

UNDERSTANDING OUR TIMES

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The Power of Understanding
TALK IT OVER
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The Power of Understanding

“For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray and make [special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things—that you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition]. [We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy.” - Colossians 1:9-11 (AMPC)

The law of spiritual understanding causes us to live on the highest plane.

Understanding causes wisdom and knowledge to function fruitfully in decision making.

It is the ability to pull the meaning out of information.

Solomon said, *“In all your getting, get understanding.”*

“Making your ear attentive to skillful and Godly wisdom and inclining and directing your heart and mind to understanding [applying all your powers to the quest for it]; yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding...then you will understand the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of [our omniscient] God.” - Proverbs 2:2-3, 5 (AMPC)

“It takes wisdom to build a house, and understanding to set it on a firm foundation. It takes knowledge to furnish its rooms with fine furniture and beautiful draperies.” - Proverbs 24:3-4 (MSG)

As you can see from God’s Word, many are the fruits of understanding.

Understanding is a “see through lens” which brings truth, life principles into focus.

The book of Proverbs and the Bible itself give us four words that enable us to discern, walk in and fulfill God’s will for our lives.

When you understand your purpose, no foe can defeat you.

Knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and insight.

Knowledge is gained by information, experience, education, training and awareness.

Wisdom is mental and moral excellence of the highest and best sense. It is comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God.

Understanding is the ability to grasp, to comprehend, to bring together facts which “connect the dots” and enable us to see the whole picture. It is the ability to assess any situation and decide what practical course of action is necessary concerning it.

Insight is the capacity to gain a deep and accurate understanding of one’s knowledge and choices. Insight is related to the future.

In Colossians 1:9-11, Paul lays out the practical side of our Christian faith life: Wisdom, Walk, Work

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Paul prays that the Colossians “*may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom (in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God) and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things.*”

This is a prayer for spiritual wisdom, knowledge and understanding of spiritual things.

Spiritual wisdom, spiritual knowledge, and spiritual insight are given by God into our human spirit.

All of these virtues are required for us to have proper communication with God. Then we can know God’s will for our lives.

Revelation is what we receive from God concerning His will.

With understanding, we comprehend the revelation. Then we grasp His will for our life and walk it out.

This affects our “walk,” our manner of living, our behavior day by day.

We “walk,” live “worthy” of Him, pleasing Him in all our ways.

All of us want His guidance, but the first law of guidance is motion. God wants us to start moving, and then He will guide us.

David answers the question of “who” dwells in God’s presence in *Psalm 15:2 (AMPC)* – “*He who walks and lives uprightly and blamelessly, who works rightness and justice and speaks and thinks the truth in his heart.*”

Our righteous walk will cause us to produce fruit as we do His work.

“...bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition].” - Colossians 1:10

As we are filled with His wisdom, knowledge, understanding and insight our lives become more productive.

We are invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, (to exercise every kind of endurance and patience, perseverance and forbearance) with joy... (Verse 11)

Our fruitfulness brings Him glory. It helps us to understand our purpose and live victorious lives.

Discussion Questions:

- Understanding is the ability to pull the meaning out of _____.
- When you understand your _____ no foe can defeat you.
- Four words given to us by God’s Word which enable us to discern and fulfill His will:

- The first law of guidance is _____.
- What makes us live fruitful lives? _____

Prayer:

Pray that your righteous walk will cause you to produce fruit as you do His work.
“...bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition].” - Colossians 1:10

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