

Gaining Heavenly Wisdom



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

Gaining Heavenly Wisdom

Learn the value of the wisdom that comes from God and four ways to gain it

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Gaining Heavenly Wisdom

But, how do you gain wisdom? And, what kind of wisdom should you be seeking to gain? If you desire to please God with your life, you will want to gain the wisdom that comes from Him. Then, if you want to gain His wisdom, you will need to listen to what He tells you about gaining wisdom. The purpose of this lesson is to consider the availability of Heavenly wisdom and how you can gain this wisdom.

Wisdom Is Available For Everyone

There are many difficult decisions we all have to make during our lives. Should I do *this* or should I do *that*? What should I say? How should I react? Each decision carries with it its own consequence or reward.

How do you know what you ought to do, think, or say in these difficult situations? The answer is found in wisdom. Wisdom is the right application of knowledge. You see, knowledge only will take you so far. There are a lot of people in this world who have a lot of knowledge about many things. But, there are relatively few people who have true wisdom.

This is even true concerning people who look to the Bible as the guide for their lives. There are many people who have Bible knowledge. They can tell you what God wants them to do and what God doesn't want them to do. But, these same people are often still lacking Heavenly wisdom because they fail to properly apply that knowledge to the situations they encounter throughout their lives.

Certainly, God wants us all to be able to properly apply His instructions to the situations that we encounter during our earthly lives. You see, the Bible isn't a book that gives you a list of procedures for every situation you encounter in your life ("When 'x' happens, do 'y'"). But, it does give you instructions that are applicable to every situation you encounter. Therefore, it takes wisdom to apply what God has instructed to the situations of life.

Wisdom has not been reserved for a select few who are fortunate enough to obtain it. Instead, the kind of wisdom that will help you to serve and please the Creator, Savior, and Judge of this world is available for you today. But, you must put in the required effort in order to obtain it.

Heavenly versus worldly wisdom

Before we talk about how to gain Heavenly wisdom, you need to recognize that there are different kinds of wisdom: Heavenly wisdom and worldly wisdom. James identifies these two different sources of wisdom in James 3:13-18: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

There is a type of "wisdom" that is earthly in origin (that does not come from above), one that is focused on your own physical desires, and one that has been exhibited by demons (who rebelled against God). This kind of "wisdom" teaches you to respond to situations in ways that will result in the best

possible earthly outcome for yourself. It teaches you to seek your own pleasures and desires. It teaches you to fight for what is yours. It teaches you to do whatever you need to get what you want. It teaches you to have things your own way. It teaches you to maintain your own independence and value all the things that the world values. And, even though it is possible to be religious while possessing worldly “wisdom,” this religion will not please God because such a person is focused on self and the things of the world that are contrary to the ways of God.

In contrast, there is a type of true wisdom that originates with God and predates this universe. This kind of wisdom is focused on spiritual things rather than physical things. It recognizes the need to prepare for eternity – and acts accordingly. It pursues that which God says is pure. It teaches you to live peaceably with all people – even those who may try to harm you. It teaches you the path of self-denial and humility. It teaches you to submit yourself to God rather than pursue your own fleshly desires.

There is a very real conflict between the “wisdom” of this world and the wisdom that comes from God. You see, the ways of this world are contrary to the ways of God (1 John 2:15-17). So, each individual will have to make a determination as to what kind of wisdom he/she will pursue.

Consider 1 Corinthians 1. Verse 18 says, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” The gospel of Jesus Christ (which contains the “message of the cross”) completely contradicts the “wisdom” of this world. The gospel of Christ teaches sacrifice, humility, and submission. The world teaches independence, self-love, and selfishness. Therefore, they truly do not lead to the same place – and the world will most commonly reject the message of the cross.

Yet, verse 19 says that God will “destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” The world’s wisdom will not stand. It is only useful to accomplish temporary things. Therefore, it is not true wisdom!

