

Wisdom of God

God's Wisdom - the omniscience of a divine being. Omniscience means all-knowing and all-wise. having infinite and perfect wisdom. God knows everything.(1JO3:20) God's ways, reasoning and values are what defines His divine wisdom. The Greek word sophia, has the general sense 'one who exercises 'wisdom' and 'learning'. Bible says in Proverbs 4:6-7, "*Do not forsake wisdom, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.*" This collection is compiled here to quickly help you gain wisdom and understanding by studying God's Word. Job was willing to admit that, even while he was enduring affliction. "*With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.*" he declared.(JOB12:13)The Prophet Daniel said much the same thing after God supernaturally revealed to him Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning: "wisdom and power belong to Him"(DAN2:20) Our God is distinguished by wisdom. "*For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding*"(PRO2:6)

Can mankind be given the wisdom of God? There was a man who had such a choice offered him, by the true and living God. One night, Lord appeared to Solomon and said, "*Ask what I shall give you*"(1KI3:5) In response, Solomon answered, "*Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?*"(2CH1:7,10) God was pleased Solomon asked for wisdom rather than riches, honor, long life, or victory over his enemies, so He granted his request.(1KI4:29) "*God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore*" Bible testifies that all Israel "saw that the wisdom of God was in him"(1KI3:28)

What is wisdom? The words used in Scripture have the idea of skill and expertise. For example, God chose a person named Bezalel to do the artistic works that are required for the tabernacle. Bezalel was filled with God's Spirit in order to complete the artistic work as directed. Bezalel had the wisdom to make artistic designs in gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood for the tabernacle.(EXO31:1-5) When he did his work, he had a goal in mind, a plan to reach that goal, the proper materials to use, and the skill to bring it all about. Thus, God chose him for His higher purpose. The work got completed and the Israelites were worshipping God in that temporary tent. When applied to God, wisdom seems to refer to His establishing the best goals and choosing the best and most effective means to accomplish them. Wisdom is the ability to adapt those facts into accomplishing a desired end. God knows all the facts, but also has the ability to work everything He knows into a perfect plan that accomplishes His perfect purpose. Wisdom implies a final end or goal. So if we ever hope to understand God's wisdom, we must first understand the primary goal toward which He is moving. God Himself is best. He has the skill to weave everything there ever was or ever will be into the ultimate accomplishment of His glory.

God's wisdom is unique. That is why Paul called Him "the only wise God"(ROM16:27) God alone has perfect wisdom in and of Himself. All other wisdom is merely a reflection of His. Walking in wisdom helps us to make the right choices for our lives and protects us(PRO29:8) It equips us to handle difficult situations and relationships. Wisdom helps you work smarter.(ECC10:10) Those who have God's wisdom will show it in the way that they live. Wisdom is mental excellence in its sense, more comprehensive and far-reaching than mere knowledge. Knowledge is an awareness and understanding (or accumulation) of the facts. All that you learn in school, in the Bible and through other experiences in life is knowledge. Scholars have much knowledge because they often spend their entire lives studying and researching. Yet knowledge is worthless if it is not correctly applied. To be wise means to be marked by understanding of people and situations, to have keen and unusual discernment, a capacity for sound judgment in dealing with people. To discern means to detect with the eyes and with senses other than vision. It means to read character or motives. We would all do well to have this ability.

There are countless occasions we desperately need wisdom. We know it comes from God, "For the LORD gives wisdom" (PRO2:6) The first is to admit our need. Solomon said, "with the humble is wisdom"(PRO11:2) The humble are those who do not think more highly of themselves than they should. They have a teachable spirit. They are willing to learn and are open to change. We will enjoy God's wisdom only if we admit that we need it. The second prerequisite is to fear the Lord. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"(PSA111:10) To fear God is in awe, respect, total trust in His purposes for our lives. To fear Him, then, is to submit ourselves to Him. We need not only teachable spirits, but broken wills.

The third prerequisite is to study God's Word. By loving God's Word and meditating on it daily,(PSA119:97-105) Through the Word, he found wise guidance in life: Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path. God's wisdom is revealed in His Word and that is where we must find it. The final prerequisite is to pray. Bible tells us to ask for godly wisdom James 1:5 says, "*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.*" God wants us to have His wisdom. He is delighted to give it to us when our hearts are set to receive it. It is better than fair that a righteous Savior bridges the gap between imperfect man and a perfect God with infinite wisdom. Seeking wisdom of God is the answer to each and every individual. If we can turn our heart to Him and allow His Word to guide us, we will live a life totally embraced with God's love and wisdom. He pours out His wisdom on us.

