

# Notes & Quotes – April 5, 2009

## Psalm 19

Psalm 19 – Prayer of Wisdom

- **Creation displaying the glory of God** (v. 1-6)

- **Scripture revealing the wisdom of God** (v. 7-11)

“He is both the wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work, and feels concerning them, *‘My Father wrote them both.’*”

– Charles Spurgeon

- **David growing in the glory and wisdom of God** (v. 12-14)

**Five ingredients poured into a God-guided life...**

### 1. Immerse yourself in what God has already said

Helpful tools: One-Year-Bible (start by going thru the NT for the first year, then introduce OT)  
The Listener’s Bible by Max Mclean

“Perhaps we often think, *Well, God why don’t you just come out and say it? Tell me in detail how to live.* But we are usually full of mistaken ideas about what that would actually mean.

Our minds and values have to be restructured before God’s glory, but at the same time our own interests are truly appreciated and understood. We may be tempted to cry out, like Isaiah, for God to rend the heavens, come out of hiding and stand before us telling us what to do (Is 64:1), but we do not really understand what it is we are asking for when we ask that. Probably it would literally kill us or at least unbalance us if it actually happened. So God in his mercy continues to approach us obliquely [indirect, evasive], in one way or another, but increasingly less so as we mature – even until that time when we can safely know him as he knows us (1 Cor 13:12).

It is therefore natural and right that God’s word comes to us in forms that we struggle to understand. This is even true of the Bible, which is very explicit in many respects but still requires persistent and energetic work to understand it. In the process of struggling we grow to the point where we can appropriate and assimilate the content of truth as it becomes clear. It is one of the oldest and most common stories of human life that in its most important moments we have little more than the foggiest idea of what it is we are doing and saying. And our ignorance is partly for our own good.”

– Dallas Willard

### 2. Carve out blocks of time where you’re giving God your full attention

*thin places* – where the membrane between the sacred and the ordinary is very porous,  
and God seems very near

### 3. Reflect on your circumstances

-- what is happening around me? in me? to me?

#### **4. Seek God-centered counsel**

-- people who know you well and who know God well

#### **5. Try-on possible answers to your question**

“Am I willing to hear whatever it is God wants to say? That is absolutely critical. If I can only hear an answer that agrees with what I want to hear, then I am not in a posture of surrender to God’s will, and it will be hard for me to hear him at all – or to trust what I do hear, especially if it is the answer I’m looking for.” – John Eldredge

“Quite often we can sense God’s direction on a matter before we hear actual words. You may have heard someone use the expression ‘I had a check in my spirit.’ It refers to an internal pause, a hesitancy, a sudden reluctance to proceed. The Spirit of God may be impressing you with the will of God by making one answer seem very unappealing or wrong somehow. Arresting you, stopping you...By ‘trying on’ the possible answers, I find it enables me to come into alignment with his Spirit. And, over time, those deep impressions begin to form into words.” – John Eldredge