

## Walking In Wisdom Series: 3

### The Beginning of Wisdom

#### **Proverbs 4.7**

“Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding”

We saw last time that wisdom is the principal thing – it is the chief, the first in place, time, order and rank. It is the beginning and the best.

#### Proverbs 4.11

“I have taught you in the way of skillful and godly wisdom [*which is comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God*];” (Amp.)

Wisdom – as we are studying it – is the ability to accurately discern, judge and act upon God's principles for righteous and godly living.

We are to actively seek out wisdom because it is not something that automatically comes the older we get. There are those who are of a good age that are not wise at all and the same is true for the opposite. There are those young people who are very wise. This is because wisdom is not acquired through academic learning or even life skills – Proverbs gives us 9 chapters that tell us all about wisdom, extolling it's virtues, where to find wisdom and how to get it.

If anyone lacks or needs wisdom the Bible tells us that we should ask God for it: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach” James 1.5

Where do we begin in our quest or search for wisdom.

In Proverbs 4.7 we saw that it said '*we are to get wisdom.. and understanding*'

#### **Proverbs 9.10**

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.”

This is the fundamental principal part of wisdom. This shows who the real wise men are, and in what true wisdom lies; no man can be wise until he fears the Lord. You can be the greatest scholar, hold multiple academic degrees, be the best in your field or sphere, but if you don't know the Lord then your knowledge doesn't count anything.

We need to be careful who we listen to - many will offer advice on a situation but their 'worldly wisdom' may not be in line with the ways and purposes of God. I know of a man who will not employ any worldly trades people no matter how good they may be. If they don't know God they aren't good enough for the job in hand.

There is a great verse in Isaiah which I often preach from and it's found at the beginning of chapter 53, "Who has believed our report?" (Isaiah 53.1) - this is a question that God asked. Who is listening to and believing what He says.

Jesus said "(14) I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own... (27) My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow Me" John 10.14,27

Those who know Him hear His voice and follow.

### **The Fear of the Lord -**

The beginning of wisdom is having that holy reverence for God – the Bible calls it the Fear of the Lord.

"And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom, And to depart from evil *is* understanding.'" Job 28.28

This is not a petrifying fear (which comes from the enemy) but rather a reverence and awe for God, giving Him honour and worship.

"But to man He said, Behold, the reverential and worshipful fear of the Lord--that is Wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" (Amp.)

Isaiah 8.13

"The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; *Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread.*"

"The Lord of hosts--regard Him as holy and honour His holy name [*by regarding Him as your only hope of safety*], and let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread [*lest you offend Him by your fear of man and distrust of Him*]." (Amp.)

God is the author and source of wisdom. He says that He will put His fear in the hearts of His people.

"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me" Jeremiah 32.40

That fear comes from knowing Him through relationship. The more we get to know Him and become acquainted with Him the more we love, honour and worship Him.

"Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God." Colossians 3.22  
Paul taught that fearing God was an act of submission to Him. He was teaching about family relationships – husbands loving their wives, wives submitting to their husbands, children being obedient to parents, fathers not provoking their children, servants obeying their masters.

He was saying here that we don't just obey or submit to please man but because we have that fear of the Lord.

This relationship that produces godly fear was the apostle Paul's principal aim -

“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ” Philippians 3.10

“*[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, ” (Amp.)*

This is where wisdom begins – having that personal relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Then wisdom comes by being hearing, believing and acting upon what He tells us to do.

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever” Psalm 111.10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom but knowledge comes by doing His commandments.

God spoke to Joshua and told Him not to deviate from the word of God – this would make him successful.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” Joshua 1.8

good success – to be prudent, circumspect, wise and prosperous

“the book of this law doth not depart out of thy mouth, and thou hast meditated in it by day and by night, so that thou dost observe to do according to all that is written in it, for then thou dost cause thy way to prosper, and then thou dost act wisely” (Young's Literal Translation 1898)

“And the book of this law shall not depart out of thy mouth, and thou shalt meditate in it day and night, that thou mayest know how to do all the things that are written in it; then shalt thou prosper, and make thy ways prosperous, and then shalt thou be wise.” (Brenton's English Septuagint)

## **Wisdom Hears and Does the Word of God.**

James 1.22-25

If you don't put into practice what you have heard you are being deceived by yourself – anyone can be fooled and deceived but it takes a real fool to deceive yourself. Doing and continuing in what you have heard produces blessing

Matthew 7.24-27

Jesus said that a wisdom (a wise man) hears and does the Word. Foolishness hears the Word and does not do it.