

UNDERSTANDING WISDOM

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Knowledge is the acquisition of information which when unused is useless. Knowledge is not the same thing as wisdom, though no one can be wise without knowledge. It is only when knowledge gained is applied to change one's life or a situation and bring success, that it is said to be wisdom. Wisdom is defined as the right application of a relevant or specialized knowledge that guarantees breakthrough, change and success. Many live like fools though they are well informed, and still want to be addressed as educated and knowledgeable men and women. You are only wise when you use knowledge well, and, at the appropriate time.

Knowledge opens up the mind to new things and gives new and insightful understanding about life and subjects that interest one. Knowledge brings about the renewal of the mind, and repositions one to think and see life differently from what it used to be previously. Knowledge is the foundation of wisdom. It is from the knowledge that one grows wise and acts wisely. This makes the acquisition of knowledge very important for growth and maturity in life and pursuit of God. Give attention to the acquisition of knowledge, and more importantly, to the renewing of your mind and application of the knowledge gained.

WHAT WISDOM IS

1. Wisdom is the right application of knowledge.
2. Wisdom is know-how.
3. Wisdom is insight and revelation gained by the inspiration of God that is applicable to a given situation that guarantees breakthrough, change and success.
4. Wisdom is insight used.
5. Wisdom is the show or manifestation of good sense, which is the knowledge and experience needed to make sensible decisions and judgments, or the good sense shown by the decisions and judgments made.
6. Wisdom is the result of accumulated learning - accumulated knowledge of life or in a particular sphere of activity that has been gained through keen observation, education and experience
7. Wisdom is the ability to know what to do and doing it at the appropriate time.
8. Wisdom is walking in the revelation of God.
9. Wisdom is the acquisition of disciplined and prudent life.

Prov 1:2-3

2 for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; 3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;

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10. Wisdom is doing what is right and prudent.

Prov 1:3-4

3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; 4 for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young--

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11. Wisdom gives discernment and understanding.

Prov 1:5

5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance--

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12. Wisdom is the knowledge of God.

13. Wisdom is walking in the fear of the Lord.

Prov 1:7

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

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Prov 19:23

23 The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

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Prov 22:4

4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

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14. Wisdom is the understanding of life, the secrets of God, the right thing to do at a given time.

15. Webster 1828 dictionary defined wisdom as:

“The right use or exercise of knowledge; the choice of laudable ends, and of the best means to accomplish them. This is wisdom in act, effect, or practice. If wisdom is to be considered as a faculty of the mind, it is the faculty of discerning or judging what is most just, proper and useful, and if it is to be considered as an acquirement, it is the knowledge and use of what is best, most just, most proper, most conducive to prosperity or happiness. Wisdom in the first sense, or practical wisdom, is nearly synonymous with discretion. It differs somewhat from prudence, in this respect; prudence is the exercise of sound judgment in avoiding evils; wisdom is the exercise of sound judgment either in avoiding evils or attempting good. Prudence then is a species, of which wisdom is the genus”.

16. Jesus is the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 1:24

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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A wise man is someone who has the true and proper knowledge, hence, having the power of discerning and judging correctly or of discriminating between what is true and what is false; between what is fit and proper, and what is improper; as a wise person.

To be wise is to be discrete and judicious in the use or applications of knowledge, choosing laudable ends, and the best means to accomplish them. This is to be practically wise. To be wise is also to be skillful in handling matters and difficult situations. It is to be skillful in whatever one is doing. A wise person is a learned person who is well informed and knows how to handle and use the knowledge he has. A wise person is a godly and righteous person. You can't be wise and not fear God and hate evil.

There is the wisdom that comes from this world and there is the wisdom that comes from God. The wisdom from God is the right wisdom and keeps a man humble, sane, pure, loving, peace-loving, considerate, submissive and pure in thoughts. The wisdom of the world puffs up and is self-centered and does not promote the fear of God.

The way a man lives his life prove wisdom or foolishness. The way a man approaches and handles situations and people reveal wisdom or foolishness. There is therefore the need to check your life to see if you are walking in wisdom or not.

SOURCE OF WISDOM

1. Wisdom comes from God.

James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

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Job 29:1-4

29:1 Job continued his discourse:

2 "How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me, 3 when his lamp shone upon my head and by his light I walked through darkness! 4 Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house,

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2. It comes via the lessons from the experiences of life.
3. Wisdom comes from observation of
 - Creation – the works of God in this world.
 - Happenings in people's lives
4. Reading, studying and meditating on God and His words.

Josh 1:8

8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

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5. Wisdom comes by the revelations of God.

Job 29:1-4

29:1 Job continued his discourse:

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6. It comes by impartation from another carrier of wisdom.

Num 27:22-23

22 Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. 23 Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD instructed through Moses.

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HOW TO RECEIVE WISDOM

1. It requires an intimate relationship with the Almighty who is the source of true and pure wisdom.

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2. You require attention to gain wisdom.

Prov 4:1-2

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. 2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.

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Prov 4:20-23

20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

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Prov 2:2

2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,

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3. Accept God's word, and don't argue with it.

Prov 2:1

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,

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4. Pray for wisdom intensely.

Prov 2:3-4

3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

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5. Search for wisdom

Prov 2:4-5

4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

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- Read with hunger
- Search as one looking for a treasure.
- Study as one preparing for an important exam.

6. Laying on of hands by a man of God with great and proven wisdom.

Num 27:18-23

18 So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him. 19 Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. 20 Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. 21 He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions

for him by inquiring of the Urim before the LORD. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in."

22 Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. 23 Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD instructed through Moses.

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORLDLY WISDOM AND GODLY WISDOM

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

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Wisdom is shown by the life that is lived. The deeds of a man reveal wisdom or foolishness. Good deeds done in humility show godly wisdom, while arrogance reveals worldly wisdom which is likened to foolishness.

Signs of worldly wisdom:

1. Wise in his own eyes and full of pride and arrogance.
2. Full of envy of the success and great happenings in another's life irrespective of the good things happening in his own life.
3. Manifesting selfishness – self-centered, self-seeking, and not considerate of other people's interest and feelings. As a result of this, commits all kinds of sins while claiming to be wise.
4. Filled and motivated by greed and selfish ambitions.

Signs of godly wisdom:

1. His wisdom makes his thoughts, words and actions pure.
2. Loves peace – seeks, promotes and keeps the peace.
 - He bears pain and over looks offences to keep the peace.
 - He forgives all wrongs against him to keep the peace.
 - He harbors no grudges or bitter thoughts against anyone.
 - He pursues peace with all men.
3. He is considerate of other people's feelings and interest. He has learnt to put himself behind when the occasion warrants it. His wisdom and love is seen when he surrenders his personal desires and rights for others to benefit.
4. He is submissive to authority and never rebels. Wisdom teaches that to exercise authority, you have to be under authority irrespective of the age, education, charisma and experience of the one in authority.
5. Full of mercy – always showing mercy even when it is not deserved.
6. Doing good works as it is expected of a godly and wise person.
7. He is impartial in judgment and treatment of people.
8. He is sincere and truthful - Speaks only the truth and can be trusted.