

What is Wisdom? How the Bible Defines It



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Dictionary.com defines wisdom as:

The quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.

The word *wisdom* occurs in 234 times in 222 verses in the King James version of the Bible. How many famous people do you know who are said to be wise? It's hard for me to think of one. Many renown actors, actresses, musicians and artists have had problems and tried to escape them with drugs and alcohol. Some have ended their lives by their own hands. Many have been unhappy in life. Fame, fortune, love relationships, and material things have not satisfied them. And why? They didn't have that link with their Creator though Jesus Christ that gave them wisdom!

This Bible class is to determine what wisdom is, how to get it, and what are the results of getting it.

True Wisdom Comes from God

- Exodus 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.
- Exodus 31:3 And I (God) have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,
- Exodus 35:31 And he (God) hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;
- 1 Kings 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king (Solomon) had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.
- 1 Kings 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

- Job 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.
- Job 12:16 With him is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his.
- Psalms 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
- Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
- Proverbs 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
- Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.
- Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.
- Daniel 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:
- Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:
- Daniel 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.
- Revelation 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

How to get wisdom

- **A. Through obedience to the Word of God**

- Deuteronomy 4:6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

- **B. Through wise counsel**

- Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

- **C. Through correction**

- Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

- **D. Through prayer**

- 2 Chronicles 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

- 2 Chronicles 1:11-12 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.
- 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.

Fear, reverence, and honor of the Lord Leads to wisdom

- Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.
- Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
- Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.
- Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
- Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Age and experience *should* teach wisdom

- Job 12:12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.
- Job 32:7 I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.

God is the wisest in the universe

- Job 36:5 Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.
- Romans 16:27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.
- Psalms 104:24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.
- Psalms 136:5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.
- Proverbs 3:19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.
- Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.
- Jeremiah 10:12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.
- Jeremiah 51:15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his

understanding.

- Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

True wisdom is given to only righteous and humble people in God's eyes

- Psalms 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.
- Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.
- Proverbs 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.
- Proverbs 15:21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.
- Ecclesiastes 2:26b For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.
- Luke 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.
- Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
- Acts 6:10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.
- Acts 7:10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.
- Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

True wisdom leads to happiness

- 1 Kings 10:8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.
- Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.
- Proverbs 24:14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

The Word of God exhorts us to get Wisdom

- Proverbs 3:21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:
- Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.
- Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
- Proverbs 5:1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my

understanding:

- Proverbs 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:
- Proverbs 8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?
- Proverbs 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.
- Proverbs 8:11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.
- Proverbs 19:8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.
- Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Characteristics of wisdom

- Proverbs 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.
- Proverbs 8:14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.
- Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:
- Proverbs 16:16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!
- Ecclesiastes 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.
- Ecclesiastes 7:12 For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.
- Ecclesiastes 7:19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.
- Ecclesiastes 7:11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.
- Ecclesiastes 8:1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.
- Ecclesiastes 9:18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.
- Isaiah 33:6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.
- James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.
- James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Sometimes wisdom is to keep your mouth shut

- Job 13:5 O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.
- Proverbs 11:12 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

Man's wisdom is not true wisdom

- Proverbs 23:4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.
- 1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will 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 world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
- 1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
- 1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.
- Isaiah 29:14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.
- Isaiah 47:10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.
- Jeremiah 8:9 The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?
- 1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
- 1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Jesus Christ – the Wisdom of God

- Isaiah 11:2 And 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;
- Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?
- Mark 6:2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?
- Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.
- Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.
- 1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and

honour, and glory, and blessing.