

WISDOM GIVES LIFE

The wisdom obtained from God is primary and fundamental to every human being as it is vital in good behaviour and useful in decision making. The scripture therefore says: *“Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.”* – Proverbs 4:5
Wisdom is more than knowing the academic study of knowledge, thought, and the meaning of life. (i.e. philosophy). Knowledge acquired from formal education will only teach you the application of facts and figures. Unlike this knowledge, wisdom is a gift.

WHAT IS WISDOM?

This topic sets out to deal with **Divine Wisdom** although there is Earthly Wisdom. Take a look at James 3:

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.”

Job 28:28 - And he said to man, **'The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,** and to shun evil is understanding.'

Proverbs 9:10 - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

WHERE CAN WISDOM BE FOUND?

Job 28: 12-21: "But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? ¹³ Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. ¹⁴ The deep says, 'It is not in me'; the sea says, 'It is not with me.' ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air."

Ecclesiastes 7:24 reads “Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most profound—who can discover it?”

HOW TO GET WISDOM

Wisdom is a spiritual gift that is divinely imparted into man as God pleases. Read Isaiah 11:2 – “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, **the spirit of wisdom** and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;”

Have the Fear of God

Most importantly, the fear of God brings wisdom. See Psalms 111:10 - The fear of the LORD is **the beginning of wisdom:** a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Pray for wisdom

Proverbs 2:6: For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Solomon requested for wisdom to judge – 1 Kings 3:7-9. God gave him wisdom that surpassed those of his time and those after him. (verses 10-13).

Heed good advice

You will become wise/wiser as you listen to and consider: good advice.

Proverbs 13:10: Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Look at Abigail's good advice to David - 1 Samuel 25:23-35. David also remembered her as she had requested (verses 31 and 39).

Subsequent humiliation suffered by David was not avenged by David, (See 2 Samuel 10:4-5 and 2 Samuel 16:5-10) he left it for God to do. David also refused to harm Saul despite the opportunity – 1 Samuel 26:5-9.

Esther heeded Hegai's advise and thus obtained favour. – Esther 2:15

Read the Bible

Observing God's commandments and understanding the Word will certainly make one wise or wiser. David said: "Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies; for they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers; for thy testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, because I have observed thy precepts. ¹⁰¹ I have refrained my feet from every evil path, that I might keep thy word." - Psalm 119:98-101

Examples of moral excellence can be found in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

WISDOM IN RELATION TO SKILLS

God also gives wisdom in relation to skills.

See Exodus 28:3 - Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest.

See 1 Kings 7:13-14 (Hiram was brought from Tyre by king Solomon for the bronze work in the temple).

See Exodus 31:1-6 – God gave wisdom, understanding and knowledge in all manner of workmanship.

WISDOM IS A MAGNET

When you possess wisdom, it will draw people to you. It is evident in the two verses below.

1 Kings 10:8 - How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

1 Kings 10:24 - The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.

WISDOM CAN TAKE YOU TO A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Joseph's advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and all his servants – Genesis 41:37. He was appointed as Pharaoh's deputy.

Ezra instructed to appoint magistrates and judges -

Ezra 7:25 - And you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people of Trans-Euphrates—all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach any who do not know them.

Jethro advised Moses to choose men of truth and such that has the fear of God to be rulers of hundreds, fifties and tens. – Exodus 18:13-23

Please read Proverbs 22:29. Ahithophel counselled David and Absalom.

WISDOM IN DECISION MAKING

Solomon's wise judgement in 1Kings 3:23-28.

Joseph showed restraint by not sleeping with Potiphar's wife – Genesis 39:7-10.

Christ judgement with regards to the woman caught in adultery – John 8:3-10. The scribes and Pharisees tested Christ so that they may accuse him of something. But they were convicted by their conscience by the question raised in verse 7.

WISDOM WILL SAVE YOU

David dealt wisely before Achish despite the accolade; he pretended madness – 1 Samuel 21:10-15

Proverbs 2:12: Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

Proverbs 4:6: Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

Proverbs 19:8: He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers.

Ecclesiastes 7:12: Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor.

Proverbs 28:26 : He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

WISDOM'S 'HOUSEMATES'!

Proverbs 8:12: I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 11:2: When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

DON'T BOAST

Jeremiah 9:23

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,"

A FOOLISH DECISION!

Saul's foolish oath. Read 1 Samuel 14:24. A fighting army was made to fast and they became faint. They later ate meat with blood (verses 31-33).