



Seven wisdom principles

Some of you may have seen the film "Seven", starring Brad Pitt, which exposed in detail the so-called 'seven deadly sins' with which we are all tempted.

However, instead of focussing on seven negatives, I'd like to introduce you to seven positives, to seven key principles of wisdom, which if you accept them and follow them, I guarantee you will begin to experience a joy & freedom in your life which you perhaps never thought possible!

1. Design. Most people do not accept the way God made them. They believe they are either too tall or too short, too dark or too light, or they may think their hair is too straight or too curly. Every relationship in life will be affected by how we view ourselves. If we reject our design, it will be difficult to trust our Designer. If a husband rejects himself, he will find it difficult to accept his wife. If a teenager wants to change the way he/she was made, they will feel inadequate and inferior.

2. Authority. The key to understanding authority is identifying four areas of God-ordained jurisdiction: parents, government, church leaders, and employers. When a decision is to be made, we must ask, "Whose jurisdiction is this under?" God gives direction, protection, and provision through human authorities. If we rebel against them, we expose ourselves to the destruction of evil principalities¹, who take jurisdiction over specific places and people. This is why the Bible says "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft."²

3. Responsibility. Each one of us is responsible to God for all our thoughts, words, actions, attitudes and motives. We need to take action and ask for

**Wisdom is the principal thing;
therefore get wisdom.**

**And in all your getting, get
understanding...**

**The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of wisdom, and the
knowledge of the Holy One is
understanding."**

Proverbs 4:7; 9:10

(1) 2Timothy 2:24-26; Ephesians 6:12; 2Corinthians 4:3,4. (2) 1Samuel 15:23.

forgiveness in order to clear up every past offence against God and others so that we can gain a clear conscience. A good conscience is the ability to look every person in the eye and know that not one of them can point a finger and say, "You offended me and never tried to make it right." Each of us is to "... have a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men"³ so that we don't make shipwreck of our lives!⁴

4. Suffering. Suffering can be God's loving reminder that we have violated His ways: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn your decrees".⁵ Suffering can be motivation for spiritual growth⁶, and is also preparation for future leadership⁷. Suffering forces us to stop sinning: "... he that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin".⁸ Suffering is also God's way of drawing others to Himself: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."⁹ We, too, should therefore 'endure suffering' when another person offends us.

5. Ownership. Everything we have or will have is entrusted to us by God and is to be used in ways that will benefit God and the lives of others.¹⁰ Therefore, we need to yield all of our so-called 'rights' to God, for He is the true owner of everything, and He is the one who is truly in charge in this universe. When we give all our rights and expectations to God, we will then be able to conquer the cause of anger, worry, and irritations, because these only occur when rights we hold on to are violated! We are then free to trust God in every situation, for He will then look after 'our rights'!

6. Freedom. Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the power to do what we ought. The Bible says that to be free from the Law of God is to be enslaved to sin, but to be servants of what is good is to be free from the bondage of sin.¹¹ The key to freedom is learning how to listen to and obey God's promptings in life, and to live in the victory over sin that Christ has already won through His death, burial, and resurrection.¹²

7. Success. The principle of success involves building God's Word into every aspect of our being so we can receive His direction for every decision.¹³ It is only by accomplishing the purposes for which God created us that we experience true fulfillment and success in life!

The above seven principles are universal and non-optional. The reason we experience conflict and pain in our relationships is because we violate these 7 principles.

Let me finish with a few questions:

- *Have you thanked God for your design and how God made you?*
- *Are you honoring your authorities?*
- *Do you have a clear conscience?*
- *Have you forgiven those who have offended you?*
- *Have you yielded all your rights to God?*
- *Are you free from immorality?*
- *Are you reading and studying the Bible?*

Please contact me if you would like help with any of the above issues.

(3) Acts 24:16. (4) 1Timothy 1:19. (5) Psalm 119:71. (6) 1Peter 5:10. (7) 2Timothy 2:12. (8) 1Peter 4:1. (9) 1Peter 3:18. (10) 1Peter 4:10. (11) Romans 6:16-22. (12) Romans 8:1-27. (13) Psalm 1:2,3.

The Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A SUBJECTIVE person came along and said:

'I feel for you down there.'

An OBJECTIVE person came along and said:

'It's logical that someone will fall down there.'

A RELIGIOUS person said"

'Only bad people fall into a pit.'

A MATHEMATICIAN

calculated how he fell into the pit.

A NEWS REPORTER

wanted the exclusive story on his pit.

A FUNDAMENTALIST said:

'You deserve your pit.'

A TAXMAN

asked if he was paying taxes on his pit.

A SELF-PITYING person said:

'You haven't seen anything until you've seen MY PIT!'

A CHARISMATIC said:

'Just confess that you're not in a pit.'

An OPTIMIST said:

'Things could get worse.'

A PESSIMIST said:

'Things will get worse!'

JESUS, seeing the man, took him by the hand and LIFTED HIM OUT of the pit.

Let us be like Jesus!

My Answer

Q: "Dear Chaplain, if God made the world, then who made God?"

A: The very first words in the Bible say "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."¹ Before this universe ever existed, God was.

The Bible also goes on to tell us that God always has been, and always will be. He is eternal, and never had a beginning and never will have an end. He is Spirit², and is everywhere at the same time³, and is not confined to the physical limitations of this universe.

The amazing thing is that God speaks to us in words and language that we can understand, and many of these words are in the Bible. In it, we can read God saying this about Himself: "Before me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and besides me there is no saviour."⁴

On one occasion Moses asked God what His name was, and God replied, "I AM WHO I AM".⁵ This again confirms what we have already said - that God is the great 'I AM', without beginning or end.

So who made God? No-one. The Bible reveals to us that God always has been and always will be. He is.

Thought for the month

"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic."

News & Events

* **CELEBRATION SUNDAYS!** We are one step closer to having a public "Church Service" with a difference! Permission has been granted to use the school hall of PNE Primary from 4pm to 8pm on Sundays, the cost being \$18/hr (a total of \$72/wk). If you come, would you be willing to contribute, say, \$2/wk to cover costs?? I am now trying to finalize groups of musicians to be able to come along and help us. More details in my next newsletter.

* **Sunday worship.** Currently every Sunday at 11am I meet with a few people in my home or theirs, and we sing, talk, pray, and have Holy Communion together. If you would like to join with us, your are welcome! Please ring me for more details.

Did you know ...

... a rhinoceros can run more than 60 km per hour?

... Little Bo Peep did it for the insurance?

... A closed mouth gathers no feet?

* **Questions?** If you have any questions you'd like me to address in the "My Answer" column of this newsletter, please ring me, or write to the address below.

* **Prayer for Healing.** If you would really like some people to pray for you or others you know about problems in life, whether physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual, there are people who are willing to do just that. Please contact me about this.

* **FREE Booklet!** If you would like a copy of my free booklet "Building a better life: a pocket-guide for Christian living", just call me! It addresses the six core aspects of human living, and gives the Bible's answers for how to live well.

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