Verses 20-24 say, “Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For

since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

So many have been consumed by the “wisdom” of this world. They mock what the Bible says. They refuse to act in ways that are pleasing to God because they do not recognize that God’s ways are always best. Instead, they (like Eve when she was tempted to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 3) believe that God is trying to keep them away from the things that will be enjoyable and worthwhile. So, professing to be wise, they act in foolish ways (compare with Romans 1:18-32) and do the things man’s wisdom teaches them that may result in some earthly pleasures and treasures. But, what kind of “wisdom” is it to dedicate your life to pursuing pleasures and treasures that you will (at most) enjoy for about 100 years – and then suffer an eternity of regret and torment because of the decisions you made?

They do not recognize the foolishness of the wisdom they pursue. 1 Corinthians 1:25 says, “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” Now, there is neither foolishness nor weakness with God. Rather, this passage is simply stating that God’s wisdom and strength is far above man’s! Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’” Proverbs 14:12 says that there is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death.

So, rather than pursuing the “wisdom” of this world that is passing away, you need to determine that you only want to gain the kind of true wisdom that comes from God. 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 says, “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this

world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’; and again, ‘The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.’”

True wisdom is calling out to you

We certainly know that the wisdom of this world is calling out all around us. It wants us to learn and follow her ways. It is being taught through the people that we meet, through television/movies, in educational settings, and almost everywhere you turn. However, you should also know that the wisdom that comes from God is also calling out to you – and is just as readily available for you to obtain as man’s “wisdom.”

Listen to Proverbs 8:1-11 (though I would encourage you to read the entire chapter). “Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors: ‘To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.’”

I want you to notice two things from this text. First, I want you to notice where true wisdom is crying out. She is not hidden away in some secluded part of this world whispering an invitation for people to know her. Instead, she has lifted up her voice. She is crying out for people to hear. She is on top of the high hills, at the busy intersections, and by the entrance gates to the city. She is presenting you with the opportunity to have her. The only problem is that she is not the only one who is crying out at these places. There is also plenty of immorality that is crying out at these same places. So, the question is

not whether true wisdom is available to you. The question is only whether you will choose to listen to her rather than to the others!

Second, I want you to notice what true wisdom is offering. The “wisdom” of the world offers some temporary pleasures and treasures. But, you should choose to listen to true wisdom from God because she will only teach you to do what is true, right, and excellent. She will not lead you into any path that will result in your destruction. And, the treasures that she offers are actually greater than the treasures offered by the “wisdom” of the world. Again, verses 10 and 11 say, “Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”

Will you choose to pursue Heavenly wisdom that comes from the God who is limitless in knowledge and wisdom? Or, will you choose to reject this wisdom? The choice is now yours to make. God’s wisdom is available to you – if you choose to pursue it. But, how will you actually gain this kind of true wisdom? The Bible teaches us that there are four things involved.

The Word Of God

First, if you desire to gain Heavenly wisdom, you must spend time studying, meditating upon, and diligently applying the word of God. One of the most basic questions about gaining this true wisdom that comes from God is to consider how mankind can possibly know this wisdom since God is so much higher than us. Romans 11:34 asks, “For who has known the mind of the Lord?” The answer is found in God’s revelation to mankind in the pages of the Bible.

The mind of God is revealed in the Bible

Remember that 1 Corinthians 1 helped us to see the contrast between the “wisdom” of this world and Heavenly wisdom. Then, in chapter 2, the apostle Paul states that he had spoken the “wisdom of God” (verse 7). But, how was he able to know the

mind of the Lord so as to speak God's wisdom? Listen to verses 10-16.

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

Once again, you should notice the question, “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” God is all-knowing and all-wise. How is it possible for mere man to know even a small percentage of the wisdom that is possessed by that God? Notice that it was necessary for God to reveal these things to us.

This was accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul says that just as the spirit of a man knows the things of a man, the Spirit of God knows the “deep things of God.” It was, therefore, the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal the mind of God to mankind. He did this by guiding the apostles and prophets into all truth (see John 16:13). Now, whenever we read the words that have been written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (the words contained in the pages of the Bible), we can understand the will of God.

But, even though we all can know the will of God by reading the Bible, we must be spiritually minded in order to receive and accept the wisdom of God. There are many people who know exactly what God wants from them in many different areas of life. However, they are not focused on spiritual things. So, whenever they consider the things God instructs them to do, they consider it to be foolishness because

they are focused on earthly things instead (compare with Romans 8:5-8).

