



Where Do We Find Wisdom?

Proverbs 9:1: (NASB) *Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars.*



All you have to do is look around - what do you see? There is knowledge, there is technology, and there are people, places and things. We rush and we are impatient. We want what we want now. We text, but we don't talk. We type, but we don't write. We have "friends," but we don't touch. We have families, but we are not familiar. We build our dreams around ourselves, but we are lonely. Why is there such a massive and growing disconnect between our lives and our contentment? It is because we are not wise! We are smart, we are even savvy, but we are not wise and this is a problem!

What happened to us?

WISDOM, noun

1a: accumulated philosophic or scientific learning; knowledge

b: ability to discern inner qualities and relationships; insight

c: good sense; judgment

d: generally accepted belief



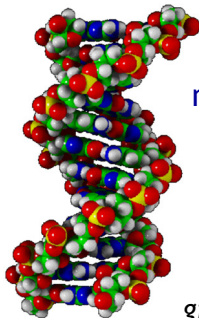
Youth sees wisdom as boring, Vice Chancellor 2011, Macquarie University (Australia)

- *As far as young people are concerned, wisdom is the province of ghost whisperers, extraterrestrials like Mr. Spock the Vulcan from Star Trek, and wizened Kung Fu sages: "Your body is the arrow; your spirit is the bow, Grasshopper." Wise people are not only seen as old, alien, and weird but also bookish, risk adverse and unemotional. No wonder young people ignore their pearls of wisdom.*

Our perception of wisdom is that it is boring and not updated!

The Scriptures explain what happened to us:

Romans 1:18-23: (NASB) ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.



The human race had ample opportunity to know and understand the massive creative ability of God. The strength, order and complexity of all of creation are before the brightest minds of men and yet all they see is their own thinking and their own doing and take all the credit for their discoveries.

²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.





Man's professions of wisdom have taken the sacred human creation in God's image and reduced it to just another animal. In so doing, we have removed heavenly accountability and replaced it with an ever-changing subjective morality.



"Subjective Morality:"
The *morality* by which you will act *changes* depending on the circumstances. What is deemed "right" changes.

Romans 1:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

With this earthborn and sin-laden brand of "wisdom," the inevitable outcome is to serve self - to find the lowest common denominator of degradation and proclaim that everyone can be truly equal and important!

And so, here we are. We have arrived at a place of information, power, speed and greed. All this and no peace or wisdom among us! Where can we find wisdom, for when we find it peace will surely follow?

Wisdom is available - we just need to be open to its deepest source:

Proverbs 9:1-6: (NASB) ¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; ²She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; ³She has sent out her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city: ⁴Whoever is naive, let him turn in here! To him who lacks understanding she says, ⁵Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding.

A "Rick" definition:

Wisdom is experience, observation and knowledge applied through the lens of integrity, justice and mercy.

So, what are the "seven pillars" on which wisdom resides?

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." - Henry David Thoreau



Good news - bad news, Our Loss of Wisdom (TED Talk), Barry Schwartz

- The good news is that you don't need to be brilliant to be wise. The bad news is that without wisdom, brilliance isn't enough. It's as likely to get you and other people into trouble as anything else.*



First, let's look at a text that defines *wisdom from above*:

James 3:13-18: (NRSV) ¹³*Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.*

What we do reflects the wisdom that we apply.

It is interesting there are seven descriptions of the *wisdom from above*:

¹⁴*But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth.* ¹⁵*Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, and devilish.* ¹⁶*For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.* ¹⁷*But the wisdom from above is first 1) pure, then 2) peaceable, 3) gentle, 4) willing to yield, 5) full of mercy and good fruits, 6) without a trace of partiality 7) or hypocrisy.* ¹⁸*And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*

Think about the *source* of the wisdom that you are applying! We hope it is coming from God's word.

Now let's look at a text that focuses on personal application of godly principles:

2 Peter 1:3-9: (NRSV) ³*His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.* ⁴*Thus He has given us, through these things, His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.*

By God's divine power, we have been given everything we need for godliness as long as we apply ourselves.

Again, the contrast between what we run from and what we are to run towards is important - seven more to add to the list to gain wisdom:

⁵*For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with 1) goodness, and goodness with 2) knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with 3) self-control, and self-control with 4) endurance, and endurance with 5) godliness, ⁷and godliness with 6) mutual affection, and mutual affection with 7) love.* ⁸*For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁹*For anyone who lacks these things is nearsighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins.*



A caller suggests that a prerequisite of true wisdom is reverence to the Lord.



