



Church on the Rock Homer  
Tuesday Training



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# Wisdom

*Wisdom and Decision Making*  
*(Once you understand wisdom, you'll understand decision making)*



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# Wisdom

## Training Outline

- Jan. 10 - Wisdom: understanding the word
- Jan. 17 - Wisdom's vocabulary: prudence, discernment, etc.
- **Jan. 24 - Wisdom, faith, and worldview**
- Jan. 31 - Teaching wisdom and living with it



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# Wisdom

## **Examples of Wise Sayings**

Prov. 6:10, 11

Prov. 11:22

Prov. 14:30

# Wisdom

## Today's Goal

Understand how faith and wisdom are related,  
what is a worldview, and how they all  
determine how we exercise wisdom

Wisdom determines how we exercise wisdom? “To receive the instruction of wisdom” - Prov 1:3

# Wisdom

## Wisdom, Prudence, and Discretion

**Wisdom** is **foresight** informed by a godly worldview and a perspective of faith. It is believing what God says about what is good and healthy, beneficial, moral, and believing what he says about the cost involved in selecting which path to take. It is foresight based on a scriptural worldview. This foresight has a long-term view. It is focused on as far ahead as eternity.

# Wisdom

## Wisdom, Prudence, and Discretion

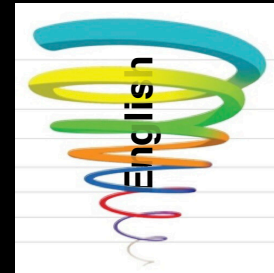
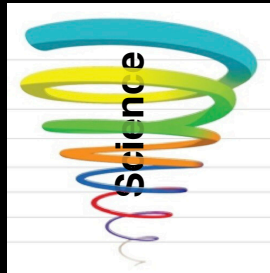
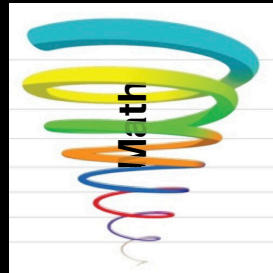
**Wisdom** is godly, biblical **foresight** believing what God says about everything. This foresight has a long-term view looking as far ahead as eternity.

**Prudence** is short-term in its view. It is focused on the next steps needed in order to get to the long-term goal. In daily life, the best route is not always direct.

**Discretion** is measuring our response to the decision we need to make. Do I go all in right now, or do I restrain my time, energy, and other resources?

# Wisdom

## The Education Cycle



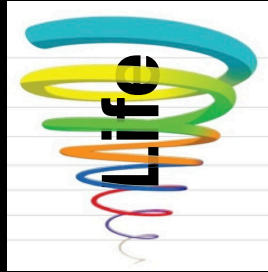
The fear of the LORD?

# Wisdom

## The Wisdom Cycle

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

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.  
(Pr 9:10)



- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction

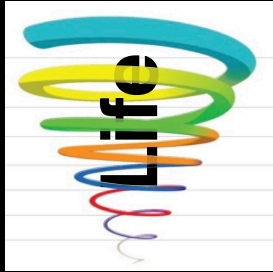


The wisdom cycle is a continuous application of more knowledge, deeper understanding, insightful discernment, and seeking after help in areas where I know I am in need. The wisdom cycle never ends.

# Wisdom

## The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction



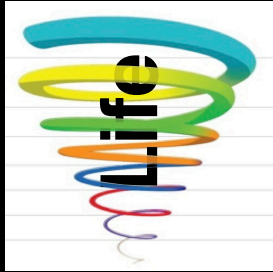
### *Instruction in Proverbs*

- Characters
  - Wise, foolish, simple, righteous, wicked, scoffer, etc.
- Situations
  - Planning, temptation, work, accountability, etc.
- Topics
  - Anger, anxiety, fighting, discipline, prayer, etc.

