

Why wisdom matters with Janet Denison

TRANSCRIPT

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NOTE: This transcript was AI-generated and has not been fully edited.

[00:00:00] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Welcome back to the Denison Forum podcast. I'm Mark Turman, executive director of Denison Forum. We're glad to have you along for the ride with us in this conversation. As I like to remind you that the Denison Forum ministry, as well as this podcast exists to create biblical and relevant resources that you can use to be equipped To think biblically, to live holy and beautiful lives and to serve others well in a redemptive way until Jesus comes back.

We want to help you flourish, but we also want you to use your life in a way that is influential for the kingdom of God. To not only be a blessing to you, but also to be a blessing to the world. And that's what Denison forum and the podcast is all about. So thanks for coming along with us and just grateful for your support and hope that this is encouraging as well as equipping to you today, we're going to be talking with one of our co ministries.

Some of you are familiar, but if you're not, let me introduce you to Janet Denison and the ministry that she leads as a part of Denison ministries. That is called foundations with Janet. This ministry, as Janet has described, it exists to teach people the transforming power of scripture through digital Bible study at foundations, they are dedicated to helping people learn how to study the Bible and how to apply God's truth to their lives.

And if you are. A frequent user of Foundations with Janet. We are welcoming you to this podcast. If you're not, and this is new to you, we would encourage you to check it out at foundationswithjanet.org and we'll share that in the show notes so you can get back there in case you didn't have a chance to write that down.

Easy to remember. But we've had Janet with us before. She writes a number of different resources for our ministry every year, and we're looking forward to discussing one of her newest works called Wisdom Matters, an evening devotional. So Janet, welcome back to the Denison Forum Podcast.

[00:02:04] **Janet Denison:** Glad to be here.

[00:02:06] **Dr. Mark Turman:** We're looking forward to the conversation and to what God put on your hearts in this wonderful area.

called wisdom. And I just wonder as we kind of get started what was it that prompted you to write on this topic? What in your mind, what is the difference between knowledge, information and wisdom? And how did all of this work that you've done? 365 daily devotionals or 365 devotionals, one for each day.

What's the back story to what prompted this work?

[00:02:39] **Janet Denison:** That's a good question. I have always been a fan of wisdom. It since I was a little girl, I found a picture in my, in the big heavy duty family Bible one time. And it was that picture of this man holding a baby by the foot. And he had a sword in his hand and it, it was, he was going to cut the baby in half.

And I thought how awful and horrendous that that person was in the Bible. And then I learned the story behind that picture. It was King Solomon who in his wisdom knew. And when I heard the story, I thought, what an amazing idea. And then from there went on to learn that he had asked God for wisdom. And so I think it's always been in my head from the time I was a really young girl, how important it was to have wisdom.

And I began to notice as I, as my kids grew older, and especially as they began to have kids, the changes in the world it you know, our generation, we look and we think, okay, put your phone down or think about it. And that's the generation and we all do that. Let's face it. If we want to know something, we Google, that's what we do.

And we can Google almost. any question we have and get an answer, multiple answers, multiple ideas. But the difference between wisdom and knowledge is knowledge is knowing what to do with what you know. It's not having all the information, it's knowing what to do with the answers that you have. And especially in a world where so many of the answers are different, depending on who you read.

We've learned more and more that you can get lots of information on the internet. but it doesn't necessarily mean that information is correct. And so one of the things I wanted to do was to write something that weighed popular ideas with biblical truth. And if you go at it from the framework of God's word, God's wisdom first, then you actually have the ability to discern what you hear in today's world with a little more wisdom.

And the verse I use all the time is from Proverbs and I believe it's chapter four. It says, get wisdom though. It costs all you have get understanding. I believe King Solomon, that very wise man who held that baby up by the ankle said the most important thing in life was wisdom. I'm a

big fan of Ecclesiastes where it, The end of Ecclesiastes in chapter 12, King Solomon says, okay, all has been said of much writing or what is it of much books?

There's no end here. I am talking about a book. And but he said, but here's what matters. He said, fear God. And keep him as his commandments because that's the whole duty of man. And I love statements like that in scripture that sum it up. And at the end of his life, Solomon accumulated more than anybody.

And yet at the end of his life, that's what he said, fear God, respect. Live with him, with Reverend awe and do what he says because that makes life good. That's the whole duty of man.

