situation in which they will only suffer. God in sadness, but in truth and mercy, ceases using power and lets them go to reap what they have chosen, separation from Him and they die eternally.

We cannot lighten the world for Christ's return as long as we continue to take pagan views of a legal punishing god to the world. We must return to worshiping God as Creator and that requires we reject the Romanization of Christianity and return to understanding God's law as design law.

From *Hard Sayings of the Bible*:

- In some sense, God's wrath is built into the very structure of created reality. In rejecting God's structure and establishing our own, in violating God's intention for the creation and substituting our own intentions, we cause or own disintegration. P 542

The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32, is not something caused by God. The phrase "revealed from heaven" (where "heaven" is a typical Jewish substitute word for "God") does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the inevitability of human debasement which results when God's will, built into the created order, is violated. Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed "from heaven." It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God's truth (Rom 1:18-20), that is, the truth about God's nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom 1:21-22), idolatry (Rom 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom 1:24-27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom 1:28-32). P 543

The expression "God gave them over" (or "handed them over"), which appears three times in this passage (Rom 1:24,26,28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, is to be understood ultimately as God's punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves. P 543

In light of these reflections, the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained... God loves us with an everlasting love. But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. The result is disintegration and death. P 543 (Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intervarsity Press, 1996).



TUESDAY

The lesson points our attention to Ephesians 5:11-14, let's read those verses from The Remedy;

- Don't have anything to do with the destructive practices of those whose minds are darkened, but rather present the light of truth, which exposes them. For it is damaging and degrading to dwell upon what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light of truth becomes understandable, for it is the truth that reveals all things. This is why it is said: "Wake up your brain and start thinking. Stop zoning out like you're dead, and Christ will shine the light of truth into your mind." (Ephesians 5:11-14 REM).

Do you see this counsel as pertinent to people today?

Are there forces at work that seek to get people to stop thinking, to accept what they are told, to believe voices of authority over evidence and truth?

During the Dark Ages, what method did that abusive system use upon people? Power, authority, force of office, do what we say or get punished, don't ask questions, don't research evidence for yourself, anyone who does is a heretic.

What about today, are we seeing the same practices of using power, intimidation, public shaming, shunning, accusation of heresy, of being conspiracy nuts, of not caring about others, of wanting to harm others, of being racist or transphobe to silence those who have legitimate questions?

What is the goal—to turn beings created in the image of God, with our own individuality ability to reason and think into mindless pawns, serfs, a functional slave class who are easily manipulated and controlled by those with authority, charisma and power.

We are to be mature, to develop the ability to think for ourselves, we are to be thinkers, not reflectors of other people's thoughts.

Recognize the methods being used by people and when you see these ungodly methods, don't go along, don't surrender your mind, your thinking, your practices and actions to the world.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson points our attention to Ephesians 5:17, which reads,

- Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is (Ephesians 5:17 NIV84).

Then the lesson states in the second paragraph,



- We do not look within for wisdom. To be wise is to reach beyond ourselves, to “understand what the will of the Lord is” (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 76).

This is absolutely true—we cannot find wisdom by turning away from God, turning away from the sources of truth God has provided for us, like Scripture, nature, and life’s experiences, and turning inward.

Are there any philosophies and practices that are advancing in the world and in Western medicine that do exactly that, turn the mind inward to find solutions?

Eastern meditation practices, do this, they are an emptying form of meditation that cuts the mind and heart off from God, but results in powerful feelings and physiological benefits without actually healing the terminal sin condition. It is a counterfeit to Biblical meditation. If you would like a full exploration of the differences between Biblical and Eastern Meditation check out our Meditation Guide which contrasts the two documenting the differences in underlying philosophy, method, practice, impact on brain and character. You can find it on our website at <https://comeandreason.com/meditation-guide/>

And our blog Lectio Divina describes the biblical method of meditation
<https://comeandreason.com/lectio-divina/>

To be wise we must understand God’s will—how do we do that? Any other Bible verses come to mind?

- Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2 NIV84).

