

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING GODLY WISDOM

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“How much better to get wisdom than gold!
And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”
(Proverbs 16:16)

“Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom,
And the man *who* gains understanding;
For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver,
And her gain than fine gold.
She *is* more precious than rubies,
And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.
Length of days *is* in her right hand,
In her left hand riches and honor.
Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths *are* peace.
She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her,
And happy *are all* who ^[a]retain her.” (Proverbs 3:13-18)

In the book of Hosea we read,

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6)

Gaining godly wisdom is crucial for many reasons. Some of these include:

- **Because God’s ways are higher than our ways**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

- **Because life is full of many important choices that will greatly determine the outcome of our life**

- **Because we are living in ungodly and lawless times**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

- **Because the ways of the world are now so different to the ways of God**

- **Because God knows the bigger picture for our life and what His plans are for our future**

- **Because we have a very real adversary, the Devil, who is out to destroy the lives of people and especially the lives of Christians**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

AND

- **Because God cares about us more than any other person ever could and has our best interests in heart**

Jesus Himself said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

When asked in a dream by God what he wanted, King Solomon replied that he could have wisdom and understanding.

We see this in 2 Chronicles:

“On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, “Ask! What shall I give you?”

And Solomon said to God: “You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?” **(2 Chronicles 1:7-12)**

Like Solomon we will need God’s ongoing wisdom and knowledge to successfully fulfil His assignment for our lives here on earth

In the book of James, we also see the difference between Heavenly and Demonic wisdom;

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” **(James 3:13-16)**

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” **(James 3:17-18)**

- **Whenever God moves by His Spirit, the efforts of the Adversary will manifest in many ways in order to try and seek to stem the flow of divine grace**
- **Pure workings of the Spirit can be quickly soured if jealousy or anger is given a place**
- **Ultimately the devilish source of both envy and strife indicates satanic enterprise finding human cooperation**
- **But the wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy**
- **Employing godly wisdom in our lives will always help to bring clarity and peace to us irrespective of our circumstances and help to promote unity in our relationships with others**

- **Worldly wisdom is so often about self-promotion and looking after number one, whereas Godly wisdom will invariably be very much about helping to see others benefited and God's Kingdom being expanded through the way that we live our lives and conduct ourselves during our time here on earth**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”
(Philippians 2:5-8)

Jesus Himself said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” **(Matthew 20:25-28)**

- **It is in doing what the Apostle Paul and Jesus Himself encouraged us to do that we will also have a greater desire to seek after and to employ godly wisdom in the way that we live our lives**

I will now conclude by looking at some keys to consistently gaining godly wisdom for our lives

1) Building our lives on the word of God (Continually renewing our mind with the truth contained in God's word)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (**Romans 12:2**)

The LORD said to Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (**Joshua 1:8**)

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” (**Matthew 7:24-25**)

The Apostle Paul also wrote

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)

The Psalmist wrote, “Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (**Psalms 119:133**)

2) Having Godly mentors (The importance of having mature Christians speaking into our lives)

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.” (**Proverbs 19:20**)

In the book of Proverbs we also read, “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” (Proverbs 27:17)

3) Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit

Jesus Himself said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

4) Continually committing our plans to God. Not my will but Thy will be done. As we do this God will reveal His plans for our life to us

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

5) Prayerfully seeking God for wisdom and guidance when making decisions in life. God will give us all the wisdom that we need to do life well

In the book of James we read, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

6) When receiving counsel from others does it sit right with our spirit. The peace of God must always be our umpire when making decisions in life and when receiving counsel from others

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” (**Colossians 3:15**)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (**Romans 8:6**)

7) The importance of always having a reverential fear of God. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (**Proverbs 1:7**)

Having a reverential fear of God is to have an awe and respect for God which is reflected in a life of obedience to Him who is the wisest of all

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.” (**Proverbs 3:7-8**)

Having a healthy fear of God helps us to stay within safe perimeters and motivates us to seek after godly wisdom and to shun worldly counsel that could cause us to stumble in our walk with the Lord

8) Is the counsel that we receive from others in line with biblical values

The Psalmist wrote, “Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.” **(Psalm 119:35-36)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” **(Colossians 2:8)**

9) There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors. Getting input and wisdom from other mature Christians helps us to grow in our faith and to consistently make right choices in life. Particularly when our emotions are involved it is good to get objective advice from other mature believers

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” **(Proverbs 11:14)**

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” **(Proverbs 15:22)**

10) Are the people that are speaking into our lives successful in the areas in which they are giving advice and counsel

It is important to receive counsel from those who are successful in the areas in which they are giving counsel for

11) The importance of ALWAYS remaining humble and teachable

There is so much that we can learn from others to do life and ministry better

There is a saying that readers are leaders

Being teachable enables us to glean wisdom from other mature Christians such as Jentzen Franklin, John Hagee and Billy Graham who have led overcoming and successful Christian lives

We must always be humble enough to receive correction from others who have our best interests at heart

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.”
(Proverbs 9:8-9)

AND

12) The importance of discerning the motivations of the people giving us counsel. Not everyone has our best interests at heart. We need to have spiritual discernment in a world full of deception and lawlessness as to what counsel is from God and what is not from Him

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” **(Hebrews 5:14)**

Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit, (the Spirit of truth), is a great key to having our spiritual senses continually sharpened and sensitive so that we know what counsel from others is good and what counsel is to be rejected

Again, life is full of important choices that will greatly determine the outcome of our life here on earth so it is important that we always have discernment as to what counsel to embrace from others when making decisions