[00:06:14] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, and that's, that's the amazing thing about Solomon. Kind of a crazy mixture of stories really in the Old Testament of how he prayed so passionately at the beginning of his reign for wisdom. And God heard and honored and answered that prayer, but So many chapters later on in his life where he decided to kind of try and go and live on his own rather than trusting and seeking consistently the wisdom of God.

But I just, I just love this topic. And like you said when you go to God for his wisdom, when you find it, seek it out in his word and in prayer and through the counsel of other believers, how God brings clarity. To things that are often so confusing. And even when I heard just the, the, the, the title of this book for the first time, it, it takes me back every time I hear the word wisdom takes me back to a ministry conference I was in a few years ago where a Christian writer by the name of Tim Elmore was talking about some of his own writing and he talked about the difference between knowledge and wisdom and how, like you said, in, in our world today, because of the internet.

People, young people, old people, everybody can go and they can get information on any topic. But as Elmore was talking about is particularly in the case of young people that they have all kinds of information that tends at times to make them arrogant which is what the Bible says. The Bible says that knowledge in contrast to wisdom, knowledge will make you puffed up or make you arrogant.

But Elmer was saying they have all this information that they sometimes think makes them smart. But they are also oftentimes very anxious because they don't have the wisdom to know what to do with that knowledge, that information that they've gained. And that's another side that you don't hear talked about too many times, which is.

Information without the spirit of God can actually be terrifying. Have you, have you seen something like that play out?

[00:08:11] **Janet Denison:** I mean, I think we see it every night on the news and we think we look at things on the news and think, how can they think that? But if all they have is information, if all they have is in many ways, information from one angle, they don't have knowledge, even they only have information. Knowledge at least surmises that you realize there's always truth.

two sides to a coin. I've always said if you only have one person's opinion, then you only have half the truth. And so that's and throughout scripture satan is the author of partial truth and we have so many Positions that are being taken based on partial truth. And we know who writes that. And so that was really what was behind.

I wrote Wisdom Matters as I watched. Stores being broken into and because they felt deserving of whatever was there on the other side. And, and I saw laws being changed to support criminals essentially, and to give grace where grace really ought not be given. And there was a lot I saw on the news that just didn't make sense to me.

And when you elevate. knowledge over wisdom, then you have then lifted up the person who appears to know the most, not the person who is the most wise. And if King Solomon were here, he'd take us all by the shoulders. And he would say, okay, let me define what it means to chase the wind. You know, All of these things were chasing in the world today.

And Solomon would say, Hey, it's a chasing of the wind. It's here for a moment and gone. And doesn't that describe our current culture and the trends that come and go, the angst that comes and go, the lead stories that are no longer the lead story, the next week. In fact, people have kind of moved on from it.

So it's we live in a time, I think, when we definitely need wisdom. And that's why I titled the book, Wisdom Matters, because I used a phrase a lot when I was speaking. And I would say, you know, at the end of the day, it's wisdom that matters. And that was a phrase that I would say a lot and it would get repeated back to me.

And so when I was thinking of writing a message for people at the end of their day, that's where it came from was a phrase that I had used many, many times.

[00:10:47] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, I love that double entendre of wisdom matters. And you can take that phrase a couple of different ways and just love that. This theme verse of Proverbs 4, 7, what do you think are some of the implications that maybe become involved when, when Solomon says, though it costs you everything, get.

Wisdom or get understanding. What might that mean for us in a, in our lives when he says that there is a cost to, to actually acquiring wisdom. What's, what are some of those costs that we

might have to consider and hopefully be willing to pay when it comes to pursuing and acquiring wisdom?

[00:11:29] **Janet Denison:** I love that phrase. I love the Proverbs. Many people think that Solomon may have invented that version of wisdom literature in writing Proverbs like he did. That it was something that he was passionate about and actually wrote Proverbs and created the genre of biblical literature. But I think for somebody, I believe the net worth of King Solomon by today's standards would be hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars.

And there's a lot of people speculate that he would be considered the wealthiest man that ever existed in our world. And that's because he had compromised so much to gain that wealth. He left that wisdom in the middle of his life and he married all these women because they came with a kingdom and they came with a political connection and things like that.

So we had all of these women lined up that he had. I mean, just so many compromises. But he knew at the end of his life, he looked back over all of it and he said, you know, I would give up so much. Yeah. To have gone back and have led a completely wise life. His wisdom, much of his wisdom was born out of mistakes, which quite frankly, is how a lot of us get wisdom.

