

WORD

⁹“Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. **1 KINGS 3:9,10**

King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. When God asked him for anything he wanted, he was wise enough to choose wisdom and an understanding mind. However, in his desire to make political alliances and strengthen his kingdom, he acquired hundreds of wives and concubines, but this led to his downfall. The women in his life led him into idolatry and he turned his heart away from God (1 Kings 11:3,4). In this lesson, we will look at lessons on wisdom from the book of Proverbs, which was primarily written by Solomon.

1 Wisdom comes from God, not from the world.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding . . . **PROVERBS 2:6**

Though we may think that wisdom comes from a better education, experience, or smart people, the Bible says that wisdom comes from God. Wisdom is more than knowledge—it means knowing what to do in a particular situation, when to do something, and how to go about it, all in a way that honors God. According to James 1:5, if we lack wisdom, what should we do?

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2 Trust God, not yourself.

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. PROVERBS 3:5,6

Perhaps some of us have been through difficult circumstances, which have led us to mistrust people or even ourselves. The Bible tells us to trust One—God, who is all-knowing, all-powerful, always present, and always good. When we trust God, we are relying on Him and putting all our faith in Him alone. Why do you think we should trust the Lord with *all* our hearts?

3 Fear God, not man.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. PROVERBS 9:10

The fear of the Lord is crucial for wisdom. If we are wise, we will fear God—not man, not the future, not the unknown. We can only live wisely if we know and acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, that He is our Savior and Redeemer, and that He alone is worthy of all our worship. Recall a time when you feared God more than men. What were you tempted to do, and what did you choose to do instead?

APPLICATION

- Do you fear God more than anything else? What will you do differently starting this week, to reflect this fear of the Lord?
- In what area of your life do you need wisdom? What will you do to get it?
- In what area of your life do you lean on your own understanding? Are you willing to trust God alone? How can you express your trust in and reliance on Him every day?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His wisdom and grace in your life. Pray that you would always fear Him and trust Him, no matter what.
- Ask God for wisdom for your situation. Pray that you will know what to do, what to say, when to do so, and how to go about it—all in a way that honors God.
- Pray that you would not just be wise and understanding at this point in your life, but that you would follow God and trust Him all the days of your life. Pray that you would be a godly example to many.



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