# Wisdom

## The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
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- Instruction



### ***Knowledge***

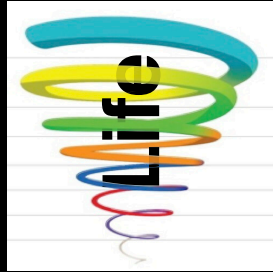
- Information (the *what*)
- Cumulative
- Learning the parts and pieces
- Cognitive and experiential



# Wisdom

## The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



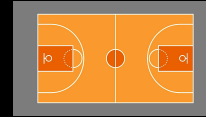
The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
- Discernment
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- Instruction



### ***Understanding***

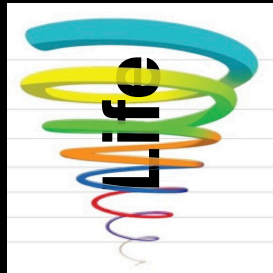
- Connecting the dots (the *how*)
- Cumulative
- Learning the ins and outs
- Cognitive and experiential



# Wisdom

## The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



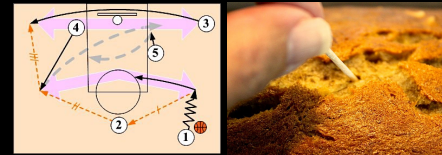
The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
- Discernment
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### ***Discernment***

- Evaluating and pinpointing
- Cumulative and developmental
- Seeing what is and what should be
- Dynamic application of understanding

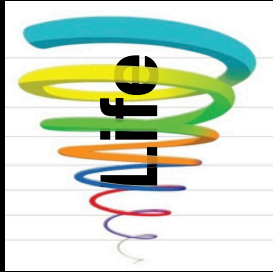


Discernment: looking at something in process and knowing what is going on, evaluating how the pieces are working based on how they should work, and then knowing what to do to correct, improve, change, or just leave alone.

# Wisdom

## The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
- Discernment
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- Knowledge
- Instruction



### ***Wisdom***

- Deciding and acting
- Cumulative and developmental
- Focused on the best outcome
- Dynamic application of discernment



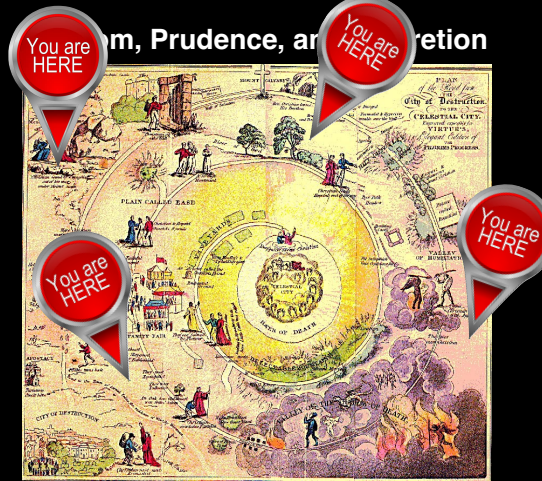
Wisdom being focused on the best outcome is where the idea of “skillful” living comes from.

Exodus 31:1-11; 35:30-35 - the manufacturing and assembly of the tabernacle and all of its pieces had to meet the specified requirements and RESULT in exactly what God ordered.

# Wisdom

om, Prudence, and Discretion

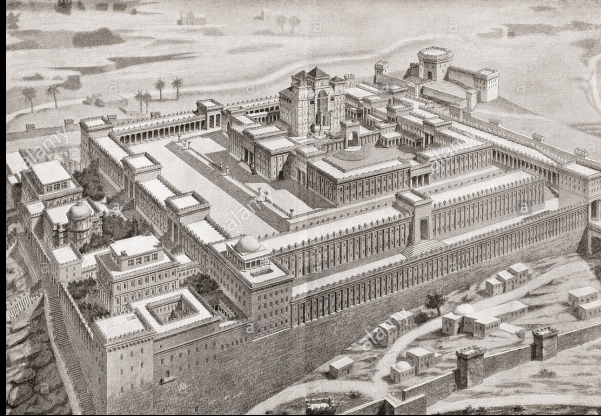
- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction



- Prudence
- Discretion

# Wisdom

## The Invitation of Wisdom (and Folly)



Proverbs 9:1-6; 13-18

- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction



Folly wants us to compromise and short-cut our way to success. The applies generally in our pursuit of wisdom, but it is a greater lesson about the pursuit of wisdom through our entire life: will we continue to seek God's best, or will we turn aside before crossing the finish line and settle for things that will not endure?

