REVD. DR. D. J. AJITH KUMAR

Living Wisely in God’s Spirit

CNI · 19 July 2026

KEY VERSE

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” – Luke 11:13.

READINGS

Zechariah 4:1-9; Psalm 35:18-28

Introduction

Wisdom is often measured by knowledge and success in the world, but in the Kingdom of God, wisdom is measured by dependence on the Holy Spirit. The truly wise are those who discern God’s will, walk in His Spirit, and act in faithfulness and love. The Scriptures for today invite us to consider what it means to live wisely – not by human power or logic, but by the presence, power, and promise of the Holy Spirit.In a world driven by human effort, pride, and fear, the Word of God calls us to embrace a spiritual life – a life of humble dependence, spiritual hunger, and divine direction. Let us now explore today’s theme under four reflections based on the assigned readings.

The Wisdom of Persistent Prayer (Luke 11:5–13)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” – Luke 11:9. Jesus teaches the power of persistent, believing prayer through the parable of the friend at midnight. The lesson is clear: God is not reluctant to bless us. On the contrary, He longs to give us what we need – especially the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who ask, receive. Those who seek, find.Living wisely begins with this posture: humble, persistent dependence on God through prayer. In the Kingdom of God, it is not the strongest who succeed but the ones who keep asking and knocking with faith. Corrie ten Boom, the Dutch Christian who helped many Jews escape the Nazis, said, “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” Wise living means prayer is not our last resort – it is our way of life. Like a child asking a loving parent, we are invited to pray boldly, believing that our Father gives only what is good.How often do we strive with our own strength, forgetting to ask the Spirit for help? Jesus reminds us: your Father delights in giving you His Spirit. The most foolish thing we can do is try to live this life without God’s help.

The Wisdom of Divine Empowerment (Zech. 4:1–9)

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” – Zechariah 4:6In Zechariah’s vision, the prophet sees a golden lampstand and two olive trees, symbolizing God’s continual provision and light for His people. Zerubbabel, the governor rebuilding the temple, is reminded that the task ahead won’t be accomplished by military strength or human force – but by the Spirit of God.This is one of the most powerful declarations of Scripture: spiritual wisdom is rooted not in human ability, but in God’s presence and promise. When we rely on ourselves, we burn out. When we trust in the Spirit, we are empowered beyond our natural limits.In mission fields across India, small teams of ordinary men and women – often without great education or money – are planting churches, transforming villages, and discipling families. Their secret? Prayer,

obedience, and the Spirit's power. It's not human strategy – it's divine strength.Zerubbabel was facing opposition, fear, and discouragement. But the Spirit reminded him: The mountain shall become a plain. When we live wisely, we walk not in our own understanding, but in the confidence that the Holy Spirit will complete the work He begins in us.

The Wisdom of Godly Testimony (Psalm 35:18–28)

"Then I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you." – Psalm 35:18. Psalm 35 is a cry for justice, filled with pain and pleading. David is falsely accused and persecuted, yet he chooses the path of worship and trust. Rather than seeking revenge, he places his case before God and declares, "Let those who desire my vindication shout for joy."Wise living in God's Spirit means learning to entrust our battles to the Lord and responding with praise rather than bitterness. It means we give testimony of God's faithfulness, even when vindication seems delayed.A Christian teacher in a government school was unfairly transferred due to religious discrimination. Instead of retaliating, she prayed and remained faithful in her duties. A year later, she was honoured publicly by the local authorities for her integrity and witness. Her quiet endurance bore witness to the Spirit's wisdom.When we live wisely, we resist the temptation to speak falsely or act unjustly. Like David, we let our words be full of truth, gratitude, and praise. And even when misunderstood, we trust that the Spirit is our advocate.

The Wisdom of Receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1–7)

"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" – Acts 19:2. In Acts 19, Paul meets disciples in Ephesus who had received John's baptism but had not yet received the Holy Spirit. When Paul explains the full gospel and lays hands on them, they receive the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in tongues and prophesy.This episode teaches us that wise Christian living is not complete without the fullness of the Spirit. Baptism, belief, and moral life are foundational – but the power to live the Christian life comes from the indwelling Spirit.An old steam engine needs coal and fire to run. Without it, it may look ready – but it won't move. Likewise, a Christian without the Holy Spirit may have the right form, but lacks the fuel. We are not meant to live in our own strength – we need the fire of the Spirit.Many today live in partial understanding – believing in Christ but unaware of the Spirit's work. Paul's question must echo in our hearts: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit?" Have we opened ourselves to the Spirit's leading, correction, and empowerment?Living wisely in God's Spirit means actively seeking, receiving, and being filled again and again with the Spirit—so that our lives reflect Christ in power and love.

Conclusion

Wisdom in this world often means cunning, control, and cleverness. But wisdom in God's Kingdom is humble, prayerful, Spirit-led, and fruitful. It means letting go of self-reliance, responding to trials with praise, seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and trusting in God's timing and strength.To live wisely in the Spirit is to:

Ask persistently and expectantly (Luke 11)

Trust in God's power, not our own (Zechariah 4)

Testify with gratitude amid trials (Psalm 35)

Be filled and led by the Holy Spirit (Acts 19)

In a world that teaches us to push ahead with our own strength, the Spirit invites us to wait, walk, and work with God. When we do, we will shine with His wisdom, bear His fruit, and bless the world around us.

Prayer

Gracious Father,We thank You that You do not leave us to live in our own strength, but You gift us the Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen, and transform us. Teach us to live wisely – not by might, nor by power, but by Your Spirit.Make us people of persistent prayer, grounded in Your Word and filled with praise. Help us to resist worldly wisdom and embrace the ways of Your Kingdom.Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us. Fill us anew. Lead us into all truth.May we be vessels of Your wisdom, channels of Your grace, and witnesses of Your love in a broken world.Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

Amen.