Yet, if we will put our focus on the spiritual truths that God has revealed, we can gain wisdom from Him because we will “have the mind of Christ.” This is, in fact, the only way to know the mind of God. You must listen to what God's Spirit says about His mind in the pages of inspired Scripture. This is the only way that can know what is right and what is wrong in the sight of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

So, it is through the God-inspired Scriptures that you can learn God's wisdom about the words you say, the places you go, the people you keep company with, the way you clothe yourself, how to manage your money, how to manage your time, what you should and should not put into your body, how to treat other people, and every other issue that you encounter during your life on this earth! In fact, as 2 Timothy 3:16-17 demonstrates, studying the inspired word of God will teach you everything you must believe to be true, teach you everything that you must change in your life, and teach you everything that you must do in order to be pleasing to God. There will be no area of your life that is not impacted by the wisdom that comes from God!

But, you will not gain this wisdom just because it is available for you to know in the God-inspired Scriptures. Instead, you will have to study the Bible. 2 Timothy 2:15 instructs, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” In order for the decisions you make in your life to have God's approval, you must spend an appropriate amount of time studying the Scriptures and rightly interpreting and applying them to your life. Like the people of Berea (see Acts 17:11), you should search the Scriptures daily in order to know whether the decisions you are making in your life are in harmony with Heavenly wisdom or man's “wisdom.”

Recognize that your wisdom will be directly proportional to the time you spend studying and meditating on the word of God. You should simply not expect to be wise if you do not spend any time studying the word of God. And, you should not wonder why you are not growing in wisdom very quickly if you are only devoting a small amount of time to studying the Scriptures every week. Then, not only must you recognize that you need to study the Scriptures, but you also must recognize the importance of meditating on them. Psalm 119:97-98 says, “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.” Take the wisdom of God with you throughout the entire day – every day. Think about His wisdom in every situation you encounter in your life and determine to make the right applications of His instructions to your life.

The book of Proverbs is a book of God-inspired wisdom

All Scripture reveals the mind of God to mankind. Particularly, the New Testament reveals the law of God that you have the responsibility to live by today. However, you can also learn great lessons in Heavenly wisdom from the book of Proverbs.

Although it is located in the Old Testament and does not represent law that God expects you to live your life by today (since it is part of what was nailed to the cross of Jesus Christ, Colossians 2:14), it does continue to teach timeless truths about God’s wisdom. Listen to Proverbs 1:2-4 concerning the purpose of the book of Proverbs: “To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion.”

Not only does the book of Proverbs teach us about the value of Heavenly wisdom, but it also teaches us what that wisdom looks like – as applicable to many different situations. The book of Proverbs teaches you wisdom from God about who you should keep company with, about the need to avoid intoxicating beverages, about hard work, about honesty and integrity, about the words you speak,

about marriage, about raising children, about how you should treat others, etc. But, again, in order to gain this wisdom from God, you need to devote yourself to studying and meditating on the words He has revealed.

Prayer

Second, if you desire to gain Heavenly wisdom, you should pray to God. As you search the Scriptures for information from God about gaining Heavenly wisdom, you should recognize that prayer is one avenue God has made available for granting wisdom. If you have become a child of God and are striving to live a righteous life, God has promised to hear your prayers (see 1 Peter 3:12). And, this includes your prayers for wisdom!

You are taught to pray for wisdom

Recognize that every good thing comes from God. James 1:17 says, “Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” Perhaps you think about this verse whenever you consider the physical blessings of life that you enjoy (i.e. your health, your clothing, your home, your food, your job, etc.). However, do you ever use this verse to stop and think about God as the giver of true wisdom? Proverbs 2:6 says, “For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Hopefully, by this point in the lesson, you recognize that true wisdom only comes from God. Now, it is only reasonable that those who are God’s children and desire to partake of Heavenly wisdom should petition God in prayer for wisdom (just as we petition God in prayer for every other good thing)! In fact, God teaches us to ask Him for wisdom. Listen to James 1:5-8.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from

the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Here is a remedy to the problem of lacking wisdom: Ask the God who liberally gives to all! But, recognize that your asking must be in faith without doubting. If you fail to ask God in faith, God considers you to be like a wave in the sea that is unstable, driven and tossed by the wind. And, He says that you are double-minded. Therefore, in order to receive wisdom from God in prayer, you must ask with full faith in the God you are praying to. Recognize (as James wrote in James 5:16) that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Therefore, you should incorporate a petition for wisdom in your prayers – and you can pray for wisdom in specific areas (i.e. wisdom in your words, wisdom in your parenting, etc.).