And maybe it's always that way. Wisdom's born of experience and not all of our experiences are good.

[00:13:04] **Dr. Mark Turman:** It makes me think that it's not a, it's not in the Bible, but it makes me think of that phrase where somebody said, you know, a smart person learns from their mistakes, but a wise person learns from the mistakes of others. And that's one of the opportunities that is available to us through Solomon and through the other wisdom that comes in other ways through the Bible.

Jenna, I was thinking through this and obviously your ministry has been so dedicated to. Helping people understand scripture, helping people unpack and get to some of the deep, really meaningful parts of what the Bible teaches in so many different ways, including in this area of wisdom. But I'm also thinking where James says in James chapter one, that if anybody lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives generously to all that you don't have a.

A shaking heart or an unbelieving heart when you're asking, talk about for a moment, the connection between those two or maybe three things we've already mentioned. Yes. There is wisdom that comes simply from reading and studying and praying over and meditating on scripture. But there's also wisdom that has to come by praying and asking for it.

And sometimes that third component component is. The the wisdom that Solomon said comes when you ask other godly people. How do those? Things kind of dynamically work together. Sometimes they work by themselves. How's that worked in your own life?

[00:14:33] **Janet Denison:** I came to wisdom and actually a love of scripture out of desperation. And I was raised in the church. We went to a church most of my life. Not all of it. There was a little chunk where we didn't attend church. And then we went back to it when I was in high school. But I had gone to different denominations.

I have, I've always said I'm the most. interdenominational Baptist preacher's wife, I know I've been Methodist, Presbyterian, in the Christian church, and I dabbled with the Pentecostals. I actually loved different things about all of those churches, but I wasn't in a church that emphasized knowing God's word like I was when I came into the Baptist church, I really, that was one of my favorite things about the Baptist was they kept saying the Bible says, and I, I knew kind of what the Bible said, but then I ended up marrying Jim, who was a Baptist preacher.

And one Sunday morning he preached out of Amos or Hosea, and here I am the preacher's wife with a toddler right by my side and he says, turn to Hosea chapter three. And I'm like, Oh no. And so here the preacher's wife is in the pew. And I knew it was Old Testament, but that's about all I knew. And I'm trying to flip through my pages as fast as I can and try to find Hosea.

Suffice it to say the preacher's wife was probably the last one to locate the passage that day. And I told Jim, when I got home, if you're going to preach out of one of those, you got to tell me in advance because the preacher's wife's not supposed to be the last one to find the passage. So I came to Bible study and wanting to know God's word out of desperation.

It was my job. I didn't want to harm Jim. I wanted to be a good preacher's wife. I wanted to do that job well, and I didn't know God's word well enough. I, I didn't know it well enough. And so, and yet everybody expected because of who I was married to, I did. I'll never forget the Bible study I joined and the, I will, I've always loved Dorothy, who was my small group leader, because I think it took her all of five minutes to realize my preacher's wife doesn't know very much.

So anyway, but I've always been grateful. She carried me through, but that hunger for God's word is really, I use the verse, taste and see that the Lord is good. When you're talking about wisdom, if it's not grounded in God's word, you can get misled. And Satan likes to do that. He's the author of partial truth and the author of lies.

And if you're not grounded in God's word, it's real easy to get confused or to believe something that sounds true, but isn't. And so I think, First, right off the bat, Bible studies, everything for me,

it was everything. And so I, I jumped into it and I had such a hunger for God's word. From that came the ministry that.

That followed as being a preacher's wife Our very first church ran a hundred on a good day and four of them were us, you know, and I remember when I was pregnant with my oldest son, we got a phone call we had just gone to sleep. It was probably 10 30 at night or 11 And because I was sound asleep and I I was pregnant i'd been so sick all day And I realized Okay.

I I need to grab this phone back in the day. It was hardwired, right? So I grabbed the phone and I answered it. And on the other end of the line was a voice from a man in our church saying, please, you've got to come over. Please. You've got to come over because my son just drowned. He had a a 16, 17-year-old son that had just drowned in a lake.