Each of these lists contains seven traits and seemingly puts them in a specific order. Because the James text directly relates these to God's wisdom and Peter relates them to the *application* of spiritual knowledge, could we not look at them together as seven pillars of wisdom?

What godly wisdom is:



How it is applied:

JAMES 3:17	2 PETER 1:5-7
Pure...	...Goodness (virtue)
Peaceable...	...Knowledge
Gentle...	...Self-control
Willing to yield...	...Endurance
Full of mercy and good fruits...	...Godliness
Without a trace of partiality...	...Mutual affection
Without a trace of hypocrisy...	...Love

WISDOM

CHARACTERISTICS JAMES 3:17
HOW APPLIED 2 PETER 1:5-7





The Scripture says God's wisdom is pure - can wisdom ever be impure?

Purity and virtue are the first on these lists for a reason.

Pure: Strong's #53 hagnos (hag-nos'); properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect

God's wisdom cannot be anything but pure. If we are seeking the greatest wisdom available anywhere, it must be the purest wisdom and for that there is only one source.

The mission of Christianity is purification:

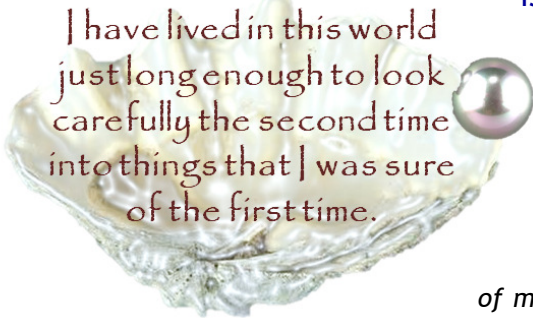
1 John 3:2-3: (NASB) ²*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.* ³*And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*



Jesus was and is the perfect example of God's wisdom applied!

Virtue: Strong's #703 arete (ar-et'-ay); manliness (valor), i.e. excellence (intrinsic or attributed)

Virtue is "moral excellence," meaning doing the right thing even when no one is looking and even when it costs you something. One cannot begin to grasp or even begin to recognize the pure wisdom from above without virtue or else this journey will be corrupted from the start.



Jesus was virtue personified:

Philippians 2:6-8: (ASV) ⁶*who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ⁷*but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men;* ⁸*and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.*

Jesus gave everything he had for the mission he faced instead of his own good.

This describes the beautiful relationship between Father and son before creation:

Proverbs 8:22-30: (NIV) ²²*The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;* ²³*I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be.* ²⁴*When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water;* ²⁵*before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,* ²⁶*before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth.* ²⁷*I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,* ²⁸*when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,* ²⁹*when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.* ³⁰*Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence.*

God's wisdom is pure and applied through moral excellence or virtue. There is a very humble quality in this first pillar.



Rules and incentives can backfire, *Our Loss of Wisdom (TED Talk), Barry Schwartz*

- Moral skill is chipped away by an overreliance on rules that deprives us of the opportunity to improvise and learn from our improvisations. And moral will is undermined by an incessant appeal to incentives that destroy our desire to do the right thing. And without intending it, by appealing to rules and incentives we are engaging on a war on wisdom.*

With too many rules and incentives in place, we lose the ability to choose the right way because it is the right way. We dumb down our motivation and act because we can gain something from it. There is no wisdom in our decisions.

"What we do for ourselves dies with us.

What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Pine

Now that we have a pure message received with moral excellence, the next pillar of wisdom is to recognize and comprehend the message:

Godly wisdom is **Peaceable**: Strong's # 1516
...we apply it through **Knowledge**: Strong's #1108

God's wisdom is peaceable in a very comprehensive sense, for His plan is a plan of peace.

Peaceable: Strong's #1516 1) relating to peace 2) peaceable, pacific, loving peace
3) bring peace with it, peaceful, salutary

Luke 2:10-14: (KJV) ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Knowledge: Strong's #1108 gnosis (gno'-sis); knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge

A deep and abiding knowledge of God's plan can be transformative - dig deep to know!