While you are taught to ask God for wisdom, it should be carefully noted that this does not dismiss you of your responsibility to study God’s word. Recognize that God does expect you to do your part in gaining Heavenly wisdom. And, if you are not being diligent in studying the Scriptures that reveal the mind of God, you should not expect God to give you wisdom (because you are not demonstrating that you truly desire His wisdom)!

Consider the example of Solomon

The Scriptures present an example of a man who prayed for wisdom – and had it granted to him. 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 says, “On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’ And Solomon said to God: ‘You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. Now, O Lord God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?’ Then God said to Solomon: ‘Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king— wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give

you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.’”

Be honest with yourself. What would you have asked for if God had told you that He would grant you one request? Solomon recognized the value of wisdom and knowledge – and asked for that. Then, God granted this man great wisdom and knowledge – so much that he was widely known for his wisdom (see 2 Chronicles 9). And, recognize that this is the man God used to write a great deal of the wisdom contained in the book of Proverbs that has helped many people to gain Heavenly wisdom throughout the centuries.

Personal Experiences

Third, if you desire to gain Heavenly wisdom, you should be committed to learning from your past experiences. Especially concerning how your decisions will impact your own physical life and the lives of others, there is wisdom to be gained from your own personal experiences. Recognize that God’s wisdom is perfect. Therefore, He will not tell you to do something that is not going to be for good. However, there are many people who do not only reject God’s wisdom and experience consequences once, but they continue repeating their mistakes because they do not allow themselves to learn wisdom from their own personal experiences.

Learn from your past

As you live your life on this earth, you will make mistakes and you will do well with other things. Unfortunately, many people do not evaluate their lives as they go. Yet, 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified.” So, whenever the Christian who is seeking to gain Heavenly wisdom does anything, he/she should want to know whether the thing pleased God.

Only one who is not devoted to seeking Heavenly wisdom will not evaluate the past

decisions that have been made. For, the one who is seeking Heavenly wisdom will want to imitate past success (and even try to improve upon them) and correct past failures. Proverbs 10:14 says that “Wise people store up knowledge.” You should want to store knowledge of your past actions so that you can use this knowledge to apply to future situations and decisions that will need to be made.

Listen to Proverbs 26:11. “As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.” It is foolish to make the same mistake twice. Instead, you should have learned from the mistake that was made (recognizing it as being foolish) so that you can avoid making it again in the future. Then, not only is it possible to fail to learn from your past failures, but, it is also possible to attempt to conceal sins that are committed. This will also keep an individual from learning from a mistake. Proverbs 28:13 says, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Notice that past sins must be acknowledged and forsaken. Both are necessary in order to avoid repeating the mistake.

Consider the example of Pharaoh

Pharaoh is an example of one who simply refused to learn from his previous failures (when he rejected Heavenly wisdom). After Moses and Aaron had approached Pharaoh (king of Egypt) with God’s demand that the Israelites be let go, Pharaoh repeatedly refused them. In fact, as you read Exodus 5-14, you read about a man who saw and felt the power of God, but did not change his response.

Moses and Aaron initially began by demonstrating their message to be from God by performing two signs (see Exodus 4 and 7). Yet, Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he refused to let God’s people go. So, God caused all the water of the Nile River to become blood. Yet, Pharaoh did not heed the warning. The second plague was frogs brought upon the land of Egypt. The third was lice. The fourth was flies. The fifth was disease on livestock. The sixth was boils. The seventh was hail. The eighth was locusts. The ninth was darkness. And, the tenth was the death of all the firstborn.

