

The pursuit of



W I S D O M

(The Book of Proverbs)

PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 1:1-9

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of **insight**,

³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;

⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—



PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 1:1-9

- ⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,
⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.
⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.



PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 1:1-9

⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your
head and a chain to adorn your neck.



LAW

= a command from God that must *always* be obeyed.

PROMISE

= a guarantee from God that *always* comes true.

PROVERB

= a description of the way things *generally* work in this life.



LAW, PROVERB, OR PROMISE?

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart & with all your soul and with all your might.



LAW, PROVERB, OR PROMISE?

ROMANS 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.



LAW, PROVERB, OR PROMISE?

PROVERBS 10:4

Lazy people are soon poor;
hard workers get rich.



“Wisdom is practical. It’s the ability to discern what the noble, constructive, God-honouring course of action will be in actual, real-life situations
...and then making the choice to do it.”

JOHN ORTBERG



PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 8:1-3

Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding
raise her voice? ² On the heights beside the
way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
³ beside the gates in front of the town, at the
entrance of the portals she cries aloud:



PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 8:10-17

¹⁰ Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold,

¹¹ for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you
may desire cannot compare with her.



PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 8:10-17

¹² "I, wisdom, dwell with **prudence**, and I find knowledge and discretion.

¹³ The **fear of the Lord** is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

¹⁴ I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have **insight**; I have **strength**.



PURSUE WISDOM

PROVERBS 8:10-17

- ¹⁵ By me kings reign,
and rulers decree what is just;
- ¹⁶ by me princes rule, and nobles,
all who govern justly.
- ¹⁷ **I love those who love me,**
and those who seek me diligently find me.



WISDOM ISN'T NECESSARILY...

1. INTELLECT
2. AGE
3. GIFTING/PASSION



“Wisdom means becoming competent with regard to the realities of life: how things really happen, how things really are, and what to do about it.”

GERHARD VON RAD



1. WISDOM GROWS AS HUMILITY DEEPENS

PROVERBS 15:31-32

³¹ The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

³² Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.



“Are you willing to change your mind when another person’s case has more merit than yours? Are you willing to admit “I didn’t think of that” or “I see your point”? If no one has ever heard you change your mind about something, then you are either a god or you have mistaken yourself for one.”

KEVIN DEYOUNG



2. HUMILITY DEEPENS IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

PROVERBS 15:33

³³ **The fear of the LORD** is instruction in wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.



2. HUMILITY DEEPENS IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

PROVERBS 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.



2. HUMILITY DEEPENS IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

PROVERBS 2:4-6

⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding



**Wisdom is less about expanding
the mind, and more about
bending the will.**



“The bare knowledge of God’s will is inefficacious, it does not better the heart. Knowledge alone is like a winter sun, which has no heat or influence; it does not warm the affections, or purify the conscience.

Judas was a great luminary,
he knew God’s will, but he was a traitor.”

THOMAS WATSON



2. HUMILITY DEEPENS IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

PROVERBS 1:29-31

²⁹ Because they hated knowledge **and did not choose the fear of the LORD**,³⁰ would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,
³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.



3. THE WISDOM OF THE GOSPEL

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23-24

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.



3. THE WISDOM OF THE GOSPEL

COLOSSIANS 2:2-3

...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**



3. THE WISDOM OF THE GOSPEL

JAMES 1:5 (NLT)

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