2 Timothy 3:14-17: (NRSV) ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."
- Albert Einstein

Philippians 4:7: (KJV) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."
- George Bernard Shaw

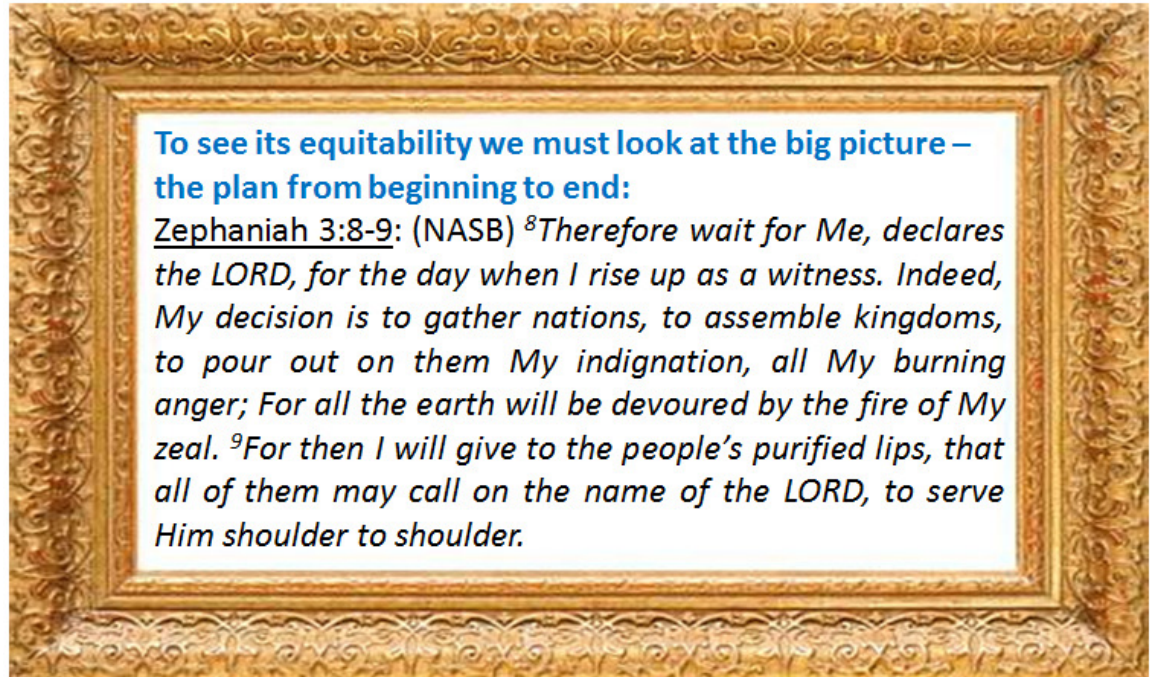




Godly wisdom is **Gentle**: Strong's #1933
...we apply it through **Self-control**: Strong's #1466

Gentle: Strong's #1933 *epieikes*; appropriate, i.e. (by implication) mild:
1) seeming, suitable 2) equitable, fair, mild, gentle

God's wisdom is suitable and equitable, as its basis is justice and mercy.



To see its equitability we must look at the big picture –
the plan from beginning to end:

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸*Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, for the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. ⁹For then I will give to the people's purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.*

Self-control: Strong's #1466 *egkrateia* (eng-krat'-i-ah); self-control (especially continence):
self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions,
especially his sensual appetites)

Because godly wisdom is equitable and a long-term proposition, it only makes sense that our application of it must pass through the gates of self-control.

To be a wise steward of God's mysteries we must learn to focus only on the plan and not on our own agenda:

John 4:31-34: (NASB) ³¹*Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, Rabbi, eat. ³²But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. ³³So the disciples were saying to one another, no one brought him anything to eat, did he? ³⁴Jesus said to them, my food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.*

The bread from heaven was a bigger priority for Jesus.

People often mistake a gentle and kind attitude for weakness. Wisdom understands this and applies the necessary self-control to rise above this miscalculation.

