

WISDOM— SEEK AND USE

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First, a definition of wisdom, a four-word definition that I have chosen is: “Knowledge manifested by understanding.” Next I want to analyze, in part, the biblical details as to the need of man and the application to the meaning in one’s life, their walk, and way of life on this good earth, which God gave man dominion over, and blessed him.

Please think with me as we study together of our responsibilities, of the blessings we enjoy as we “seek to use” and be accountable for wisdom, which is a blessing of God.

According to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, wisdom is first used in God’s word in the Old Testament in Exodus 28:3. The word (wise), an akin word, that is to say, having similar qualities, is used in scripture beginning first in Genesis 3:6.

It will be necessary, (by the dictates of my heart anyway), to define many words in this study of wisdom. This will be a great help in learning as much or all that we can learn in order to have the greatest appreciation and to receive the blessing inherent in “knowing.” To know, realize, and accept, we then can manifest the blessings of wisdom. It will be worth the time and of great value to look to the akin words and yes, define and give characteristics of them.

Look at the first word of the above definition of wisdom, and note that it is knowledge. Defining words can vary and the reason for that is...it depends on the chosen word’s unique meaning. A chosen definition of (knowledge) I am using is, “The act or state of knowing.” To know is to have a clear perception or understanding of; to be sure of or well-informed about; to know the facts; to be aware or cognizant of.

I’m hoping that gives a good picture for us. Well, I found one more that I’d like to give you. It is said that knowledge is the sum of what is known. You see, if we take all the good knowledge of God’s word, guide it by understanding, our life, our walk with God, will be as He has commanded, then we are manifesting wisdom in our action. That’s what we are supposed to do! Do you agree?

I will continue by listing and defining some akin words, and to me that is a good way to add to one’s knowledge...provided I get it right. I’m trying, so here goes!

Skill: The ability to use one’s knowledge effectively and readily in execution or performance; a learned power of doing something competently.

Skilled: Having acquired mastery of a skill in something (as technique or a trade). [Sounds like wisdom to me].

Wise: Characterized by wisdom; marked by deep understanding, keen discernment and a capacity for sound judgment.

Wise suggest great understanding of people and of situations and unusual discernment and judgment in dealing with them.

Synonym – Judicious; prudent; sensible; and sane; which means, having or showing sound judgment.

(Hyperbole: Extravagant, exaggeration <“mile-high ice-cream cones” is an example of ~ >

Extravagant: exceeding the limits of reason or necessity <~ Claims >

Wisdom should be an attribute to all of us. We can know (have knowledge) and it be guided by understanding. It is well and needful to know the source(s) of wisdom. God, through Moses, commanded obedience of Israel to listen carefully (that is to hear) the statutes and the rules, and do them.

The greatest source of wisdom is God's Law, given to man by His word and Spirit (Exodus 31:3; Deut. 4:6). We must know also that it takes diligence to follow the way of God. No one ever lives the holy life in wisdom by accident. A good life and the reward of salvation are at stake.

It has been said, and I agree, that wisdom, the understanding of reality, belongs to God alone and that the essence of wisdom is submission to Him and obedience to His revealed principles.

Man does not know the value of wisdom (Job 28:13). Worldly men seek wisdom in order to control the world. Without wisdom, man will not be successful in finding what is spiritually hidden even though it is infinitely more valuable than any mineral or gem. This is the thought of Job 28:15-19.

We are told in (Job 28:24-27 that God employed wisdom in creating the world and directing four mysterious forces: Wind, water, rain, and thunderbolt. *"For He looked to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens, to establish a weight for the wind, and apportion the water by measure. When He made a law for the rain, and a path for the thunderbolt, then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out"* (Job 28:24-27). *"And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding' "* (Job 28:28).

"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding" (Proverbs 3:13). Happy literally means blessed. How blessed is the blessedness of man who finds wisdom? *"Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor"* (Proverbs 3:16). *"Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace"* (Proverbs 3:17).

The blessedness of wisdom is reiterated in Proverbs 4:5-13 and points out to us that learning without the gain of wisdom is a waste, and admonishes us to *"Take firm hold of instructions, do not let go: Keep her (wisdom) for she is your life"* (Proverbs 4:13). The question repeated: How blessed is the blessedness of the man who finds wisdom?

Wisdom is valuable and benefits us. We are admonished to "pay attention," "lend an ear to understanding", that you may preserve discretion, that you may keep, (retain) knowledge. (Discretion defined: The freedom to make decisions and choices. I am confident they can be the right decisions and choices if they are made through the help of the Lord in prayer, study, and guidance of the WORD. That would be the proper action on ones' part regardless of the situation.

Look with me to the Book of James, (which as been referred to as the Proverbs of the New Testament). In James 3:13, beginning, he asked, *"Who is wise and understanding among you?"* As is often said, the bottom line of the question is a contrast between the wisdom that God gives and the wisdom of pitiful man.

James is speaking to or about the wisdom from above needed to us in multiplicity of situations and conditions of brethren such as: Testing of our faith, hearing and doing the word,

the sin of partiality, faith without works, boasting, the rich, patients in suffering, and the prayers of faith. Truly it is pathetic, and for sure we all benefit in the gain and use of wisdom and understanding. With God's help, which is available, we can do all through Christ, which strengthens us!

Other ways, and I will site three, wisdom is of benefit to us as explained in Ecclesiastes.

