

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- What are some practical ways you can seek God for his wisdom?
- How has your perspective of wisdom changed through the word of God?
- Is godly wisdom shown in how you live your life? If not, what are the changes you're willing to make?
- Have you stopped trusting yourself and started trusting God as the source of everything you need?

PRAYER

- Seek God so that he may reveal his character to you so that you may develop the fear of the Lord.
- Ask for godly guidance and wisdom that will lead you into all truth.
- Pray that you may grow deeper in your relationship with God.

NOTES



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THE ART OF LIVING series



WEEK 1: WISE OR A FOOL?

CONNECT

- Who and where do you go to for much needed advice? How much do you trust this source?
- Have you ever followed advice that did more harm than good?
- How much do you go to God for advice? Has there been a time where you have forgotten to seek God's counsel?
- Would you consider yourself as a wise person? Explain your answer.

WHAT

Living in today's society, the problem is not the lack of but rather the excess of worldly advice readily available to us. Many things clamor for our attention every day but, are they really worth paying attention to? The book of Proverbs talks about godly wisdom as being able to see things from God's perspective and respond according to his instructions. Let us take a look in God's word to see how we can learn the art of living a life full of God's knowledge and wisdom.

WORD

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 1:9 (NIV)

1. Wisdom starts with a right relationship with God.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...”
Proverbs 1:9

To fear the Lord does not mean to be scared or afraid of God, but to be in reverence and awe of him. God said that if we were to count the number of thoughts he has for each of us individually, they would be so vast that they would outnumber the grains of sand on this planet (Psalm 139:17, 18). This is a picture of how much God has in store for us and how passionately and personally he yearns for each of us. As we enter a relationship with God, he reveals his character in such a way that we have no choice but to honor, worship, trust, and have faith in who he says he is. Our intimate relationship with the Lord brings forth reverential fear that results in true wisdom.

2. Wisdom is displayed in the way you live.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”
James 3:13

In James 3:18, James defines true wisdom as “...first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, impartial and sincere.” When James asked, “Who is wise and understanding among you?” he meant for us to re-examine our own hearts and motives. True wisdom is very practical and it is more than just having head knowledge. It is not a matter of what we know and say but a matter of how we live our lives.

3. Wisdom is given to those who seek it from God.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”
James 1:5

The wisdom in this context refers to what God is accomplishing through the trials we face. Rather than frantically figuring things out on our own through our limited knowledge or desperately searching for the best person to give us good advice, we should go directly to the source, which is God. When he gives wisdom, he gives it generously without finding fault. Therefore, God will never insult us for asking wisdom from him.