*"A man remains ignorant because he loves ignorance, and chooses ignorant thoughts;
a man becomes wise because he loves wisdom and chooses wise thoughts."
- James Allen, Above Life's Turmoil*



Talent and skill, Will Smith (actor)

- The separation of talent and skill is one of the greatest misunderstood concepts for people who are trying to excel, who have dreams that want to do things. Talent you have naturally. Skill is only developed by hours and hours and hours of beating on your craft. I have never really viewed myself as particularly talented. Where I excel is a ridiculous, sickening work ethic. You know, while the other guy's sleeping, I'm working. While the other guy's eating, I'm working. There's no easy way around it. No matter how talented you are, your talent is going to fail you if you're not skilled.*



Godly wisdom is willing to **Yield**: Strong's #2138
...we apply it through **Endurance**: Strong's #5281

Willing to yield: Strong's #2138 *eupitheos* (yoo-pi-thace'); good for persuasion, i.e. (intransitively) compliant 1) easily obeying, compliant

How can God's wisdom possibly obey or be compliant when it is pure, focused on peace and gentleness? Shouldn't everything have to comply with it? Godly wisdom has a curious combination of an ability to bend along the way where possible for the sake of learning, while it is still firmly focused on and not violating its vision.

1 Samuel 8:4-7: (NASB) ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; ⁵and they said to him, behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations. ⁶But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷The LORD said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

God was compliant to the desires of His people - they were wrong, He knew it, but He saw the power of the experience and went along with it.

How does humanity's appetite for experience play into the wisdom of God?

Endurance: Strong's #5281 *hupomone* (hoop-om-on-ay'); cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: steadfastness, constancy, endurance

Once we understand God's wisdom bends for the sake of teaching, though it never denies its own purpose, we realize the world will look at this and revile us for worshipping a God who allows killing, evil and innocent people to suffer. It is here that our steadfast endurance must carry us through. We must be patient as God is patient.

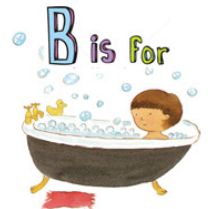
1 Peter 4:12-14: (NASB) ¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

"The primary cause of unhappiness is never the situation, but your thoughts about it." - Eckhart Tolle



Education scripts and mediocrity, Barry Schwartz, *Our Loss of Wisdom*

- *Scripted, lock-step curriculum...here's an example from Chicago kindergartens: Reading and enjoying literature and words that begin with "B," the bath. Assemble students on a rug. Give students a warning about the dangers of hot water. Say 75 items in this script to teach a 25-page picture book. All over Chicago in every kindergarten class in the city every teacher is saying the same words, in the same way, on the same day. We know why these scripts are there. We don't trust the judgment of teachers enough to let them loose on their own. Scripts like these are insurance policies against disaster, and they prevent disaster but what they assure in its place is mediocrity.*



Godly wisdom is full of **Mercy** Strongs #1656 and good fruits:
...We apply it through **Godliness**: Strongs #2150

Mercy: Strongs #1656 eleos (el'-eh-os); compassion (human or divine, especially active)

God knows that his human creation has a voracious appetite for experience and in His wisdom He has provided for that appetite to be filled within the context of sin. This allows the wisdom of His mercy to not only shine forth, but eventually be seen and embraced by all whom so choose!

2 Samuel 12:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹Thus says the LORD, behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun. ¹³Then David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said to David, The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

Godliness: Strongs #2150 eusebeia (yoo-seb'-i-ah); piety
1) reverence, respect 2) piety towards God, godliness

Upon seeing the examples of the bending, complying and mercy of God's wisdom and its ability to, in spite of all these things, bear fruit, it can be tempting to relax and rely on God's mercy to "bail us out." Not so! Wisdom demands godliness!

Romans 6:1-4: (NASB) ¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ²May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

*"Knowledge comes from learning;
wisdom comes from living."
-Anthony Douglas Williams*





Does God's wisdom really have a place for everyone?

Godly wisdom is without a trace of **Partiality**: Strong's #87
...We apply it through **Mutual Affection**: Strong's #5360

Partiality: Strong's #87 *adiakritos*; 1) undistinguished, unintelligible
2) without dubiousness, ambiguity or uncertainty

The power of the wisdom of God is truly expressed through its unambiguous end game for His plan. Jesus was the ransom for Adam and all men were under Adam, therefore all men will be under Christ. Many Old Testament prophecies speak of this end.

For example:

Psalms 72:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷May his name endure forever; May his name increase as long as the sun shines; And let men bless themselves by him; Let all nations call him blessed. ¹⁸Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders. ¹⁹And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.

Affection: Strong's #5360 *philadelphia* (fil-ad-el-fee'-ah); fraternal affection

With this wise and clear plan before us, we MUST break down the barriers between us and work together to spread the "Good News!" We have to be humble enough to be a contributor and not always having to do it our own way.