Paul says that if we do something, if we experience something, then we will be able to test and approve what God’s will is. What is that that we must do or experience?

We surrender our complete selves to God and stop patterning ourselves after the methods and systems of the world. Would that include stop living by checklists of rules and start living out the principles of God? Would it require us to grow up and mature and stop thinking righteousness is in rule-keeping and recognize righteousness in harmony with God and His methods, principles, and design law for life?

THURSDAY

What does it mean to have Spirit-Filled Worship?

Consider these texts:



- The **Spirit gives life**; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the **Spirit of life** set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1–2 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the **Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires**. The mind of sinful man is death, but the **mind controlled by the Spirit is life** and peace... (Romans 8:5–6 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- And if the **Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit**, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if **by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God**. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The **Spirit himself** testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:11-17 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the **Spirit gives life**. (2 Corinthians 3:6 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please **the Spirit**, from the **Spirit will reap eternal life**. (Galatians 6:8 NIV84, emphasis mine).

Is the Bible making the case that it is the power of the Holy Spirit that works in us a change, heals us, transforms us, is the life giving energy of God applying into our inmost being what Christ has wrought out for us?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JOIN DR. JENNINGS TREATMENT TEAM

Dr. Jennings is now in his new position as Medical Director of Honey Lake Clinic in Greenville, Florida. See their website at <https://www.honeylake.clinic/>

Honey Lake Clinic is the only Christ-centered residential psychiatric treatment program in the country. We have two campuses—adult and female adolescent (Dr. Jennings is Medical Director of the Adult Campus). The program takes a holistic approach to treatment integrating the best of modern neuroscience with biblical principles (design laws) to bring healing to mind, body, soul, and spirit.

As you likely know, the need for such whole-person Christian mental health care is huge and therefore we are expanding our services to be able to treat more people. But in order to do that, **we need more staff**—staff who are both professionally competent and licensed but who are also committed Christians who have the vision to integrate Christ and Christian principles into treating the whole person.

If you are interested in becoming part of the treatment team at Honey Lake Clinic and working with Dr. Jennings, see the jobs posted below and contact Honey Lake for more details. (LCSWs should also apply). If you are interested in any of the positions below email HR@honeylakeclinic.com

Psychiatry Mental Health Nurse Practitioner- Advance Practice Nurse Practitioner

- Able to empathically and compassionately interview patients presenting with a MH issue using the organization's comprehensive psychiatric evaluation
- Able to elicit medical histories and assess for medical causes of the MH issues or for comorbid medical issues that are a result of the MH disorder and/or exacerbate the MH disorder
- Utilization of interview, assessment and diagnostics in comprehensive treatment of dual diagnosis patients
- Able to assess for level of detox and use standard CIWA and COWS for withdrawal severity and then initiate detox treatment
- Able to prescribe initial psychiatric and detox medications, monitor and document results and side effects, and perform follow-up medication management within accepted standard of care guidelines.
- Familiarity with ASAM or LOCUS for assignment of levels of care

Adult Program Clinical Director

- Masters in mental health counseling, psychology or social work required. Other graduate degrees that lead to MHC, MSW or MFT licensure are acceptable.
- Florida Licensure (LMHC, LCSW or LMFT) active and in good standing, is required.
- Experience providing therapy to adults with mental health and substance diagnoses 2 years post-licensure is required.
- Supervisory experience, minimum of 2 years is required, post-licensure is preferred.



- Experience in Clinical Supervision and Program Management, 2 years post-licensure is preferred.

Licensed Therapist

- Masters in mental health counseling, psychology or social work required. Other graduate degrees that lead to MHC, MSW or MFT licensure are acceptable.
- Licensure is required
- EMDR with other trauma modalities is preferred.
- Experience with adults with mental health and/or substance diagnoses is preferred.

Individual Therapist- Registered Intern

- Masters in mental health counseling, psychology or social work required. Other graduate degrees that lead to MHC, MSW or MFT licensure are acceptable.
- EMDR with other trauma modalities is preferred.
- Experience with adults with mental health and/or substance diagnoses is preferred.