Throughout all of this, there was great destruction, loss, pain, and death. Yet, Pharaoh continued to rebel against God. He did not gain wisdom from his past rebellion against God and begin to listen to him. Instead, his heart continued to be hardened and he even pursued the Israelites after he had sent them out of Egypt. Then, this rebellious man finally had his life (and the lives of many Egyptian soldiers) ended when they attempted to cross the Red Sea.

Others

Fourth, if you desire to gain Heavenly wisdom, you should also be committed to learning from others. Although the lives and decisions of others are not the standard for wisdom, we ought to be willing to learn from them – and make applications of the instructions God has given us through His word. In fact, God’s word teaches us that we ought to learn from others.

Learn from the experiences of others

Recall that wise people “store up knowledge” (Proverbs 10:14). This knowledge does not have to just include knowledge about our own experiences. But, it can also include knowledge about what other people do or have done. We should be looking to gain knowledge based on the successes and mistakes that other people have made whenever we become aware of them. For, we do not always have to “reinvent the wheel” and discover things for ourselves. We should make good use of the knowledge we gain about the things done by others and make the appropriate applications of them to our own decisions.

This is one of the reasons the Old Testament has been preserved by God for us to study today. As I have already mentioned, it is not the law that we live under today. Instead, it is for our learning (Romans 15:4). After speaking about people God was not pleased with whose examples are recorded in the Old Testament Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 10:6 says, “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they

also lusted.” Then, verse 11 says, “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” So, you should be willing to learn from things that have been done in the past – both positive and negative. This will help you to gain wisdom.

Receive wise counsel

Not only should you be learning from the examples of people around you, but you are also taught by God to seek after and receive wise counsel. Recognize that gaining wisdom is a life-long process. Wisdom takes work and diligence. Thankfully, you do not have to strive after wisdom alone or only learn through your own experiences. You do not have to “reinvent the wheel” and figure things out for yourself every time. Instead, you should learn from those who already have wisdom!

Proverbs 19:20 says, “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.” Proverbs 13:10 says, “By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.” Proverbs 12:15 says, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.” And, Proverbs 11:14 says, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

So, you should seek out advice and counsel to help you make wise decisions in your own life. But, you should not seek advice from just anyone. Instead, you should seek out wise counsel in order to gain wisdom. Proverbs 13:20 says, “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.” Perhaps there is no better illustration of this truth than with Rehoboam, who became king of Israel after his father (Solomon) had died (1 Kings 12). Rather than listening to the advice of the elders, he took the advice of his young friends. This resulted in splitting the kingdom – and Israel was never the same after this!

As you consider who you ought to receive counsel from, consider whether they demonstrate wisdom in their own lives or not by examining the fruits of their decisions. For “wisdom is justified by her children” (Matthew 11:19). That is, we learn

what is truly wise and what is not (in part) by the fruits that are born by decisions that have been made. Then, you need to consider that God teaches that there is wisdom in age (see Job 12:12). And, you are taught to listen to the wise counsel of your parents (see Proverbs 4:1-4; Proverbs 13:1; Proverbs 29:15).

Conclusion

Are you gaining Heavenly wisdom? If you desire to live your life in a way that pleases God, you need to be diligently working to gain the wisdom that comes from Him. Proverbs 7:1-5 says, “My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, ‘You are my sister,’ And call understanding your nearest kin, That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.” Gaining and applying Heavenly wisdom (through the four avenues we have discussed) will enable you to rightly apply the knowledge of God’s word to the situations you encounter throughout your lifetime and will keep you from sin whenever you apply it!

Study Questions

What is wisdom?

1. Wisdom Is Available For Everyone

What is the difference between Heavenly and worldly wisdom?

How is true wisdom calling out to you? What is it offering?

How will receiving wise counsel help you gain wisdom?

2. The Word Of God

How is the mind of God revealed in the Bible? How can you gain wisdom from studying the Bible?

How does the book of Proverbs help you gain wisdom?

3. Prayer

How does prayer help you to gain wisdom?

How did prayer help Solomon gain wisdom?

4. Personal Experiences

How can learning from your past help you gain wisdom?

Did Pharaoh gain wisdom by learning from his past? Explain.

5. Others

How can learning from the experiences of others help you gain wisdom?