And he said his wife and his daughter were at Six Flags and would be home any minute, and he couldn't tell him, so could we please come over and tell him? And so Jim and I got ready as fast as we could, and we drove to this house and I was 20. Jim and I were both 26 at that time, 26 years old. And we've got two.

tell a mom and her daughter that their family member had just drowned and the father was beside himself. And anyway, I remember sitting on the arm of a chair waiting and I saw Jim go out the front door with the with the father. And to this day, I can close my eyes and I can hear her scream when she heard the news. And I sat there that evening with their daughter on my lap and trying to have words That I knew I didn't own and I was 26 years old trying to comfort a 12 year old little girl and I didn't know what I was doing, and I knew it. To this day, I don't know what I said other than tried to give her comfort.

But I learned really early on at a young age that I had married into an impossible job and it would always be impossible because you know that Mark. We've, you've been in those situations and you walk in and they look to you for a word and there really is nothing but impossible. God's Word at that point.

Only God's Word has the power they need. And sometimes it's a verse of scripture. A lot of the time, it's praying without ceasing, God, don't let me speak. Only, just speak through me. Don't let me speak right now. And that's the wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit. I don't think a person can do ministry well.

unless they're spirit led. And being spirit led first and foremost comes from being desperately aware that you're not able on your own. And I think that's where the power of God comes from.

[00:21:06] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. And just, you know, I go back to your theme verse for this book, though. It costs you everything you have. It makes me aware that one of the costs that you

and I have to be willing to pay. If any of us wants wisdom is a dependence on ourself. We have to be willing. to give that up to pay that cost to say, you know what?

I am not capable or adequate to know what to say or do in this particular moment. And I have to give up my independence. My wife's favorite verse comes from the book of Proverbs. Very familiar to many believers. Proverbs three, five and six. Don't trust in your own wisdom, but instead lean on on his understanding, don't lean on your own understanding, but lean on his understanding and he will make your path straight.

That is, he will make your path clear. He will tell you what to speak or when not to speak and what to do in all of these situations that you find yourself in, because, you know, as, as, as recently as just a couple of days ago my wife and I were watching a baseball game and she got A terrible phone call from one of her coworkers about a situation that had happened in her work environment and just. just what God, what do we do in this moment? How do we think about this? What should we do next? Who should we call? What should we say? And you, like you, like you said before, Bible study gives you that foundation, but then you need the Holy spirit at any given moment to know what part of that biblical understanding that you have needs to apply.

To this situation because you can, and people know this all the time, and you probably have many examples of what you've seen with people. You can misuse your Bible knowledge in a way that hurts people, right? Have you, have you seen that happen with some people?

[00:23:00] **Janet Denison:** I've seen it and I've, I've done it. So, I mean, anytime, if, if I walk in and think, okay, I've done this before, I know what to do, that's the kiss of death, right? I mean, I have another book I wrote a long time ago and I titled one of the chapters, Fight the Pharisee Within, because the longer we do this job, the more we think we can, but that proverb says, trust in the Lord with all your all your heart and do not, do not lean on what you know.

It's the hardest thing. Wisdom is born of experience, but so is Pharisee potential is born of experience too. There's, there's just not a time that we should think we know. And if we think we know we stand on dangerous ground. So, it's easier for me because I didn't go to seminary. And I am always desperately aware that I need help.

So I, I just I lean on God. He has helped me do an impossible job. When I was faced with situations I had to hold a woman whose son had just I taught another woman whose newly adopted niece was murdered. I I, I just, there's a list. I'm sure you have a list too. And those Moments are just as potent now as they were in the time And I call I have a prayer That I say is shortened to the point and I teach it to my ladies when i'm teaching I say everyone needs a help me god prayer in that moment.

All you have to say is help me god And you you have have is you have his ear, you have his words. As long as you know to pray for help, you can trust that God wants to speak to that person with truth more than you do. And so there is a great turning over of everything we think we know in those moments.

And it's the only way to do ministry. If we do it out of our experience, even our experience can mess us up sometimes.

[00:25:19] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. I love what you're saying. There is, is that, that, that tendency, the longer that you're a Christian, the longer that you've been serving the Lord, whether it's in vocational ministry or not, the longer you walk with the Lord, the more you think that you can handle this when in fact it's just the opposite.

And what. Yeah. What should be coming aware to us more and more is just how dependent we are on him. And while we can be thankful that God has seen us through various kinds of things over time and why we have learned some experience from that. We are never in the same situation twice. I know Jim sometimes says when, when we're talking, when he's teaching, you never step in the same river twice that you've never been in this situation.