# Wisdom

## **What is Faith?**

- Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 - belief, trust, dependence
- Three parts of genuine faith
  - Knowledge of the facts
  - Agreement with the facts
  - Trust: investing dependence upon the truth of the facts

# Wisdom

## What is Faith?

- Hebrews 11:13-16
  - We are strangers and pilgrims in this world
  - Our destiny is eternal, so our discernment is done in view of what is to come
- Saved by faith (Eph 2:8) and live by faith (Gal. 2:20; 2Co 5:7)
- Instruction, knowledge, understanding from God's word - we believe and trust Him, and we depend on His faithfulness
- Faith looks to the future, and so does wisdom (foresight)
  - Faith believes and trusts God for the future
  - Wisdom acts on that faith believing the outcomes God promised

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

Answers 4 fundamental questions coherently and cohesively

- Origin - "How did life begin?"
- Meaning - "Is there meaning in life?"
- Morality - "Is there right and wrong?"
- Destiny - "What happens after you die?"

The answers to these questions help us articulate our worldview, but our actual worldview is revealed in how we live.

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Origin - "How did life begin?"
- Accidentally - "Is the existence of life on Earth a lucky fluke or an inevitable consequence of the laws of nature? ... Is it simple for life to emerge on a newly formed planet, or is it the virtually impossible product of a long series of unlikely events? Advances in fields as disparate as astronomy, planetary science and chemistry now hold promise that answers to such profound questions may be around the corner. If life turns out to have emerged multiple times in our galaxy, as scientists are hoping to discover, the path to it cannot be so hard. Moreover, if the route from chemistry to biology proves simple to traverse, the universe could be teeming with life." (Scientific American)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-did-life-begin1/>. June, 2018

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Origin - "How did life begin?"
  - Richard Dawkins: "We know the sort of event that must have happened for the origin of life—it was the origin of the first self-replicating molecule."
  - Ben Stein: "How did that happen?"
  - Richard Dawkins: "I've told you, we don't know."
  - Ben Stein: "So you have no idea how it started?"
  - Richard Dawkins: "No, nor has anybody."

<https://creation.com/origin-of-life>. July, 2019

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Heb. 11:3)

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Origin - "How did life begin?"
  - Various creation/origin of life myths
  - Intelligently by design - Genesis 1, 2
  - Creation is the work of God who exists outside of time, is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present.
  - "In the beginning" relates to the start of matter, energy, life, and time itself

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Meaning - "Is there meaning in life?"
  - What is the meaning of life? What's it all about? Who are we?
  - Why are we here? What are we here for?
  - What is the origin of life?
  - What is the nature of life? What is the nature of reality?
  - What is the purpose of life?
  - What is the significance of life?
  - What is meaningful and valuable in life?
  - What is the value of life?
  - What is the reason to live? What are we living for?
  - Humanistic version: what is the meaning of *my* life?

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Meaning - "Is there meaning in life?"
  - Westminster Shorter Catechism:
    - Q. What is the chief end of man?
    - A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36; John 17:22-24)
  - Ecclesiastes 2:24-26
  - Psalm 8
  - Philippians 1:21

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Morality - "Is there right and wrong?"
  - Our world today
    - No - it's all subjective
    - Yes - it's all subjective. As long as you don't tell me I'm doing anything wrong, you're right.
  - Scripture
    - God is good and the measure of all goodness - morality is objective
    - Sin has corrupted the world and the heart of mankind (Jer. 17:9)
    - Proverbs 1 - justice, judgment, equity, sinners, evil, greedy
    - Micah 6:8

# Wisdom

## What is a Worldview?

- Destiny - "What happens after you die?"
  - Nihilism
    - The philosophical viewpoint that denies or lacks belief in any or all of the reputedly meaningful aspects of life
    - There is no afterlife; you just cease to exist
  - After death experiences - all over the map
- Scripture
  - Life is everlasting - it has a beginning but no end
  - Heb. 9:27
  - Phil. 1:21

# Wisdom

## **What is a Worldview?**

A biblical worldview can be summed up as...

God created the world and mankind (origin) for His glory and in His image, giving us the opportunity of fellowship with Him and each other, redeeming us to Himself and equipping us to live for Him as His representatives (purpose), displaying His character (morality), being sure of and inviting others to accept His provision of eternal life (destiny).

