

THE SECRET TO LIVING THE HIGH LIFE

The Story of Scripture, part 16

1 Kings 2 - 8, ESV

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1 KINGS 2:1 - 4

When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

THE HEIGHT OF REVERENCE FOR GOD'S WORD.

PSALM 1:1 - 3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

1 KINGS 2:2 - 4

I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, "If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel."

THE HEIGHT OF DEPENDENCE ON GOD'S WISDOM.

1 KINGS 3:5 - 14

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able



to govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

1 KINGS 3:28

And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

1 KINGS 4:29 – 34

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

THE HEIGHT OF EXTRAVAGANCE IN GOD’S WORSHIP.

1 KINGS 6:1

In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD.

1 KINGS 8:4 – 11

And they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim



spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

THE GLORY OF GOD DWELLING AMONG HIS PEOPLE IN THE TEMPLE.

1 KINGS 8:22 – 24

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

1 KINGS 8:54 – 61

Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven. And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, “Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.”

1 KINGS 8:41 – 43

Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he



comes and prays toward this house, hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

THE NATIONS COMING TO SEE THE GLORY OF GOD AT THE TEMPLE.

1 KINGS 10:4 -9

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her. And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel forever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness."

LOVE THE WORD OF GOD.

In written form: the Bible.

SEEK (Psalm 119:2, 10)

SAVOR IT (Psalm 119:20)

SHARE (Psalm 119:13)

LISTEN TO & LEARN FROM (Psalm 119:7, 12, 26, 29)

MEDITATE ON (Psalm 119:15)

DELIGHT IN (Psalm 119:24)

STORE IN YOUR HEART (Psalm 119:11)

SING IT WITH YOUR MOUTH (Psalm 119:54, 172)

KEEP (Psalm 119:5, 56)

OBEY (Psalm 119:34)

WALK IN IT (Psalm 119:1, 32)

GET STRENGTH FROM (Psalm 119:28)

FIND COMFORT IN IT (Psalm 119:50)

HOPE IN IT (Psalm 119:147)

PRAISE IT (Psalm 119:48)



PROCLAIM IT (Psalm 119:46)
TRUST (Psalm 119:42)
TREASURE (Psalm 119:72)
UNDERSTAND IT (Psalm 119:18)
REMEMBER IT (Psalm 119:16)
REJOICE AT IT (Psalm 119:162)
REST IN IT (Psalm 119:114, 117)

LOVE THE WORD OF GOD.

In the flesh: Jesus.

JOHN 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:18

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

TRUST THE WISDOM OF GOD.

PROVERBS 3:5 – 8

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

OUR WISDOM IS LIMITED BECAUSE . . .

We lack knowledge.

We lack perspective.

We lack experience.

GOD'S UNLIMITED WISDOM . . .

He has perfect knowledge.

He has eternal perspective.

He has infinite experience.



LIVE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD.

MATTHEW 27:51A

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

ACTS 1:8A

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19A

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you . . .

Individually: you are the temple!

As a church: we are the temple!

IN THE WORLD:

The nations don't come and see the glory of God in a temple.

The temples go and spread the glory of God among the nations.

**THE SECRET TO LIVING THE HIGH LIFE TODAY IS LIVING FOR THE ONE
IN WHOM HAPPINESS LASTS FOREVER.**

