

## Acquiring Wisdom

We all know people with vast knowledge or experts in a specific area, yet they totally lack wisdom. You see, wisdom is often mistaken for knowledge, but the two significantly differ. Knowledge is the collection of facts, while wisdom is the ability to apply that knowledge to achieve the best possible outcome. In Scripture, God promises us wisdom; He offers us a way of living that is far better than the world's ways. **James 1:5:** *"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

**Proverbs 16:16:** *"How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."* But there are different kinds of wisdom. **1 Corinthians 3:19:** *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. For it is written: He is the one who catches the wise by their craftiness."* To defend our minds from Satan's deception, the wisdom of God is vital to distinguish the difference between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom. **James 3:13-17:** *"Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."* Godly wisdom honors God and begins with our deep reverence for Him, leading us to a holy life. In contrast, worldly wisdom focuses on self-pleasure rather than honoring God. With worldly wisdom, we may gain education or street smarts, which can help us navigate life's challenges. However, godly wisdom prepares us for eternity. By embracing godly wisdom, we exchange earthly values for biblical values. **1 John 2:15:** *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* God assures us that through His gift of wisdom, we will find good, acceptable, and perfect paths to walk with Him. But we must actively seek this wisdom. **Jeremiah 29:13:** *"And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."* It's not something we naturally have; we must truly desire and actively pursue it. **Proverbs 3:14-15:** *"For her [wisdom] profit is better than the profit of silver, And her produce better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, And nothing you desire compares with her."* Building our relationship with God is central to acquiring wisdom. To receive His wisdom, we must embody a humble spirit, a hungry soul, and a hearing heart. A humble spirit acknowledges, "I need God." A hungry soul expresses, "I desire God." A hearing heart commits, "I will listen to God." Finally, a heeding mind resolves, "I will do what God tells me to do." **Proverbs 3:13:** *"Blessed is a person who finds wisdom, And one who obtains understanding."*