This gives us direction for life, an eternal perspective, an understanding of objective morality, and a guide for determining values. Our worldview teaches us how to think.

# Wisdom

## **What is a Worldview?**

A biblical worldview includes the need for continuous transformation in order to think more and more like Christ

Phil. 2:5 - "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"

Phil. 3:12-14 - "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

# Wisdom

## **What is a Worldview?**

A biblical worldview includes the need for continuous transformation in order to think more and more like Christ

Rom. 12:1-2 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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."

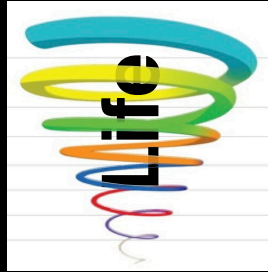
# Wisdom

## Faith, Wisdom, and Worldview

### Biblical Worldview

- God is trustworthy
- Eternal perspective
- I believe what He says about ... everything
- I am accountable to Him
- Given what He says about \_\_\_\_ (my knowledge and understanding), I see that the godly choice is \_\_\_\_

### James 1:2-8



### Worldly Worldview

- God doesn't matter
- Lifetime perspective
- I believe what I can understand
- I am accountable to ?
- Given my knowledge and understanding, I see that the best choice is \_\_\_\_

"let him ask of God" = "I don't have the knowledge and understanding to discern this..."

Worldly wisdom works just like godly wisdom but with different goals, values, and a different basis of faith. Faith is going to be tested even if you're an unbeliever. Your worldview will be challenged. You will be in a position of making evaluations and decisions. A worldly worldview may be easily shattered, or it may hold up well if it values biblical values. This shows that wisdom and faith are a part of life in general. Let's look at what Jesus had to say about "good" worldly wisdom.

# Wisdom

## Faith, Wisdom, and Worldview

- Wisdom of this world does have value in some areas
  - Matt 10:16
  - Luke 16:1-13 (v. 8)
  - *Shrewd* (NKJV) - understanding associated with insight and wisdom, sensible, thoughtful, prudent, wise
- Sometimes the prudent thing to do, in order to achieve the wise, long-term outcome, is to take advantage of an immediate opportunity

Matt 10:16 - Know how the world works. Don't be naive or gullible.

Luke 13: you can't serve two masters; Jesus says to USE unrighteous mammon in order to SERVE our true master.

"Take advantage" does not mean sin, it means to recognize an opportunity and use it for the best outcome. Be shrewd, understand how the world works, and in faithful service to God, act wisely to His glory.

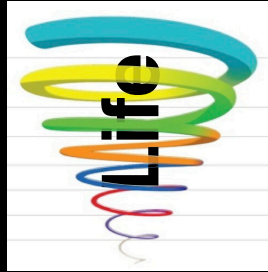
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### James 1:2-8



### Lacking Wisdom

- Wisdom is directly linked to faith, so James warns about doubt
- Remember sources of wisdom: observations and experience, instruction, mistakes, God
- Identify the need and find help

"let him ask of God" = "I don't have the knowledge and understanding to discern this..."

# Wisdom

## Another Reason Wisdom Cries Out in the Streets

- **Proverbs**
  - Instructions and insights for life
  - Principles about people, situations, and topics
- **Ecclesiastes**
  - Finding fulfillment of all biblical values while “under the sun” isn’t going to happen completely
  - It is best to live wisely
  - Enjoyment in life is found in not expecting too much from it “under the sun”
- **Job**
  - There is more to life than we can imagine
  - Humility before God is our best response to life
- **Ephesians 3:10**

# Wisdom

## **Faith, Wisdom, and Worldview**

Applying understanding and discernment in light of God's Word, having eternal values and eternity itself in view, wisdom makes its choice. Faith looks to the future with confidence that God is trustworthy. He will fulfill His promises. Wisdom acts on that belief, trusting that the outcomes of decisions will be as God promised, even if we don't see the eternal outcomes in our lifetime (Heb. 11:13-16). Through faithful dependence on God and His Word, we can ask for wisdom when we're not sure which choice is best.

Asking God for wisdom - that means we don't turn away from those he sends to bring us help, to help us know better, understand more, and discern with a greater capacity.



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