What will happen when you grow in wisdom? *Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.* (PRO3:13) As you continually lay hold of and retain wisdom, you will continue to grow in happiness. In summary, to tap into God's wisdom, we must diligently study God's Word, meditate on the Word, pray for wisdom, seek it with all our hearts, and walk in the Spirit. God desires to give His wisdom to His children. Are we willing to be led by that wisdom?

Everything that God does reveals His wisdom. For instance, creating the world was an expression of His wisdom. "O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions"(PSA 104:24) God put universe together in such a manner that it displays not only His goodness, but also His wisdom. And that brings glory to Him. "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands (PSA19:1) When Daniel described God's wisdom, he wrote, "He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals the deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him."(Dan. 2:21-22) Nothing's ever a mystery to God.

A second expression of God's wisdom was sending His Son. Jesus Christ is the personification of God's wisdom. Wisdom cries out for men to hear. It seems to be a person: "He existed from everlasting, before the earth was. He was the Father's delight and rejoiced in the Father's presence.(PRO8:22-23,30) Wisdom can be none other than the eternal Son of God. Who would not want access to the very power and wisdom of God? "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."(1CO1:24) Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, died on cross to pay with His own blood the penalty for human sinfulness. In Him "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"(COL2:3)The knowledge and wisdom are kept in Christ, but made available to those who believe in Him. In Rom 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!"

We have the real substance: Jesus, so we should follow Him. If you want to get to know the God of wisdom, study the life of Jesus Christ. As a boy, He "kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men"(LUK2:52) Jesus grew up and because he was perfect he already knew his plan and purpose and how to perform what God asked him to do. When He began His public ministry, He taught with such penetrating perception and amazing authority that people asked, "Where did this man get this wisdom, and these miraculous powers?"(MAT13:54) The people are astonished at His teaching and miracles, but they do not respect Him. He confronted the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees with such crisp thinking that they could not answer Him.(e.g. MAT22:46).Their mouths were stopped before the wisdom of Jesus Christ. God gave the world the most complete and comprehensive demonstration of His wisdom possible when He sent His Son to earth. And it brought great glory to Him. So,He could say to His Father, "I have brought you glory on earth"(JOH17:4)

Jesus likewise discloses it by redeeming the lost. "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe"(1CO1:21) The people of the world think they can get to know God by using their own human or earthly wisdom. God knows they cannot, so in perfect wisdom He has provided a way. His wisdom seems like foolishness to them, but through it, He manages to deliver people from their bondage to sin and bring them into a satisfying relationship with Himself. "For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness"(1CO1:22-24) Christ crucified! That is the means God has provided for mankind to know Him. To the average unbeliever it seems silly to think that God's Son should have to die on a cross to pay the penalty for man's sin. But that is the heart of God's wisdom, the message that brings eternal salvation. The death of God's sinless Son was necessary to satisfy His offended holiness, deliver mankind from bondage to sin, open the door to His presence. It displays His wisdom it also glorifies Him. The gospel message of Christ's death on the cross is weak and foolish to the world, but God has given faith in Christ to those who believe it and find God's power and wisdom. "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"(EPH3:21) Church is designed to promote the glory of God.

The word "wise" refers to practical wisdom, prudence, cleverness, and discernment. One who is "wise," in the sense of this term, is a person who shows presence of mind and has the understanding and sound judgment necessary to act prudently. For example, the wise are those who know when to hold their peace (PRO11:12;17:28); the wise seek out knowledge (PRO14:16,18;18:15); the wise hear reproof (PRO17:10;19:25); the wise know how to turn away wrath with their answers (PRO15:1); the wise know how to draw counsel out of others (PRO20:5) A synonym for wise is prudent. "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.(PRO27:12) The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways"(PRO14:8) In place of "wise," other translations use "shrewd" "wary." Shrewd means to be practical and to be given to an artful way of dealing with situations and people. To be wary is to use watchful prudence in detecting and escaping danger. So, it seems we can be as wise as serpents by perceiving and avoiding danger and escaping from it!

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom"(JAM3:13) Scripture joins these two together-meekness and wisdom. Wisdom, there is the serpent; meekness, there is the dove. We must have innocence with our wisdom—else our wisdom is but craftiness. And we must have wisdom with our innocence—else our innocence is but weakness. We must have the innocence of the dove—that we may not harm others; and we must have the wisdom of the serpent—that others may not harm/deceive us. We must have innocence of the dove—that we may not betray the truth; and the wisdom of the serpent—that we may not betray ourselves. In short, innocence without wisdom is too weak to be safe. Wisdom without innocence is too subtle to be good. When wisdom and innocence appear together, they preview the soul's happiness. Jesus' disciples should not invite or provoke attacks from their enemies. The circumstance of confessing Christ and his Word in a hostile setting requires wisdom and blamelessness.

