

Introduction: Who is wise? Where does wisdom come from? Does wisdom dwell in the mind of a scholarly philosopher who sits in his ivory tower surrounded by ancient books? In order to use wisdom we will need to understand wisdom.

- What/Who is the source of all wisdom? Why does it matter from where wisdom has come?
- If a human were the originator of wisdom, how would the world operate or, how would your life be different?

Believers are confronted with temptations to discouragement or lust, to critical speech or sinful habits, but God offers His resources to help His children with temptations. One of many ways to live each day in personal victory is by having what the Bible calls wisdom, and God is the Source of all true wisdom.

Because it is possible for Christians to be deceived, we each need God's wisdom in order to know how to live victoriously in a deceitful and temptation-filled world (2 Tim 3:13-14; Eph 5:17).

- What does God promise to give in our temptations? (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

VICTORY PLAN #1 - TEACH THE TRUTH TO YOUTH
VICTORY PLAN #2 - KNOW GOD
VICTORY PLAN #3 - GET WISDOM

Some have said the best defense is a good offense. Wisdom is one offensive tool that God can use to prepare you for or protect you from temptations. This week we will uncover wisdom's identity, discover how to have wisdom, and then learn why wisdom is so important for our day-to-day lives.

I. **How Wisdom Works** — One way to understand what wisdom is is to observe how the word is used. There are several synonyms for wisdom used in the book of Proverbs. Here are five categories of synonyms (words that mean the same thing).

A. **WISDOM IN DISCIPLINE** — The Hebrew word *mûsâr* is used in Proverbs 1:2a & 3a and carries the idea of **instruction** or **discipline**, in other words wisdom requires work. Wisdom is for the disciple.

1. It might come from _____ (Prov 4:1)

2. Or used to give a warning (Prov 24:32)

3. It may speak of correction from _____ or _____
(Prov 3:11; 23:13)

“Wisdom will be hard-won, a quality of character as much as of mind.”
-Derek Kidner

B. **WISDOM IN DISCERNMENT** — The next synonym (*tébuânâ*) is used in Proverbs 1:2b & 2:2 with the words **understanding** or **insight**. What did Solomon seek to discern between in 1 Kings 3:9?

A New Testament example of this type of wisdom can be found in Phil 1:9-10 or Hebrews 5:14. What kind of trouble will the person find who ignores this understanding? (Prov 6:32; 10:13b)

C. **WISE DEALINGS** — The idea of having **good sense** or **practical wisdom** is found in three synonyms with the same root word (*haškêl, maškîl, & sékel*). They can be found in Prov 1:3, 10:5, & 12:8. How would you define common sense?

D. WISDOM WITH DISCRETION — *Subtlety* and *discretion* ('ormâ & mēzimmâ) speak of forming plans. It is what the serpent used in Genesis 3:1, but is also used to describe the tactics needed for godly living (Prov 1:4). How can this type of wisdom protect someone? (Prov 22:3)

E. WISDOM AS A DOCTRINE-GIVEN — *Knowledge* (da'at) and *learning* (leqah) are the last of our synonyms for wisdom. These make us think of a personal relationship to Truth or God rather than mere facts and information. What is unique about this type of wisdom? Why is it needed? (Prov 1:5; 2:5)

II. **How to Get Wisdom** — Everyone can get wisdom. Who is invited to the feast of wisdom in Prov 9:4, 16?

- Who gives wisdom? (Prov 2:6)
- While the offer for wisdom is extended to all, who does God have wisdom stored up for? (Prov 2:7)

There are two requirements for getting wisdom: decision and devotion.

A. DECISION — A committed Christian is going to seek to do God's will even if there is a cost. Give two or three words that describe what the wisdom-seeker should decide to be turning away from? (Prov 8:13)

B. DEVOTION — Prov 8:34 describes someone longing to have wisdom. A love for wisdom looks for wisdom. The guy who gets wisdom will be one that is humble, teachable, and accessible to God. What might keep us from being devoted to wisdom? (Prov 26:12; 3:7)

III. **Why Wisdom Matters** — Describe wisdom’s benefits from Proverbs 8.

<u>BETTER THAN</u>	<u>BLESSED IN</u>
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Application:

- How could wisdom alter the course of someone’s life?
- In what ways have I disobeyed wisdom?
- What happens to someone who *thinks* they are wise, but they are not?

Conclusion: Wisdom is a quality of God that is necessary for a victorious life. Does God want us to be wise?

Scripture Memory:

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”