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**(Hidden Series): Seeing God in the Every Day Moments of Life
“God’s Wisdom”, Proverbs 8**

In Proverbs 8, we learn that God through His wisdom is woven into every moment of our lives, whether we see or experience it personally. Later in the New Testament, we will be given a fuller understanding that God’s chief wisdom is revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Where do we get true wisdom to live our lives wisely and successfully? Proverbs 8 is a beautiful poem using a metaphor (comparison) of God’s wisdom as a woman in a public place, calling out “to all mankind” (Prov. 8:4) to choose wisdom (Prov. 8:10,33) in order to “find life and receive favor from the Lord” (Prov. 8:35).

Reasons in Proverbs 8 that we should listen to God’s wisdom in how we should live a life that is successful by God’s standards:

1. God’s wisdom is accessible, not hidden. Proverbs 8: 1-5

God’s wisdom is given “to all mankind”, regardless of income, the quality of our choices, IQ, education, age, gender, race, etc.

2. God’s wisdom is always moral. Proverbs 8:7-8, 12-13

Wisdom and morality go together. Wisdom is succeeding at choosing the “right” (moral) things according to God’s plan for our lives, not just something to get what we want to achieve.

3. God’s wisdom has amazing benefits. (Proverbs 8:14-18)

God’s wisdom always take a long view: One benefit is sound judgment for good decisions, which often leads to a second benefit of power and authority to rule, which often leads to a third benefit of enduring wealth.

4. God’s wisdom is woven into this world. Proverbs 8:22-31

God’s wisdom was present before and during creation. In creation, wisdom was the craftsman always at God’s side, rejoicing in God’s presence and delighting in mankind (Proverbs 8:30-31). Our Intelligent Creator has not only crafted this physical world, but also has woven His moral wisdom into this world by giving us a distinction between right and wrong, good and bad, with consequences for both our positive and/or negative choices.

5. God’s wisdom gives life. Proverbs 8:34-36

Those who listen to God’s wisdom and follow it are given life and favor from the Lord. Foolishness, not following wisdom, opens us up to damage, even destruction.

Proverbs 8 is an invitation for all people to come to God’s practical wisdom for a successful life, and it points to ultimate fulfillment in Christ. Jesus is God’s wisdom. Jesus is the chief means by which God is accessible. Jesus showed us through His life what God’s morality is like and the benefits of wisdom. The Gospel shows us how the story of Jesus is woven into all the world. As God’s wisdom, Jesus not only gives life; He IS life (John 11:25).

May we understand that if we turn our lives over to our God, choosing wisdom, He can be trusted to provide us with wisdom to live our everyday lives according to His standards for success today, and with long term eternal life in His presence of loving goodness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between wisdom & knowledge? Between God's & worldly wisdom?
2. Can we live a successful life when our lives & world are both broken/sinful and beautiful/full of God's wisdom? How? What is a successful life anyway (according to Proverbs 8)?
3. In what area(s) of your life do you desire/need to trust in God's wisdom vs yourself or others?
4. Has God ever spoken to you with His wisdom? Has it improved the quality of your life?
5. What does Psalm 111:10 mean to you? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."