Why is wisdom so important?

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God has another way of expressing His wisdom—by ordering the lives of believers. Man's steps are ordained by the Lord, how can a man then understand his own way?(PRO20:24) What are your plans for today? The Lord will alter them if He chooses, and He will use them for Himself. Either way, He is the Potter, and you are the clay. But wise men will submit to Him, knowing they can neither forecast the future, determine or change the future. Ordained by the Lord show us that God has given directions as to the way his people should walk (i.e., live) in this world. Every situation you can think of God has given direction as to how we should respond and deal with them. God's wisdom is that He offers to share it with us, that we will know right thing to do in each situation, the thing that will bring the greatest glory to Him.

Scripture makes it clear that we need divine wisdom. *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is"*(EPH 5:15-17) Divine wisdom is basically knowing the right thing to do in every situation—knowing and doing the will of God. We need to look out, pay attention, take care, think and consider how we walk. Wisdom/understanding is the ability to evaluate the knowledge. To understand knowledge is to see the meaning or significance of the knowledge.

(1) Why was the book of Proverbs written? Proverbs 1:2-6, *"for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behaviour, doing what is right and just and fair"*. Proverbs were written so that everyone who reads and if you apply those principles, you will become wise! Here is a simple application of wisdom. Most certainly, you see that there is much evil around you in this world. Just look at many of your friends who are lifted up in pride and arrogance. So many spend their teenage years walking in the "evil way." To grow in wisdom, you must analyze yourself and be certain that you hate evil. Be sure that you are working at getting rid of pride, vanity and arrogance in yourself. Realize that tongue has a natural tendency to be filthy and strive to not follow those who have a dirty mouth. *To fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and perverse speech.*(PRO8:13)

(2) What value is wisdom? Can physical abundance and riches compare to the value of it? Wisdom goes far beyond all the riches of this world. Do you realize that God—the Creator and owner of all riches—tells you that wisdom is far better?

(3) Are there conditions for obtaining wisdom? Are there certain things you need to do? Proverbs 2:1-4. *"indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure"* Much is involved in obtaining wisdom. You must you read words of the Bible, also receive them, apply them to yourself. People seek to secure things that they value as treasure, and you must do the same with the wisdom from God's Word.

(4) What happens if you apply Proverbs 2. *"then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. It is an exhortation for us to seek wisdom of God above all else. Through the wisdom He gives we find the fountain of all understanding and knowledge. You will grow in wisdom—that is a promise from God. But you must do your part!*

(5) Is discretion related directly to growing in wisdom? Proverbs 5:1-2. *My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge"*. Society is full of people who are careless. Very few teenagers today show any self-restraint and prudence in their behavior and speech. Strive to work on this simple yet sorely lacking characteristic. Almost every day, you will be given the opportunity to show discretion. As you do, you will seem different to those around you, and you will also be more appreciated.

(6) Another aspect of youth today is the lack of common sense. Proverbs 10:21. The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of sense. Today, people lack common sense, it causes them much grief. They lack the sense to make proper, clear, correct choices. Are you thinking about the decisions you make. It is clear that many lack this basic attribute.

(7) How do vision relate to wisdom? Proverbs 8:12, *"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. You must continually look ahead in life. The first law of success is to have correct goals in life. One can never achieve success if he never has clear goals. Be sure to look at life with a sense of purpose, otherwise, you will inherit folly"*

(8) Is what you say, and how you speak, important? Proverbs 8:8; Are you certain that you speak of the right and correct kind of knowledge? Wisdom relates directly to what you speak. What does your tongue do? Are you in control—"clean"?

(9) What is a sound way to grow in wisdom? Proverbs 13:20. Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm". Be sure to choose wise friends. Take time to read of characters in the Bible. Here are just a few example: Joseph—(GEN41:39); Moses—(Act7:22) Solomon—(IKI3:12) Joshua—(DEU34:9) David—(ISAM18:14) Jesus—(LUK2:52)

(10) What are benefits of wisdom? Pro. 3:16-17. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, all her paths are peace. You will live a long, honorable, happy life as you strive to grow in wisdom.

(11) As a teenager growing up in a rotten world, you often face many pressures in dealing with those who do evil. Pro. 2:10-12. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse.

(12) Prov.30:24-28, *"Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; hyraxes are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces"*. The ants are an application of preparation, the conies (rabbits) exemplify solidity, the locusts unity, and the spider tenacity.

