

# Pursuing Wisdom

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Proverbs 8:6-21

When Solomon became King, succeeding his father David, "That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, ***"Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*** [2 Chron. 1:7].

Wow! What would you ask for? God offered to give Solomon 'whatever you want'. If you could have anything or pursue anything in this life, what would it be? Here is Solomon's

answer ***"Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people" ...*** [2 Chron. 1:11.]

Wisdom can't be reduced to possessing knowledge. We've got to do something with that knowledge, and we've got to do it in a way that navigates the complexities of the world in which we live. There are many 'book smart' people who possess lots of knowledge. But it is by pursuing God, that we find how to apply knowledge in a way that pleases Him and fills our lives with joy.

When we pursue God, we find His words right, truthful, lacking any deception and perversion – a stark contrast to the speech of people in the world today! \ we grow in the Lord, so too will our wisdom. We are offered the promise of wisdom, ***"those who search for me find me"*** [Prov. 8:17]. Followers of Jesus enter into relationship with Him. This involves a dynamic relationship with the Holy Spirit living in us, sanctifying us daily. Will we trade in the fading treasures of this world for the true riches of God's wisdom? [excerpts by Manny Prieto]

## Valuable (Proverbs 8:6-11)

- Solomon personified wisdom as a virtuous woman as he showed his son the need to follow the way of God's wisdom and to avoid the path of foolish choices.
  - Wisdom: ***"I will speak ... opening my lips ... my mouth shall speak truth ..."***
- Solomon tells his son to hear; to respect God's wisdom and treat it like a precious treasure.
- She devotes herself to excellent things, nothing more than truth would be uttered from her lips.
  - Wisdom wouldn't have anything to do with lies, she refuses to give wickedness a voice.
    - ***"All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse."***
- When we study scripture, we become more perceptive. Our sense of discernment matures.
  - That's when we find knowledge from God to be "plain talk", a right understanding.
- Solomon calls on his son to embrace God's wisdom – wisdom is priceless!
  - ***"Receive my instruction, not silver"*** – instruction is education by being corrected.
  - ***"Choose knowledge, not gold"*** – we pursue what our heart treasures. Choose wisely. Precious metals (not even silver and gold) can buy eternal security.
  - ***"Rubies cannot compare to the value of God's wisdom."***
- Growing Christians desire God's wisdom above everything else.
  - **Why does the light of truth sometimes flicker dimly before we it shines brightly enough for us to see it plainly and clearly?**
  - **What do you cherish most about God's wisdom?**

IF ANY OF YOU LACKS  
**WISDOM**  
YOU SHOULD ASK GOD



GOD SAID TO SOLOMON  
Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king....



HOW MUCH BETTER TO GET WISDOM THAN GOLD, TO CHOOSE UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN SILVER! PROVERBS 16:16

## **Powerful** (Proverbs 8:12-16)

- *“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence;  
I possess knowledge and discretion.”*
    - The Hebrew word prudence suggests foresight. Foresight is essential to developing a plan for success in life.
  - Wisdom wants us to know she possesses knowledge.
    - Does this mean she has read widely and has vast knowledge on a variety of topics?
      - No. Instead, she conveys that she has a deep and abiding knowledge of truth.
      - She possesses the discretion to make sound judgments based on truth.
  - Where do these virtues come from?
    - “The fear of the Lord ...”
      - ... is the beginning of knowledge [Prov. 1:7]
      - ... is the beginning of wisdom [Prov 9:10]
  - But verse 13 tells us **“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil ...”**
  - To fear God means to love God.
    - We love what God loves and detest what He detests.
    - For this reason, those who value God’s wisdom would hate evil.
  - The Hebrew verbs love and hate are more than strong feelings. They are accompanied by choices and actions. To ‘*fear of the Lord*’ involves choosing to reject any and all actions opposed to His character: arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech.
  - Unlike today, a government leader of early times (kings, nobles, princes,...) held all three executive, legislative and judicial roles.
    - Solomon knew he could only be a good king if he pursued God’s wisdom.
- **Which area of your life do you desire more wisdom?**
- **Does today’s society embrace the idea of rejecting evil?**



## **Obtainable** (Proverbs 8:17-21)

- Wisdom speaks **“I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.”**
    - God gives wisdom to believers who ask Him for it (see James 1:5; Hebrews 11:6)
  - Many people today seek riches of silver, gold and jewels. But God’s wisdom provides riches that are durable and righteous – better than fine gold.
    - Because of the blessing that being wise in the Lord can render, we should devote ourselves to Him, seek His wisdom, and live it out in our daily lives.
  - What we receive from wisdom goes beyond our imagination.
    - Prosperity doesn’t result by using foolish methods like self-indulgent greed.
    - Prosperity comes through a life devoted to pursuing God’s wisdom of righteousness.
  - Our wealth does not come from wages, where we have to work to receive God’s wisdom
  - Our wealth is an inheritance, based on our relationship with God, whereby we receive God’s wisdom because of our trust in Him. We can have complete assurance in God.
- **How can you use Godly wisdom to make wise decisions this week?**

**Biblical Truth: God promises to provide His wisdom to those who search for Him.**