You've never been with these people before. You've never had exactly this set of circumstances. And while there might be something similar to what you have gone through and perhaps helped with in the past, it's always a different thing. And it is always a need. That you ask the Lord for his help in that moment.

And that you'd not simply rely upon your quote unquote experience or just the knowledge that you gained through some other place. Janet, I'm wondering is there elements in here that you've learned from your journey of faith and also from scripture? Have there been instances where God has given you wisdom through other people?

Other believers. I think one of the things that seems to be out of fashion these days is dependent people being dependent upon their church. When I hear that, I like you need to be dependent upon godly people that you are developing relationship and depth and trust with that you come to know that you can trust their wisdom and you you can provide wisdom back to them.

What's that been like in your own journey and how's that reflected perhaps in the writing of this book that God has brought you wisdom through his family?

[00:27:21] **Janet Denison:** Yes, I, I absolutely, I am a big fan of quotes and I have a whole file on my machine. My oldest son and I share quotes of wisdom because I just, and it's through the ages. One of the things I have been saying recently quite a bit is if it was true for 2000 years, It's

still true. We've been trying to edit God's Word recently with some of our preaching and some of what's being taught and accepted in the churches.

And it's one of the biggest mistakes I think that can be made if it was wisdom for 2000 years plus 2000 years and crossed cultures and crossed All kinds of situations of success and failure in captivity and not I think the one thing that's consistently true is that if the Bible said it in Genesis and it's still saying it in Revelation, it's still saying it today.

And you don't have to wonder that. And I like to say God never gave us permission to edit his word. And instead he authors his wisdom through imperfect people all the time. And so we respect and listen to and appreciate. Everybody who can preach to us and teach to us, but we do it with the pure knowledge They're gonna goof up on something One of my favorite things about scripture is that there's only a handful of individuals in the bible That we don't know their sins, too The bible's very clear to point out all of these amazing things.

These people have done It's equally to point out the stuff they did wrong. And so it gives us the ability to know, okay, this person can be incredibly wise, but not perfect. And so I think one of the things we do is we elevate people too much. Now, it's another really powerful thing about Being wise is elevate God's word above any people's word, but look for the God within a person.

I look for a person who is spirit led. And if you learn to be discerning, you can hear when a statement was authored by God's spirit, as opposed to a person's idea. By the texture, the tone of it, you can even see there's a physical impact in the congregation among people you've grown to respect who are discerning of God's Word.

When the preacher says something powerful, you can almost see a physical moving back in the pew of several of your people you admire. That's what I pay attention to when I'm in a congregation. If something moves a person I know is a strong spirit led Christian, then I trust that those words were likely authored by God's spirit through the preacher.

And and that that's wisdom worth taking in.

[00:30:28] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, absolutely. Let's talk a moment about outcomes for a second, Janet, when, when people pursue God's wisdom, when they ask for it in a consistent way, when, when God is pouring his wisdom into us, that doesn't always mean that. Things are going to be easy, right? We don't, we don't want to lead people astray that, Hey, you know, if, if you get God's wisdom, it's always going to be, things are going to be easier.

It's going to be a lighter load. It's going to be an easier path. That's not necessarily the way it's going to go when you have God's wisdom, right? Yes,

[00:31:02] **Janet Denison:** of us living in ministry right now to speak or teach God's wisdom, biblical truth can actually bring struggle into our lives. It can actually bring hardship into our lives. So sometimes you do your job and fulfill your calling knowing life's going to get hard as a result. I mean, Jonah, He learned it the hard way, but then he went right to Nineveh, right?

And he stood in front of them and said, and then right after that, when God didn't come down on the Ninevites you know, you find Jonah under the plant, gripe into God, which I actually really like, I really liked that he griped honestly, and we have that in scripture because let's face it. Nobody in ministry.

I would say everybody in ministry has got a plant somewhere we like to go gripe under. I mean, that's just the way it is. But yeah, cause when my oldest son was I picked up the phone and my oldest son said, mom, it's cancer. And I will never forget that moment because one of the ways I had to process was, but God, we've given our lives to serving you.