Galatians 3:26-29: (NASB) ²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. (The promise of blessing all the families of the earth.)

*"Kindness is one of the most beautiful compensations in life...
We can never help another without helping ourselves." - Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Re-moralize work, **Barry Schwartz**, *Our Loss of Wisdom*

- We ought to try to re-moralize work. One way not to do it: teach more ethics courses. There is no better way to show people that you're not serious than to tie up everything you have to say about ethics into a little package with a bow and consign it to the margins as an ethics course. What to do instead: celebrate moral exemplars.

Godly wisdom is without a trace of **Hypocrisy**: Strong's #505
We apply it through **Love**: Strong's #26

Without **Hypocrisy**: Strong's #505 *anupokritos* (an-oo-pok'-ree-tos);
unfeigned, undisguised, sincere

This final pillar of wisdom brings us back to the first - the pillar of **Purity**. Not only is God's wisdom unadulterated, it is comprehensive, just, merciful and complete, all because of God's love for His creation. God's wisdom is utterly and completely sincere - He does it because He means it!

Love: Strong's #26 *agape* (ag-ah'-pay); love, i.e. affection or benevolence;
specially (plural) a love-feast





We must grasp this sincere wisdom from above and be so taken by it that we will not hold back anything for selfish gain, but rather in benevolent love we will live our Christian calling.

Wisdom says when we do fall, we brush ourselves off and figure out how to avoid that same action in the future.

John 15:11-13,17: (NRSV) ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends...¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

"Give without remembering and receive without forgetting." - Ben Franklin

 **Lessons from 40 films, Yoda from Star Wars, Reel Wisdom**

- *Luke Skywalker: All right, I'll give it a try.*
- *Yoda: No. Try not. Do... or do not. There is no "try."*

If you want wisdom in your life, "do," don't just "try." Godly wisdom is a transformative action so that we can put our life in order.



*So, where do we find wisdom?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





"Success usually comes to those who are too busy to look for it." - Ben Franklin

"Wisdom grows in quiet places." - Austin O'Malley, Keystones of Thought

Pride's reaction to wisdom:

1 Samuel 18:5-5: (KJV) *And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.*

1 Samuel 18:12-16: (KJV) ¹²*And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. ¹³Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. ¹⁵Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.*

What King Saul was missing:

Psalms 32:8: (KJV) *I will **instruct <7919>** thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

More on wisdom:

Proverbs 16:20-25: (NRSV) ²⁰*Those who are attentive to a matter will prosper, and happy are those who trust in the LORD. ²¹The wise of heart is called perceptive, and pleasant speech increases persuasiveness. ²²Wisdom is a fountain of life to one who has it, but folly is the punishment of fools. ²³The mind of the wise makes their speech judicious, and adds persuasiveness to their lips. ²⁴Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. ²⁵Sometimes there is a way that seems to be right, but in the end it is the way to death.*

Proverbs 10:5: (KJV) *He that gathereth in summer is a **wise <7919>** son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.*

Proverbs 10:19: (KJV) *In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is **wise <7919>**.*

Jeremiah 9:24: (KJV) *But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he **understandeth <7919>** and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

Wisdom works in conjunction with understanding (insight) and both require effort:

Proverbs 4:1-7: (NRSV) ¹*Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight; ²for I give you good precepts: do not forsake my teaching. ³When I was a son with my father, tender, and my mother's favorite, ⁴he taught me, and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. ⁵Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. ⁷The beginning of wisdom is this: **Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight.***

Proverbs 16:16: (KJV) *How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get **understanding <998>** rather to be chosen than silver!*

Proverbs 23:23: (KJV) *Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and **understanding <998>**.*

The development of wisdom in the life of Jesus:

Luke 2:39-40: (NRSV) ³⁹*When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*



Luke 2:52: (NRSV) *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.*

Matthew 13:54-56: (NRSV) ⁵⁴*He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?"*

"Character is destiny." - Barbara Tuchman

The importance of wisdom to the Christian life:

Acts 6:8-10: (NRSV) ⁸*Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.*

Colossians 1:9: (KJV) *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all **wisdom <4678>** and spiritual understanding;*

Colossians: 3:16: (KJV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all **wisdom <4678>**; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

Colossians 4:5: (KJV) *Walk in **wisdom <4678>** toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*

James 1:5: (KJV) *If any of you lack **wisdom <4678>**, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*