

Walking In Wisdom

“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time” (Col. 4:5).

Does keeping your wisdom teeth make you wiser, or does having them removed make you wiser? Because of the pain these teeth had caused, when I had mine extracted I felt that I was wiser to get rid of them. But after enduring the pain of having them removed, I felt like I may have been wiser to have kept them. Of course, having them extracted or not having them extracted does not make any person wiser in the least.

Wisdom teeth are supposedly called wisdom teeth because usually they come in when a person is between the ages of 17 and 21 or older—old enough to have supposedly gained some “wisdom.” They are also commonly extracted when they affect other teeth; this impaction is often known as “coming in sideways.” Most adults have four wisdom teeth, but it is possible to have more or fewer.

It would be great to gain more wisdom by having wisdom teeth removed, wouldn't it? And it would be wonderful to gain more spiritual wisdom by extracting some wrong from our lives, wouldn't it? However, there is no such procedure. Spiritual wisdom is not gained by just taking things out of our lives. It only comes as we take in more spiritual truth and properly and practically respond to it.

There is an internal aspect to walking in wisdom! The only wisdom we know until we are regenerated is mere human wisdom. James describes this as wisdom which is “not from above . . . earthly, sensual, devilish” (James 3:15). Upon regeneration, however, the Holy Spirit takes up His personal abode inside us. And from the inside, through the instruction and enablement of this Heavenly Teacher, Who is also called “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation” (Eph. 1:17), we are taught to walk in wisdom.

There is an external association to walking in wisdom! We are not only told to “Walk in wisdom,” but also that our walk is to be “toward them that are without.” While our experience with divine wisdom is internal, our evidence of that wisdom is external. Thayer even defines the word “wisdom” as “a devout and proper prudence in intercourse with men not disciples of Christ.” Our Christian testimony should make wholesome impressions on those around us.

There is an eternal appeal to walking in wisdom! The phrase, “redeeming the time,” suggests that we are to “buy back every opportunity.” When we walk in wisdom, we will not waste or squander our time. Rather, we will live with eternity in view, and the significance of the present will grip our hearts. Understanding, as a sister text reads, that “the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16), we see the value of time, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, live carefully and diligently as we face eternity.