We've given our lives to trying to do this right. And we never did it perfectly, but we tried and we really did try to live it And I, I literally said to God, shouldn't there be just a few perks? That was one of my three o'clock in the morning sessions. Shouldn't I have been spared this, you know, but the truth is none of us are spared and that's God's plan because our, one of our greatest witnesses in this world is to go through some incredibly hard things and to endure appointments and to Do your best and have it still not be good enough and it's just life this side of heaven But I was at a revival when I heard Joel Gregory preaching a way way back I was just in my 20s and I remember a man in the audience Raised his head had just lost his wife an elderly man.

He said what do I do? And I don't remember Joel Gregory's answer to that. But then he turned to the whole audience and he said, but here's what I want everybody in this room to know the best time to get ready for the hard times. Is right now it's today and I remember being a young preacher's wife knowing I didn't know squat And I listened to that and that was wisdom in that moment.

I can quote it to this day I remember where I was when I heard it and who said it And because I knew in that moment god had just told me something that I needed to get busy now And I needed to study. I needed to learn God's word. I needed to get it right now. And because when you're in ministry, you have no doubt.

But what you're on the other end of the conversation someday with somebody else and You know we can do we can walk in and try to bring god's word and god's counsel to others but at some point you have to look in the mirror and bring it to yourself and it was much easier for me to help other people than it was To trust god at 3 30 in the morning when my son was getting radiation for a cancer We didn't really know Was gonna go away or not and that is a moment I would never want to relive again And by the way, if you don't know he's fine.

And if you read Jim's article on Fridays My oldest son probably wrote it So, I mean it's Joy to have come through it on this side But I would never sit here and say it was easy just because I can teach it doesn't mean I can live it Just because I can tell other people to believe it doesn't mean I don't have to wrestle with my faith when that day comes It's just the reality Of life this side of heaven Bad stuff happens to everybody

[00:35:23] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. Wow. Such a powerful statement. Just right there. Just, just because you can teach it doesn't mean that you can live it all the time. And that's a, that's an apt word for lots of what's going on in our culture and even in our churches today. It's always going to be easier for us to talk it, to teach it than it is going to be to live it and apply it to our lives.

And that's, that's an element of wisdom that comes through scripture. A lot of what Solomon tells us is to prepare for the day when things will be difficult or challenging in some way and a part of our lives. And that now is. In the, in the good times when, when things are not as intense or difficult, that's the time to focus even more on Christ.

It's a time to deepen your relationship with him, to celebrate, to be grateful, to be focused on walking with him because. They're going to come times when he feels different, distant. There's going to come times when you wonder if he's still there, or if you've, you've been abandoned and you need those resources that you've developed over a long stretch.

What I think Eugene Peterson called a long obedience in the same direction. Janet. Janet, you said in the laying out of this book, the subtitle of this book is called an evening devotional. So there is some desire. There's not a mandate here, but there's a desire that people would pick up these devotionals that they can read in five, seven, eight, 10 minutes, and just spend some time.

Talk about what you're thinking there is in terms of. Ending your day. I, you know, in the last couple of years, I've learned the wisdom of not falling asleep after just watching the 10 o'clock news that I finally learned the wisdom that that was about the worst way that you could fall asleep at night.

[00:37:15] **Janet Denison:** and yet that's what most people do

[00:37:17] **Dr. Mark Turman:** that's what most people do.

[00:37:19] **Janet Denison:** it came from The idea of this came from actually studying scripture and noticing how many times God Spoke to people through a dream how, how God would find that quiet time in my own life. The Holy Spirit waits till I'm quiet and I quiet the world, and then that's when I'm likely to have his thought roll across my mind.

And so it came from a desire that we have so many devotionals and I thought, oh, the world doesn't need another devotional. But this came from the desire too. share God's word as the last

thought. If we went to sleep with thinking about God's word and about some wisdom from God's word, how would that impact our sleep?

How would that impact our dreams? Does that give God permission to speak to us in the quiet hours of the night? I don't know why, but God likes three 30 in the morning. His spirit is alive and active. So I used to teach my ladies, if you're awake at 3. 30 in the morning, remember Samuel's prayer, Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

You know, that's what Samuel, Eli taught Samuel to pray. And God speaks, but he speaks to servants who will take time to listen. And so if this book gives People thought, okay, Lord, I'm available to you tonight. Give me a dream. Give me a vision. Speak to me. If I wake up, I'm going to pray Samuel's prayer.

Okay, Lord, tell me what you want me to know, because in that period of time, there's nothing else that does matter. accept God's voice. And so that was really the impetus behind making this an evening devotional is there's great power in seeking God's voice in the quiet moments of the night.