First, note that wisdom excels folly. *"I, the Preacher, was King over Israel in Jerusalem. And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; This burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised (Ecclesiastes 2:12-13 – NKJV).* No folly there I would say.

Have you taken note of the words, which identify folly? Words, such as indiscretion, unskilfulness, incompetence, mismanagement, and one more that I found, and that is, stupidity. But please note also in the verse the Preacher used the words seek and search, which are very meaningful.

There was a note in my Bible that explained that the Hebrew words translated seek and search is emphatic, they indicate serious unrelenting enquiry. That to me is the way to obtain wisdom. I am saying that strong perseverance is needed in any effort. I am thinking that is what I need. The Body of Christ needs it too.

Second, note with me that wisdom strengthens us (Ecclesiastes 7:19). Our acceptance of duty and responsibility and undertaking of them, depending on God, and we will be given both guidance and power. Strength, knowledge, and wisdom, are in fact attributes/talents, and are tools of the wise. They come from God. Man must reflect wisely on the brevity of live.

Third, note with me now that wisdom produces good fruit. *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in meekness of wisdom. 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"* (James 3:13,17).

Let good conduct (our behavior; what we think and do) be that of a true Christians. Proof of wisdom is in what we do, how we act, and our stability. Meekness of wisdom is humility that is born of being Christ-like.

In using our talents to the glory of God and increasing them by guiding them in wisdom and knowledge, we must acknowledge that stability is also a needed attribute. *"Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times and the strength of salvation..."* (Isaiah 23:6). Note the blessings, which can be gleaned from some of the words from that verse of scripture.

There is needed strength of knowledge that can gain from the study of the principles of the lessons embedded in the word "stability" and also the "strength of salvation." Give thought to some synonyms of stability such as: constancy; steadiness; firmness; permanence; and strength. Please give serious thought to them.

Think of how much love, desire, determination, and Will that can and should come to us by the study and application of His Word in our walk with the Lord...What a blessing!

We must avoid and or guard against the trust that could come to us who would trust in human wisdom, and that is referred to in the Word as “the wise.” That is to say, “They are not wise.” Their wisdom is not from “above.” They are false teachers. *“Their wisdom will perish”* (Isaiah 29:14). Woe unto them!

Read 1 Corinthians 1:19-21. It tells of those who trust only in human wisdom. God made foolish the wisdom of the world. We are told that the world through wisdom did not know God. It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believed.

The Apostle Paul prayed a prayer for Spiritual Insight for the saints who were in Ephesus. The words of that prayer is set forth here for our admonishment as it is so beneficial for us in this study. Paul said in, *“...making mention of you in my prayer: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at HIS right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come”* (Ephesians 1:16-21).

Wisdom is ours in this age. It is ours by the revelation of God Word. We must be thankful for His word. We must know His word and let it direct our steps. It has been noted that the power, which works in us who believe, is the same power, which God worked in Christ. How can we fail to have spiritual victory if we allow this power to fill our lives?

Summary and Conclusion:

Wisdom is described as the most desired possession of humankind. He who gets wisdom pleases both God and people, live successfully in this life and *“obtains favor from the LORD”* (Proverbs 8:35).

Wisdom is the key word of the book of Proverbs and it is said that it basically means “skill in living.” It is used in the Old Testament to refer to a physical skill such as tailoring (Exodus 28:3), metalwork and woodwork (Exodus 31:3-6), spinning (Exodus 35:35), and warfare (Is. 10:13).

Used metaphorically, as in Proverbs, it refers to the skill to live life successfully. *“Instructions”* (Proverbs 1:2) refers to moral discipline of one’s life, not to classroom instructions.

“Understanding” (Proverbs 1:2) means the capability to distinguish between true and false, good and bad, what matters most, and what does not matter at all.

In Proverbs 1:3 wisdom is a different Hebrew word from that used in Proverbs 1:2, which means “wise behavior”, “wise dealing”, and “good sense.” The discernment of these is great ingredients in guiding lives in wisdom and understanding.

To perceive the words of understanding please give pause to this, "The wise man will hear and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain wise counsel" (Proverbs 1:5). Proverbs 1:7 says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...*" In Proverbs 2 we are guided to know the reward of heeding wisdom as v. 2:5 says, "*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find knowledge of God.*"

In a commentary observation it is said: "The fear of the LORD means submission to the LORD and His revelation. (Not only is that's powerful it is demanding)! When one is afraid of something, he either runs from it or submits to it. The latter idea is in view here. It is a healthy fear, like the fear of electricity or the fear of one's parents, which causes one to act in an appropriate manner."

The same is true in our fear of the LORD. We must fear Him in faith, love and submission, and let His wisdom be as much a part of us as possible and know (not) to follow our own intuition. It is said, "The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Corinthians 1:25).

"*Consider your calling, not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called*" (1 Corinthians 1:26). "*...Christ Jesus became for us wisdom from God--and redemption--that, as it is written, he who glories, let him glory in the LORD*" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

"*IF ANY OF YOU LACK WISDOM, LET HIM ASK OF GOD...*" (James 1:5). (That is great responsibility on man's part).

Now that you have read and studied this lesson, why not pray for increased wisdom and that we gain knowledge, manifested by understanding. My prayer is that you will.

I was blessed in preparing this study and I am very thankful for you having studied along with me. May it be a blessing to you is my prayer?

God bless and have a wonderful and dedicated life in HIS service.

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