**Wisdom – Think About It**

**The Missing Link – Part 1**

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You are wiser than you think!

# **Sermon Description**

The quest for knowledge and information is a major motivator today, but how many people place the same emphasis on gaining wisdom? Sadly, too many are more than comfortable stopping at knowledge without taking the next step of growth and development.

Wisdom is the right application of knowledge.

Without wisdom knowledge is not only useless it can be downright dangerous. Through wisdom, we gain understanding and prudence. It allows us to make sound decisions and it keeps us from folly.

We begin our journey on the path of wisdom by fearing the Lord.

**Main Passage**

**Proverbs 4:5**

Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

**Proverbs 4:6**

Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you.

**Proverbs 4:7**

Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

**Wisdom from Above**

**James 3:13-18**

13 If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. 15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. 16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. (NLT)

# **Prayer**

*Father I pray that you would give me wisdom today, but this divine attribute would infiltrate every part of my heart, soul and mind, I pray that you will give me accurate perspective, and the ability to make sound decisions.*

# **Transition Statement**

We live in the age of information and knowledge; however, people have not kept up with their wisdom. In fact, people have more information and less wisdom on how to apply it, it seems.

# **Main Points**

Wisdom is from the Holy Spirit.

**1Corinthians 2:6-7**

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory…

JESUS is the ULTIMATE WISDOM OF GOD

1. **What is Wisdom?**
2. Definition: Wisdom is about:
* The right application of knowledge
* The ability to learn inner qualities and relationships
* Prudence
* Perspective
* Sound judgements
* Philosophical learning
* Wisdom is a gift of Holy Spirit.

**1Corinthians 12:8**

…for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit…

1. Three types of Wisdom in the Bible:
* From God – pure
* From the demonic – sensual and devilish
* From the world – self-serving, sinful and evil.

**Proverbs 8:12**

"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion.

**Proverbs 8:14**

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.

**Wisdom from Above**

**James 3:17**

“first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy”.

* Wisdom must be given by God (1:5)
* He is the source of all truth
* Such wisdom favors
* Humility (1:9)
* Meekness (1:21)
* Gentleness (3:13)
* Peace (3:18)
* Patience (5:7-8)
* It promotes endurance in trials (1:3-4)
* It involves controlling one’s tongue (1:26)
* Being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger (1:19).
1. **If God created His world by wisdom, should we do the same?**
2. God’s wisdom is foundational to the creation of the world. Everything He does is because He is a wise God and a wise King and a wise leader. We live by the wisdom of His word and knowledge.

**Proverbs 8:22-31**

22“The LORD formed me from the beginning, before he created anything else. 23I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began. 24I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters. 25Before the mountains were formed, before the hills, I was born— 26before he had made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil. 27I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans.

28I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth.

29I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth’s foundations, 30I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence. 31And how happy I was with the world he created; how I rejoiced with the human family!

1. The missing piece to building your world is wisdom
2. We build by coming to the SOURCE of all wisdom
3. Build your world walking in:
* Truth
* Love
* Wisdom
* Forgiveness
1. Don’t live only for today, but rather, live for eternity
2. God is wiser – He knows better – don’t reject His wisdom
3. Jesus grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52)
4. *“People settle for the status quo, because they lack wisdom”.*
5. **How do we obtain wisdom?**
6. We live in the age of information, statistics, data, and answers are easy to come by in our day. In fact, most times it is a few clicks away on a computer or on an electronic device.

Answers are quickly available, and, in some ways, this has become detrimental because people no longer must think for themselves. However, information does not make you wise, in some cases it makes you proud and puffed up.

What is the difference between information, knowledge, and wisdom?

We have a great deal of knowledge but very poor application. Often all this information is misapplied or used in the wrong way.

Our main desire should be to learn and to acquire understanding, the source of the search should be the Bible, the word of God, the word of wisdom.

**Proverbs 2:6-8**

6For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His

1. How do we obtain wisdom?

Wisdom is an attribute of God that is available to everyone. It literally calls out in the streets and invites anybody and everybody to partake.

* We tap into wisdom – wisdom calls out in the streets
* We grow in wisdom – Jesus grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52)
* We receive wisdom in experience – we learn
* We ask for wisdom – James communicates that God provides
* It is a gift of the Holy Spirit

**1Corinthians 12:8**

…for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, saints.

1. **How is wisdom literature a therapist and a counselor?**
2. God has dedicated certain books of the Bible that are focussed primarily on providing us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Furthermore, they give the human heart healing and provide us with the path of truth so that we will be healthy.
3. The books of wisdom speak to us and they:
* Provide clarity of thought and perspective
* Wash our mind and soul
* Restore our faith
* Empower us with grace
* Affirm our identity in Christ.
1. Books of wisdom
* Proverbs
* Ecclesiastes
* Job
* Psalms
* Song of Solomon.
1. The scriptures provide us with:
* God’s truth
* God’s ways
* Insight and understanding
* The mind of Christ
* Healing for our hearts and souls
* Comfort
* Peace and calms the mind
* The Word that washes us
* Perspective.

# **Quotes**

* *“Smart people can make foolish decisions”*
* *“The wise get wiser and the foolish become more foolish”*
* *“It’s not that God has wisdom, God created wisdom, He created through wisdom, wisdom comes from God”*
* *“It’s never too late to make a wise decision”*
* *“Wise people place more trust in God than they do in themselves”*
* *“Wise decisions lead to blessings, unwise decisions lead to ruin”*
* *“The decisions of the unwise become their calamity”*
* *“Wisdom is that virtue that saves you from requiring it in the first place”. ~unknown*

# **Conclusion**

**Proverbs 1:7**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Group Questions & Discussion**

1. Explain the difference between wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. How do we apply all three of these within our daily lives?
2. Give an example of how you use the wisdom to build your world and the difference that it made.
3. Provide further examples of how the books of wisdom are an amazing therapist and counsellor.
4. Explain why God gives more wisdom to the wise.
5. How is the book of Proverbs like a teacher?
6. What does it mean that God created a world of cause and effect?
7. Provide an example of a wise and a foolish decision.
8. Explain the difference between wisdom that comes from above, wisdom that is demonic and wisdom that comes for the world.