

HOT TIPS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WISDOM / Making Sensible Decisions

Our ability to be able to make wise and sensible decisions will ultimately determine how much of our lives will line up with God's plan for us.

KEY TEXT:

James 1:5 (NLT)

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

OXFORD DICTIONARY – WISDOM:

“The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement”

Proverbs 8:22-23,30 (NLT)

*²² “The LORD formed me from the beginning, **before he created anything else.** ²³ I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began... ³⁰ I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence.*

1 Chronicles 29:7,10-12 (NLT)

7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said, “What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!”... 10 Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?” 11 God said to Solomon, “Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people— 12 I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested. But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!”

Context:

James: *Troubles and testing*

King Solomon: *Abundance and prosperity*

Wisdom is meant to be exercised in every decision we make.

Proverbs 4:7 (NLT)

”Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.”

COMPONENT #1

Be Humble

James 1:5 (NLT)

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

If you don't think you need wisdom to live the life God has called you to, then you can be sure that you definitely need it.

Proverbs 4:7 (NLT)

"Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment."

Proverbs 12:15 (NLT)

15 Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

When you have humility, you naturally make space in your mind and heart for wisdom to dwell.

The greatest challenge to being able to acquire real wisdom is a lack of humility.

Proverbs 9:10 (NLT)

*10 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom.
Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.*

If you want to know how to best utilize wisdom, your best option is to ask the one who designed it.

If you do not base your wisdom on the fear of the Lord, it ultimately becomes worldly, it becomes twisted, manipulative and at best only self serving.

James 3:14-15 (NLT)

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.

If you do not humble yourselves you will ultimately only ever serve your own ego and continue to inflate your sense of self.

Proverbs 2:6 (NLT)

6 For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

When we start with humility, **we stop looking inwards** for answers but instead, **start looking upwards** to where all wisdom begins.

COMPONENT #2

Ask Right

James 1:5 (NLT)

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

To ask means to expose your motives and desires. So when we ask for wisdom, we should also examine the motives and desires of our own heart.

James 4:2-3 (NLT)

2 “You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away

from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.”

Our default mode in life is always one that is self-centered. **We would rather place our trust in ourselves than in God.**

When we desire and take, we trust in our ability. But when we ask and receive, we are trusting in God's ability.

Acts 7:59-60 (NLT)

59 *“As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”* **60** *He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don't charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.”*

Paul was present and in agreement to Stephen getting stoned. Could it be that Stephen's ‘ask’ of God, with the right motives, empowered Paul to ultimately have the impact he had on the church and on the world?

There is incredible power in asking God with the right motives.

COMPONENT #3

Act On It

We need to take responsibility for what God changes and imparts within us.

If we do not take responsibility to act on the things God has changed within us, we will never see the change we are wanting to see in our own lives.

James 3:13-18 (NLT)

*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.

The goal of making wise and sensible decisions:

So that we can be empowered to live an honorable life and have the desire to do good works, in humility.

With humility, the right motives, and the desire to act, we can make wise and sensible decisions that not only bring about God's will in our lives but can also bring about God's will in the lives of those around us.