

Wisdom – What, Why, and Where?

Intro...

Pro 2:1-6 *My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 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;*

What is Wisdom?

- Aaron – “To be skilled in Godly living”

“The main word for wisdom in Proverbs (Hebrew *hokma*) includes being moral but goes beyond that. It is making the right choice even when there are no clear moral laws telling you explicitly what to do. Some decisions require only knowledge (like the proper medicine to take) and some only compliance with rules (like whether to commit adultery or not). But no Bible verse will tell you exactly whom to marry, which job to take, whether to move or stay put.”
(**Tim Keller**, *God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life*, p. 2)

Knowledge versus Wisdom... But how are they different?

- Keith – “Knowledge Applied”
 - Golf swings

“Wisdom is knowing what to do with knowledge gained through various means of education: how to apply knowledge and information in everyday life; how to discern if something is true or not; how to live well in light of truth gained. Wisdom is not merely knowing the right answers. It's about living rightly.” (**Brett McCracken**, *The Wisdom Pyramid*, p. 66)

Wisdom is like... a kidney... a vitamin

Why Do I Need It?

The world we live in today... “The Information Age”

“The exponential explosion of information in the "information age" is mind-boggling. Consider a sampling of the numbers. In 2019, a single minute on the Internet saw the transmission of 188 million emails, 18.1 million texts, and 4.5 million videos viewed on YouTube.' By 2020, there were 40 times more bytes of data on the Internet than there are stars in the observable universe. Some estimates suggest that by 2025, 463 exabytes of data will be created each day online- the equivalent of 212,765,957 DVDs per day.? What even is an exabyte? Well, consider this: five exabytes is equivalent to all words ever spoken by humans since the dawn of time.' In 2025, that amount of data will be created every 15 minutes. More information than ever, less wisdom than ever.” (**Brett McCracken**, *The Wisdom Pyramid*, p. 27)

More information doesn't equal more wisdom!

Having all this information in our pockets is making us more lonely, depressed, and anxious... And the nature of algorithms has us eating information fast food

- Eating too much, Too fast, And only what we like

We are the mentally obese!!

Pro 1:20-22 *Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: 22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?*

We need wisdom if we are to live well in this information age as Christians. How else are we to discern the will of God?

Rom 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world,³ but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Where Do I Get It?

Pro 2:1-6

1. God

- God ultimately gives wisdom

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

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

- BUT there is a prerequisite... rightly understanding God – Fear and Faith

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Jam 1:6-7 *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Psalm 111:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!*

Job 28:28 *And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”*

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Fear... What does it mean to fear the Lord?

Let's not forget that Jesus is Wisdom embodied! (**Col 2:3**)

2. Your Experience

- We play a part

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WE MUST – receive, be attentive, incline our heart, call out, raise our voice, seek it, search for it

Like our growing in Christ there is a paradox of our effort and God's grace

“The paradox itself is wise. If it were all up to us, we would labor under crushing anxiety and burn out. But if God only worked apart from us, we would lose all sense of initiative. The paradox gives us enough incentive and enough assurance to pursue the knowledge of God all our life long” Tim Keller, *God's Wisdom for Navigating Life*, p. 17