

# *Becoming Wise*

GENUINE FAITH | WEEK 2

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If you NEED wisdom, ASK our generous God, and HE WILL GIVE IT to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

1. We all need wisdom! If you don't yet believe in Jesus, you don't have any yet. If you are young or immature in your faith you are sadly deficient. If you've been at your faith for a while, being obedient, than you know you need more wisdom! The fact is: **WE ALL NEED WISDOM.**
2. It is also worth noting that this is a guaranteed 'Yes' answer to prayer! So go for it! He will not rebuke you.

# *What is Wisdom?*

- WISDOM— It is the moral discernment that enables the believer to meet life and its trials with decisions and actions consistent with God's will.
  1. It centers on love and sacrifice, giving oneself up for the good of another. The world sees God's wisdom as foolishness. (1 Cor 1:18-23)
  2. It comes to us through the Holy Spirit. Non-believers don't have it. This is how to live God's way. (1 Cor 2:12-16)
  3. It is NOT the world's way of knowing how to advance one's own life or will. It is knowing how to live righteously according to God's way. (1 Cor 3:18)

# *How does wisdom work?*

- ACTS 6:1-7
  - What was the problem? Did the trial arise from a fallen world, the foolishness of sin, the faithfulness of God, or making a faith stand for Jesus?
  - What was the solution? The leaders called for 7 men full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom! These men would solve the problem with love and sacrifice.
  - The result was the Word of God spread, more believers came in to follow Jesus with them, and their mission expanded even to Jewish leaders.

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So, how do you and I become wise men and women? 3 most important ways you will become wise— decide, ask, and go after it.

1. Make a decision to follow God's ways in your life. Wisdom begins with a heart that wants to do things God's way.

- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10)
- God is not interested in putting his opinion into the mix so you can consider it. He is not one option among many other good ones. "Do not waver."

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2. Once we are committed to God, simply ask for wisdom daily and continually as problems and trials arise.
  1. Jesus said, “Don’t worry about tomorrow... today’s trouble is enough for today.” Matt 6:34
  2. Ask for wisdom daily and in the moment, but be careful to bring the learning forward into tomorrow. Look at 4 ways to live and learn.

# *Live and Learn*

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1. Evaluate each day, one day at a time
2. Weed out your own sinful reactions
3. Let others pay the 'dumb tax' for you (you don't have to make every mistake to learn from them!)
4. Take time to make good decisions! Hasty decisions rarely turn out well.

# *Live and Learn*

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“Experience retained will lead to a life of wisdom and maturity toward christlikeness, however experience not retained leads to a life of perpetual infancy.”

- We recently went over this in our Staff Meeting to encourage journaling and reflection. None of us as believers will gain wisdom by leading an unexamined life. You must take time to reflect.
- Of the 4 questions; how am I responding, how should I respond, what am I learning, and how am I demonstrating faith... we must learn from trials and come out wiser!



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3. With a committed heart and the practice of daily asking God for it, we must also study the Bible if we are to become wise.

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“So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish... Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

(1 CORINTHIANS 1:20, 24)