[00:39:24] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. It, it, yeah. And I love that prayer. Lord speak for I'm listening, but it also reminds me of what the Psalmist said when he said that the Lord never sleeps and never slumbers. And I'm like, Lord, I know you never sleep, but I feel like I need to.

[00:39:37] **Janet Denison:** Yes, if it's 3 30 in the morning, just there have been some more wee hours of the morning where I just rolled over and said, what, because I really would rather sleep. But if I'm just not going back to sleep, I figure God has something he wants to say. And sometimes I don't want to hear it. And sometimes I really, really do, but either way I'm better for having given those moments to God.

[00:40:04] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yes. And I, I've known believers over the years that kept a pen and paper beside their bed for that reason. You would think that if you were having a conversation with God in the middle of the night, you would remember it, but sometimes it can be good to jot down a thought, a word, or a phrase.

And some people do that as well. So Janet is 365, a daily devotional. For each night or other time of the day, but particularly in the evening are all of these standalone each one in its own day? Is it, is there a theme for the week or the month? Do they build on each other or do they kind of stand on their own?

[00:40:42] **Janet Denison:** Every month has a theme, but each each entry is a standalone. I wanted to do that because if you're teaching a proverb, you can find it. If you can find it there and I put the verse up there towards the top, locate it, and then it's a little bit of. application or

maybe some direction for a teacher or just a direction for a question that a child or a friend might ask or a conversation you're having with your spouse.

Wisdom is timeless truth. It is true when that person said it, it's still true today. And they're in a world where thoughts and ideas are rapidly changing. It's so good to have that rock of truth there. And so there's a theme for every month that is introduced, but it goes back to that. And yet each entry in that is a different thought according to that application.

[00:41:44] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Okay. Which is good to know. So that. If somebody misses a day or so, they don't feel like they're completely lost. They can

[00:41:52] **Janet Denison:** It's not even an if I wrote the thing and I don't read it every night. So. I mean, you know, I just, I'm, I'm just laying it out there. So it's it's not it's not a Bible that ought to be read every day. It's in fact, sometimes I tell people, set it there by your bed and grab it when God calls you to it.

It's not a bad book to grab at three 30 in the morning. If you just can't go back to sleep, pick this up and then read. Two or three, or go through and you know, find what you need. But I've, I've enjoyed the notes where people have written to say, okay, I did that. And what I read was exactly what God, what I was needing to hear from God.

I can't do that. Right. That's, that's not my words. That means that God used it. And for me, that's. The highest praise for anything I would write is that something in there God was able to use to minister to somebody. To me, that's the highest praise that I could receive for a book. So, and I will say I've had some really wonderful notes from people who have thanked me that God used this and I, I'm just grateful the Lord found me worthy to write something he could use.

[00:43:14] **Dr. Mark Turman:** It is a great resource and we're trying to make it available in a couple of different ways. You can get this as a regular hard bound book through our website, denisonforum.org or foundationswithjanet.org you'll find it in the store. You can get one or multiple copies, if you'd like to give them to others.

It's a regular, beautiful, hard bound book. You can also get Wisdom Matters through the Foundations with Janet app, and you can access multiple resources that Janet has created through that app, but particularly Wisdom Matters, and you can actually access this resource in Janet's Actual voice, not just reading it on a page, but actually hearing her.

She reads every one of these devotionals and you can access that through the app. Again, just foundations with Janet. You can download that to your phone or to your iPad, whatever you'd like. If you want to hear it in Janet's voice. It is available in that way as well. Janet, thank you for creating this great, great resource.

Always a really encouraging piece and accessing God's wisdom, how to know what to do to honor God and to bless people at any given moment. That's what wisdom is all about. We want to thank you for putting this together.

[00:44:34] **Janet Denison:** It was my joy and I've been grateful to the ministry to create a book like this. And yet the app is free. So anybody can access this. We wanted to make it special by putting it in a book, but available to everyone on the app. So, because it's not ours to own, it's just ours to want to give. So, I've been grateful it's available both ways.

[00:45:00] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Want to remind you again that the book is called Wisdom Matters: An Evening Devotional by Janet Denison. You can find it on our website. It also be in the show notes of this podcast, and we hope that today's conversation will encourage you to check it out. And if you follow us, we just want to say thank you for that.

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