

# What Is Wisdom?

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***But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But 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 3:14-17***

*Wisdom is often defined as the appropriate use of knowledge. Biblical wisdom is connected to knowledge, prudence, strength and understanding. In summary, it seems to be the living out of a Godly life. Given by God, it is something we can increase with more experience. In Immanuel Approach language, it is one of the rewards of successfully navigating the pain processing pathway along with maturity, empathy, knowledge and skills.*

Studies included in this article are: Wisdom and Knowledge; Wisdom and Understanding; Wisdom and Prudence; Wisdom and Counsel; Wisdom and Instruction; Wisdom and Strength; Wisdom and the Fear of The Lord; Wisdom and The Righteous; In Wisdom; By Wisdom; Wisdom of the Disciples; Wisdom and the Aged; Price of Wisdom; Wisdom Thoughts From Job; Wisdom of The World; Wisdom and the Fool

For more information on this topic, please see: “Only Wise God”; “Who Is Wise?”

## Wisdom and Knowledge

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

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives [wisdom](#); From His mouth *come* [knowledge](#) and understanding.

Proverbs 2:10 When [wisdom](#) enters your heart, And [knowledge](#) is pleasant to your soul.

Proverbs 8:12 I, [wisdom](#), dwell with prudence, And find out [knowledge](#) and discretion.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of [wisdom](#), And the [knowledge](#) of the Holy One *is* understanding.

Proverbs 14:6 A scoffer seeks [wisdom](#) and does not *find it*, But [knowledge](#) *is* easy to him who understands.

Proverbs 24:14 So *shall* the [knowledge](#) of [wisdom](#) *be* to your soul; If you have found *it*, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 30:3 I neither learned [wisdom](#) Nor have [knowledge](#) of the Holy One.

Ecclesiastes 1:16 I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge."

Ecclesiastes 1:18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief, And he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 2:21 For there is a man whose labor *is* with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also *is* vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 For *God* gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who *is* good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to *him who is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 7:12 For wisdom *is* a defense *as* money *is* a defense, But the excellence of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

Isaiah 33:6 Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, *And* the strength of salvation; The fear of the LORD *is* His treasure.

Isaiah 47:10 For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I *am*, and *there is* no one else besides me.'

1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

## Wisdom and Understanding

Deuteronomy 4:6 Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.'

1 Kings 7:14 He *was* the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father *was* a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

Job 12:12 Wisdom *is* with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.

Job 12:13 With Him *are* wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.

Job 28:12 But where can wisdom be found? And where *is* the place of understanding?

Job 28:20 From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding?

Job 38:36 Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

Job 39:17 Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding.

Psalms 49:3 My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart *shall give* understanding.

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding.

Proverbs 2:2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 3:13 Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding.

Proverbs 3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.

Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

Proverbs 5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding.

Proverbs 7:4 Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," And call understanding *your* nearest kin.

Proverbs 8:1 Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice?

Proverbs 8:14 Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom; I *am* understanding, I have strength.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

Proverbs 10:13 Wisdom *is* found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod *is* for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

Proverbs 10:23 To do evil *is* like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom.

Proverbs 11:12 He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace.

Proverbs 14:33 Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, But *what is* in the heart of fools *is* made known.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding *is* to be chosen rather than silver.

Proverbs 17:24 Wisdom *is* in the sight of him who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool *are* on the ends of the earth.

Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.

Proverbs 21:30 *There is* no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the LORD.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Proverbs 24:3 Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established.

Jeremiah 51:15 He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.

Ezekiel 28:4 With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries.

Daniel 1:17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Daniel 2:21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

Daniel 5:11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom *is* the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.

Daniel 5:14 I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God *is* in you, and *that* light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

James 3:13 Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is* 666.

## Wisdom and Prudence

Job 11:6 That He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For *they would* double your prudence. Know therefore that God exacts from you *Less* than your iniquity *deserves*.

Proverbs 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way, But the folly of fools *is* deceit.

Isaiah 10:13 For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done *it*, And by my wisdom, for I am prudent; Also I have removed the boundaries of the people, And have robbed their treasuries; So I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant *man*.

Isaiah 29:14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.

Jeremiah 49:7 Against Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?"

1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

Ephesians 1:8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

## Wisdom and Counsel

Job 12:13 With Him *are* wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.

Job 15:8 Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you limit wisdom to yourself?

Job 26:3 How have you counseled *one who has* no wisdom? And *how* have you declared sound advice to many?

Proverbs 8:14 Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom; I *am* understanding, I have strength.

