

Wisdom For Life

Intelligence is acquiring knowledge through understanding, developing certain skills and applying it. But wisdom comes from a different place. Some wisdom comes from life's lessons. Learned from things we've done right—and we also learn from our mistakes. But the ultimate source of wisdom is God and His Word.

In the New King James Version of the Bible, the word “Wisdom” appears 227 times. It appears in 66 books, (100% of the books) with 99 of those appearances (43.61%) in the books of Job, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs. (4.55%)

The Bible defines wisdom as knowing how to apply knowledge in an understanding way. It also refers to the skill of living and making intelligent choices.

James 1:5 (NLT)

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

‘Disclaimer:’

This is Not a “genie in the Bible, holiday wish-list kind of ‘Ask Our Generous God’ and He will give it to me” kind of thing!

I wouldn’t want us or anyone to see or hear or misunderstand the words “generous God” and launch into our list of materialistic things that we may think will fulfill us and our wants. The problem with that is, if you focus your attention on material possessions, or worldly gains, you overlook the most valuable asset God makes available to you: WISDOM! His Wisdom!

Psalms 111:10 NLT

“Fear (reverence) of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom.

All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

Praise him forever!”

“There are four classes of wisdom, according to James 3:15-17: Earthly wisdom, Intellectual wisdom, Devilish wisdom and the Wisdom from above,”

- **Earthly wisdom:**

The same as common sense, Appeals to the senses and emotions, and tells people to follow their hearts.

- **Intellectual wisdom:**

As a class of wisdom, In the Bible, “intellectual wisdom” refers to not just the ability to acquire knowledge and understand complex ideas, but also applying that knowledge; to live a righteous and godly life, by aligning our thoughts and actions ‘**by and along**’ with God’s will.

- **Wisdom from above:**

As a type of wisdom, it is:

Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere.

- Reflects God.

- Tells people that the heart is deceitful above all things.

Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV — “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

- **Devilish wisdom:**

While the Wisdom from Above is characterized by purity, peace, gentleness, mercy, steadfastness, and truthfulness, the wisdom from below is earthly, unspiritual and demonic. (James 3:15 NLT) Devilish wisdom” refers to a type of worldly, self-serving “wisdom” that is characterized by selfishness, jealousy, strife, and all kinds of evil practices. Negative traits, essentially coming from the influence of the devil, as opposed to the true wisdom that comes from God which is pure, peace-loving, and merciful.

Additional types of wisdom in the Bible:

- **Worldly wisdom:**

In the Bible, worldly wisdom is the belief that satisfying our desires will make us happy.

Characteristics of worldly wisdom:

Self-seeking: Worldly wisdom is motivated by selfish ambition and a desire for power or prestige.

Appeals to the senses: Worldly wisdom appeals to our emotions and senses.

Not rooted in Fear of God: Worldly wisdom doesn’t consider God’s will.

Produces vile practices: Worldly wisdom can lead to division, alienation, uncontested acceptance of world views, doctrines, policies and other evil practices.

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (v18-19)

18 “Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world’s standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise.”

19 “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God....”

- **Godly wisdom:**

The belief that God’s knowledge is perfect and His will for us is best. (ref: Psalm 111:10)

Jeremiah 29:11-13 NLT — For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

While earthly wisdom says there are many ways to God, godly wisdom tells us in Acts 4:12 there is only one way to God, Jesus Christ.

4:12 “There is Salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus tells the story of two men who built on two different foundations. The wise man built his house upon rock. When storms came and beat upon the house, it stood firm because it was built on the right foundation. In contrast, the foolish man built his house on sand. When the same storms came, his house collapsed. Jesus said, “Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock” (v. 24 NLT).

That brings me back to the end of my opening paragraph:

“the ultimate source of wisdom is God and His Word.”

Building, managing and conducting the daily ins-and-outs of our life is different from building a house. It’s not always obvious what’s rock and what’s sand. That’s why God

wants us to pray—as often as we need to—for wisdom, whether minute by minute, hour-by-hour, day-by-day, and on and on!

Some people build their lives on a relationship that seems solid and unshakable—as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar—only to have their foundation collapse when the relationship ends. Other people build their lives and identities relying on their popularity, job security or financial security, and then might find themselves in spiritual and emotional distress and doubts, or financial hardship when the conditions of the industry or market change or collapses.

Be Wise; take God, through James 1:5 up on His Word! Pray, without hesitation, shame or guilt Asking for His wisdom. Seek tenaciously after God and His Word, and Knock, knock, knock, then knock again; He will open the door and receive you. He alone is able and will help us find the solid ground of His will, His way, in and through every situation. What we have to do is to Trust in Him and His Word, to Believe in Him and His Word, and to Ask, Seek and Knock for His purposes, His direction, His strategies and His Wisdom to walk faithfully and confidently in His Salvation.