

February 5, 2017

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

## Godly Wisdom 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

In the world today we need Godly wisdom to discern the truth. This Godly wisdom is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit. We have “alternative facts,” and “fake news,” everywhere so we need the wisdom of God to know the truth and to be able to speak the truth to power. Wisdom is lived knowledge. Oftentimes, people will try and explain away your truth and reality. As Christians we read and study the Bible which is God’s Word. The Word of God calls us to live into God’s vision for equality, love, justice, and peace. The world’s vision of equality, love, justice, and peace is very different from God. The world claims “separate but equal,” mandatory sentencing is the best way to deal with criminals, that prisons are the best housing program for the urban poor, three strikes and you are never getting out from under the prison system, to plea bargain (plead guilty to a lesser crime) to avoid mandatory sentencing, and that dash cam videos are really “alternative facts and fake news. This new world order in which we live says in its actions that black lives do not matter, that immigrants should be barred from the United States, that Muslims are terrorist to be feared, and that it is ok to just stop and search folks in the name of law and order. We need the wisdom of God as we dismantle this system of racial injustice. As we move forward and act justly we need the wisdom of God because the rulers of this age lack the spirit of God and do not understand God’s peace, justice, agape love, equality, and how to treat the alien amongst us. As we fight to bring justice, equality, and fairness we definitely need the wisdom of God because we do not battle against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Godly wisdom comes from having a relationship with God. It is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit. The first century did not understand the blessings of salvation and they thought it was alright to crucify a man that went around healing people, speaking love one another, and that the last would be first. The rulers back then thought that crucifying Jesus was the correct way to stop the growth of Christianity or as they called it “The Way.” It only served to advance the kingdom of God with great haste. God had a plan for our salvation and it was being taught by the Holy Spirit. God’s plan of salvation was only revealed by the Spirit of God to the mature, those who know and love God received the message of wisdom. The Holy Spirit know God’s deep and intimate ways, thoughts, and actions. That same Holy Spirit revealed God’s plan to the mature Christian.

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### Prayer

God grace and God of mercy we call upon Your wisdom and power to transform our culture and communities. Teach us Your justice and equality, grant us Your peace, show us Your love and how to treat the aliens in our midst. This we pray in the mighty and matchless name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

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## African Methodist Episcopal History Moment

“The founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Richard Allen was born February 14, 1760. The African Methodist Episcopal Church began in 1787 when Richard Allen, a former slave, refused to accept white Methodists’ racist and un-Christian behavior at St. George’s Methodist Church in Philadelphia. In April 1816, 29 years after Allen and others walked out of St. George’s, Allen and numerous black Methodists met in Philadelphia and formally organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our foundering fathers and mothers bequeathed us a great legacy. Their work and witness in our collective past gave birth to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, our inheritance. As we celebrate Founder’s Day 2017, we may need to remind ourselves that the past is the foundation on which we build. It was our forbearers who opened the paths and blazed the trails we now travel. They organized the churches in which we pray, preach and fellowship; they composed the songs that got many of us over; they erected the schools where some of us studied.

Given our extraordinary history, our future is incredible. We are called to transform the world, in Jesus' name. We are called to share our extraordinary history at every level of our Zion with a vision to ensure that our future is Incredible. Who would ever have thought that our Zion would be in India, Brazil, and 40 other countries around the world with a motto of “God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family”?”

This excerpt was from a letter to the Fourth Episcopal District by Bishop John Franklin White the President of the Bishop’s Council and Presiding Prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District. The official African Methodist Episcopal Church website is [www.ame-church.com](http://www.ame-church.com) where you can learn more about the church.

## Stewardship Moment

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing ...Proverbs 3:9-10a NIV

We are at a critical junction in the life of God’s church and in our country. Our communities are being infested with destruction, drugs, and despair. People are looking for answers. The state of Illinois is yet again without a budget. This will affect many social service agencies and schools. The country is reeling and rocking from executive orders that affect refugees, immigration, and the ecology. We Christians, know the solution is a personal relationship with God. During times of trouble, turmoil, and tragedy we look to God for comfort and strength and are assured that through it all God is faithful and just. We seek to be more “God-centered” less stressed by the cares of the world that keep us self-centered. To be God-Centered requires that we set our affections on things above and seek first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness. It means to cast our cares on the LORD and He will sustain us because He will never let the righteous fall. [Psalm 55:22] Our desire is to allow God to rule and reign over finances, health, security, family, and every area of our lives.

Therefore, in order to glorify God in our giving we desire the church to become a 100% tithing church. As we move closer and closer to becoming a 100% tithing church, God will continue to

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pour us out blessings that we will not have room enough to receive. If you do not tithe regularly, we ask that you would bring your firstfruits to God. The concept of firstfruits offering is rooted in the biblical context of bringing the firstborn of the flocks, first vegetables and first grains to the Lord. The first was considered the best portion of what one has to give. In Deuteronomy 26:10-11 says, "and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household." This firstfruits were given in gratitude for the abundant blessings God had bestowed on the people. Beginning Sunday, March 5, 2017, and every first Sunday, the members and friends of Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church are going to celebrate the goodness of the LORD by bringing their firstfruits to God. The call is for every member to honor God by obeying God's mandate to give your tithes and offerings.

- If you are not a tither, the call is for you to step out on faith and give a full tithe on Sunday, March 5, 2017 and thereafter.
- If you currently tithe from your net income, the call is for you to tithe from your gross income.
- If you currently divide your tithe among various ministries and accounts on the envelope, the call is for you to give the full tithe on the line marked Tithe/Offering. Any amount over the tithe would be given to the various ministries.
- If you currently are tithing from your gross, the call is for you to give, in addition to the tithe, a tithe of the tithe, (10% more than the tithe), or a special sacrificial offering in thanksgiving to God's love, mercy, and grace.
- We need to step out on faith and believe God's word for all of our sustenance. God has said, "I will supply your every need." Give glory to God through generous giving. The Church of Wayman has been called to mount up with wings of eagle and soar.

***"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." [Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)]***

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**Scripture Reference**  
**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

**The True Wisdom of God**

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual<sup>[a]</sup> do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.