Proverbs 21:30 *There is* no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the LORD.

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Jeremiah 49:7 Against Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?"

Daniel 2:14 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise *men* of Babylon.

## Wisdom and Instruction

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding,

Proverbs 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;

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

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom, And before honor *is* humility.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.

## Wisdom and Strength

Job 12:13 With Him *are* [wisdom](#) and [strength](#), He has counsel and understanding.

Proverbs 8:14 Counsel *is* mine, and sound [wisdom](#); I *am* understanding, I have [strength](#).

Ecclesiastes 7:19 [Wisdom strengthens](#) the wise More than ten rulers of the city.

Ecclesiastes 9:16 Then I said: "[Wisdom is](#) better than [strength](#). Nevertheless the poor man's [wisdom is](#) despised, And his words are not heard."

Ecclesiastes 10:10 If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more [strength](#); But [wisdom](#) brings success.

Isaiah 10:13 For he says: "By the [strength](#) of my hand I have done *it*, And by my [wisdom](#), for I am prudent; Also I have removed the boundaries of the people, And have robbed their treasuries; So I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant *man*.

Isaiah 33:6 [Wisdom](#) and knowledge will be the stability of your times, *And* the [strength](#) of salvation; The fear of the LORD *is* His treasure.

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and [wisdom](#), And [strength](#) and honor and glory and blessing!"

## Wisdom and the Fear of The Lord

Job 28:28 And to man He said, 'Behold, the [fear](#) of the [LORD](#), that *is* [wisdom](#), And to depart from evil *is* understanding.'

Psalms 111:10 The [fear](#) of the [LORD is](#) the beginning of [wisdom](#); A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

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

Proverbs 9:10 The [fear](#) of the [LORD is](#) the beginning of [wisdom](#), And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

Proverbs 15:33 The [fear](#) of the [LORD is](#) the instruction of [wisdom](#), And before honor *is* humility.

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the [LORD](#) shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of [wisdom](#) and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the [fear](#) of the [LORD](#).

Isaiah 33:6 [Wisdom](#) and knowledge will be the stability of your times, *And* the strength of salvation; The [fear](#) of the [LORD is](#) His treasure.

## Wisdom and the Righteous

Psalms 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, And his tongue talks of justice.

Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.

Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out.

### In Wisdom

Psalms 104:24 O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions—

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.

## By Wisdom

Job 38:37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven.

Psalms 136:5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy *endures* forever.

Proverbs 3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 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 7:23 All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise"; But it *was* far from me.

## Wisdom of the Disciples

Psalms 49:3 My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart *shall give* understanding.

Psalms 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.

James 3:17 But 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.

## Wisdom and the Aged

1 Kings 2:6 Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

Job 12:12 Wisdom *is* with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.

Job 32:7 I said, 'Age should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.'

Job 32:9 Great men are not *always* wise, Nor do the aged *always* understand justice.

Psalms 105:22 To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.

### **Price of Wisdom**

Job 28:18 No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

Proverbs 17:16 Why *is there* in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, Since *he has* no heart *for it*?

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.

### **Wisdom Thoughts From Job**

Job 13:5 Oh, that you would be silent, And it would be your wisdom!

Job 28:12 But where can wisdom be found? And where *is* the place of understanding?

Job 28:20 From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding?

Job 28:27 Then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

Job 32:13 Lest you say, 'We have found wisdom'; God will vanquish him, not man.

Job 33:33 If not, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom.

Job 34:35 'Job speaks without knowledge, His words *are* without wisdom.'

Job 38:36 Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

Job 39:17 Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding.

Job 39:26 Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, *And* spread its wings toward the south?

## Wisdom of The World

- 1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.
- 1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."
- 1 Corinthians 1:20 Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
- 1 Corinthians 1:22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom.
- 1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.
- 1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.
- 1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- 1 Corinthians 2:6 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.
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
- 1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness."
- 2 Corinthians 1:12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.
- Colossians 2:23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
- James 3:14-15 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth, this wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

## Wisdom and the Fool

- Proverbs 10:23 To do evil *is* like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom.
- Proverbs 17:16 Why *is there* in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, Since *he has* no heart *for it*?
- Proverbs 17:24 Wisdom *is* in the sight of him who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool *are* on the ends of the earth.
- Proverbs 23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.
- Proverbs 24:7 Wisdom *is* too lofty for a fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate.

Ecclesiastes 10:3 Even when a fool walks along the way, He lacks wisdom, And he shows everyone *that* he *is* a fool.

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