



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL LESSON 8

WISDOM

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

INTRODUCTION

As we come to the final sessions of our Leadership summer program, we will round up with the subject and concept of Wisdom. The reason for this is that this Gift and its applications apply to all areas of life and is a fitting addendum to all that we have been learning so far.

There are broadly speaking two types of wisdom: Human wisdom and Divine Wisdom. The Bible is clear about the distinction between the two:

*⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those spiritually mature [believers who have teachable hearts and a greater understanding]; but [it is a higher] wisdom not [the wisdom] of this present age nor of the rulers and leaders of this age, who are passing away;
1 Corinthians 2:6*

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:8-9*

We will be examining divine Wisdom and its application to the Christian. How it can be obtained and how it operates. The richness and blessings of Wisdom cannot be overstated. It is an indispensable tool and gift in the life of the Believer.

*"The beginning of wisdom is: Get [skilful and godly] wisdom [it is preeminent]!
And with all your acquiring, get understanding [actively seek spiritual discernment, mature comprehension, and logical interpretation].
"Prize wisdom [and exalt her], and she will exalt you;
She will honour you if you embrace her.
Proverbs 4:7-8*



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DEFINITIONS

Let us examine Wisdom from the scriptures to give us insight to its meaning and application. We start from the 'Book of Wisdom', Proverbs.

*To know [skilful and godly] wisdom and instruction;
To discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight,
To receive instruction in wise behaviour and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness,
Righteousness, justice, and integrity;*

*That prudence (good judgment, astute common sense) may be given to the naive or inexperienced [who are easily misled],
And knowledge and discretion (intelligent discernment) to the youth,*

*The wise will hear and increase their learning,
And the person of understanding will acquire wise counsel and the skill [to steer his course wisely and lead others to the truth],*

*To understand a proverb and a figure [of speech] or an enigma with its interpretation,
And the words of the wise and their riddles [that require reflection].*

*The [reverent] fear of the LORD [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence];
But arrogant fools despise [skilful and godly] wisdom and instruction and self-discipline.*

Proverbs 1:2-7

Wisdom is not the same as knowledge, information, common sense or understanding. Using a simple analogy of language; If the alphabets are data or knowledge, then understanding equates to forming sentences and speech from the letters, whilst Wisdom is knowing, when, how, where and whom to speak. Wisdom comes from the heart of God Himself.

A definition which can summarise all of the above is:

WISDOM

The Person, Presence and Principle that analyses, summates, guides, information, knowledge, and data in any situation, culminating in words, decisions and actions aligned to the nature and essence of God.



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THE QUALITIES OF WISDOM

How do we know if we are operating in Biblical wisdom? Well, in his epistle, James outlines eight qualities of godly wisdom:

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. James 3:17

PURE

The actual word used here is closer in meaning to 'being true', certainly, surely or indeed. So the Wisdom from above is first clean and true without contamination. There are no impurities within it. The motive is pure and sincere.

PEACEABLE

It carries the presence of its giver the Prince of Peace. When God's Wisdom is released, men's hearts have an experience of peace and tranquillity. Where there is strife, envy and division, Wisdom is not on the premises. ambition can start a war, but God's wisdom can bring Truth and clarity where there is chaos.

GENTLE/FAIR

God's Wisdom is considerate, patient and gentle. It comes deeply feeling and knowing what the hearers or concerned persons are going through. One of the fruits of the Spirit is Gentleness. The source is the same and because it is coming from the heart of God. It comes with His attributes.

Submissive.

Being submissive means being willing to listen and willing to learn. To be submissive is to be humble and teachable, not a doormat to be walked over, but meek, so that your strength is guided and submitted to God, making you gentle and kind.

MERCIFUL

Showing mercy to even those who do not deserve it. The other meaning of the word used here is releasing Goodwill towards others. When God's wisdom is applied, it releases goodness and everyone feels blessed by it.



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FRUITFUL

You cannot manufacture the fruit of the Spirit. True spiritual maturity happens from the inside out for those who are indwelt by the Spirit of God and are seeking His wisdom moment by moment.

IMPATIAL

Those who live by worldly wisdom cannot be impartial because they are always trying to please someone, but those who live by God's wisdom are consistent, single-minded, and authentic.

SINCERE

A sincere person is genuine, without hypocrisy, and wears no mask. Godly wisdom is the kind of wisdom that comes from the very heart of God, who is all-wise. As you read and pray through the Word of God continually, you will find that your life is producing purity, peace, gentleness, willingness, mercy, good fruit, impartiality, and sincerity—and that's how you'll know the Word of God is taking root.

HOMEWORK

Your task this week is to ASK God daily for wisdom in all the areas of your life applicable. This is a very practical and beneficial assignment.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he **is to ask** of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God's willingness to help]....

James 1:5

Yes, if you cry out for insight, And lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek skillful and godly wisdom as you would silver And search for her as you would hidden treasures; Then you will understand the [reverent] fear of the LORD [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] And discover the knowledge of God.

For the LORD gives [skillful and godly] wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:3-6