How do we know whether the wisdom we are exercising is from God or from men, whether it is divine wisdom or human wisdom? One way will be to compare it to the truth of God's Word. His wisdom will always be consistent with all of His Word. There is one special passage in the Word that tells us how to identify God's wisdom: "*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy*" (JAM3:17)

Typical human philosophy is driven by envy and selfish ambition, and the result is all the disorder and evil we see in the world. Putting ourselves ahead of all others means creating contradictory goals, and making excuses for hurting other people in order to get what we want. Bible describes the characteristics of the wisdom from heaven. This is God's wisdom. This is the wisdom of those who trust God to provide all they need, to continue to give them every good gift and to fulfill every desire of their hearts for eternity with Him in heaven. First, God's wisdom is pure, unmixed with error, untainted by immorality, unclouded by selfish motives, cleansed of all personal ambition. If we are looking out for our own interests, we are probably operating by man's wisdom rather than God's. Secondly, God's wisdom is peaceable, promoting the harmony and peace that draws people together. Thirdly, God's wisdom is gentle, ie. fair, moderate, forgiving, forbearing, and considerate in the demands it puts on others. If we are putting pressure on others to conform to our way of thinking, we are probably operating by man's wisdom rather than God's. Fourthly, God's wisdom is reasonable, easy to be entreated and willing to listen to reason. If we have already made up our minds and refuse to be influenced by any more facts, we are probably operating by man's wisdom rather than God's. Fifthly, God's wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits. It shows genuine concern and extends practical help toward others in need. Sixthly, God's wisdom is unwavering, standing firm on Biblical principles. And God's wisdom is without hypocrisy. True wisdom is full of mercy and all the good things that flow from living this way. This wisdom is impartial, not showing the favoritism. This wisdom is sincere, with no need to fake anything to get what it wants out of other people. We do not try to conceal our thoughts, feelings, or motives in order to make ourselves look good or to accomplish our own ends. Therefore, godly wisdom submits all to God's will. Here is God's standard for measuring His wisdom. When we begin to get our wisdom from Him, our homes will be happier, our lives more effective, and our God greatly glorified. And there is really no time to lose. As the Psalmist put it, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom" (PSA90:12) Wisdom refers to the wisdom that we need to endure trials with God's joy, so that we will be "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James1:4)

God in wisdom has already mapped out course of our lives to bring the greatest glory to Himself. His wise plan includes to achieve His perfect end, as difficult as that may be for us to understand. We can trust Him in the dark places of life, because He in His wisdom knows the way through the darkness. You trusted him and committed yourself to him because you were confident that he knew the way. To refuse to follow him would not only have endangered your own life. To resist Him, question Him, doubt Him, what He allows in our lives is to deny that He is the only wise God. Our happiness will come, it will come as we grow in the likeness of His Son. That is His great goal for our lives, as we grow to be more like Jesus, we experience greater happiness ourselves. Allowing trials to enter our experience is part of His wise plan to accomplish His perfect end. To understand His wisdom in ordering our lives will help us to lay hold of His peace.

Remember the wisdom of God in securing your salvation. Everything about God's plan to save us through Christ. But the most foolish move of all was the crucifixion. connects this for us: "For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom" (1CO1:21-25,31) In other words, God rejected the possibility of salvation by human wisdom. God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of the message preached. In God's infinite wisdom, He chose a way of salvation through Christ. No one on earth would have come up with a plan involving the brutal murder of the Son of God for sinners. God's wisdom triumphs. And at the point of His greatest weakness, God's power is unleashed. "because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." In God's all-wise plan, this was the perfect way to achieve the greatest goal. "Therefore, as it is written, 'The one who boasts must boast in the Lord.'" This is what His wisdom was aiming at. God chose us, purchased us, called us, and given to us everything else involving our salvation with glorying only in the Lord. Suggesting our "better plan" to help God out is like proposing.

Colossians 3:16 says, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*" Abide in God's Word produces a heart of worship and thanksgiving. That heart of worship becomes fertile soil for seeds of wisdom to grow. He wants His followers to be set apart from the world, making godly choices and living godly lives. We can only do that when His Word lives in us. Every word we speak was taught to us by God's Spirit, not by human wisdom. And this same Spirit helps us teach spiritual things to spiritual people. The word of wisdom is a spiritual gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8.

What difficulties are you presently facing? Ask God for wisdom in handling them. Ask Him for wisdom in the business deal with which you have been struggling. Ask Him for wisdom in handling the problems you encounter in raising your family. Ask Him for wisdom that upcoming exam at school. Ask Him for wisdom in working out tension and hard feelings you have been experiencing with another believer. Ask Him for wisdom in handling with your pain/sorrow. Ask Him for wisdom in managing finance. He cares about all those things. "*Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning.*" (PRO14:33)