

Understanding True Wisdom

Proverbs 3:1-12

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Proverbs 24:5 A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might

> Wisdom is a gift from God.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

James 1:5–8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

> A proverb is a condensed and concise sentence that conveys moral truth.

> Wisdom is taking the truth of God's word and skillfully putting it into practice.

> Proverbs presents two competing voices, Lady Wisdom and Madame Folly (Ch. 1-9).

> To be wise is to be prudent.

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.

Proverbs 15:24 The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from Sheol beneath.

"Wisdom is inspired depth-perception into people and situations. It is the vertical thrust of the mind of God into our minds, making discernment possible on the horizontal level of human affairs. With wisdom we can penetrate the mysteries of God - His nature, plan, and purpose. . . . Wisdom is the gift we need . . . in order to do the will of God. **Lloyd John Ogilvie**

> Wisdom is for the young and old.

Proverbs 1:4-5 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,

Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

> Proverbs is not a list of helpful tips for today.

> Jesus is the Wisdom of God for us.

Luke 11:31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to

hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

1 Corinthians 1:30–31 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Six characteristics of the wise:

1. The wise person obeys God (3:1-2).

a. Exhortation (v. 1)

Proverbs 7:1–3 My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; 2 keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; 3 bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

b. Promise (v. 2)

Proverbs 9:10–12 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. 11 For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. 12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

2. The wise person loves God (3:3-4).

a. Exhortation (v. 3)

Proverbs 4:20–23 My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

b. Promise (v. 4)

3. The wise person trusts God (3:5-6).

a. Exhortation (v. 5)

Prov. 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 26:12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

b. Promise (v. 6)

4. The wise person fears God (3:7-8).

a. Exhortation (v. 7)

> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7).

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom.

> The fear of the Lord is expressed in hatred of evil (8:13).

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

b. Promise (v. 8)

5. The wise person honors God (3:9-10).

a. Exhortation (v. 9)

b. Promise (v. 10)

Proverbs 11:24–25 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. **25** Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.
Treasure principle #6 - Randy Alcorn

6. The wise person submits to God (3:11-12).

a. Exhortation (v. 11)

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

b. Reason (v. 12)

Proverbs 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

Hebrews 12:5–11

5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.