

The Benefits of Wisdom: Character, Confidence and Contentment

Getting focused

The writer introduces numerous benefits in receiving instruction from God, in contrast to the destructive effects of ignorance and foolishness. The blessed life of a disciple of the Lord is remarkable. List all of the things that you hope to get out of life, then compare it with what wisdom will deliver.

- Long life (vs. 2, 16)
- Favor and high esteem (v. 4)
- Health and strength (v. 8)
- Material blessings (v. 10)
- Happiness, rest and peace (vs. 17, 18, 24)
- Deliverance from trouble (vs. 25, 26)
- Eternal life (v. 35)

Trust in the Lord and He will direct and bless your life

Read Proverbs 3:1-10

If we will accept the teachings of the Lord, we can avoid many of the hurtful, destructive ways of the world. Walking by the precepts of God establishes us as people of character. The result of being upright is:

- **Physical health:** a lifestyle that is conducive to healthy living
- **Mental strength:** self-esteem and peace of mind resulting from a clear conscience
- **Material blessing:** the proper attitude toward possessions which enables you to use your resources wisely

There are times in life when you will want to “do your own thing.” The words of verses five through seven should be committed to our memory: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and depart from evil.”

Remember:

Our purpose of gaining wisdom is to learn how to **make the right decisions** in our life, without **having to experience** those things that are wrong.

The essence of the wisdom of God: The ability to make the right decision **before** we make the wrong decision.

Memorize and meditate

“The Lord will be your confidence, and keep your foot from being caught.”

- Proverbs 3:26

Simply stated, when faced with the choice of whether or not to do something you feel is right but contradicts what God says—**trust in the Lord’s way.**

Some lessons are not easily learned, but the result is priceless peace

Read Proverbs 3:11-18

Verses 11 and 12 have caused some to wonder how one can be chastened by the Lord. I believe this refers to the conscience that is sensitive to God’s will, through His word, and suffers guilt when His instructions have been violated. The sensation of guilt is not pleasant to experience but produces a peaceful spiritual existence when we are corrected by our heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:5-11).

The creative power of wisdom

Read Proverbs 3:19-26

When introduced to the power of wisdom, we learn the foundation of creation is established and founded in the wisdom of God. When we examine this in light of other Scripture, we comprehend the wisdom of God to be the word of God. “The worlds were framed by the word of God” (Hebrews 11:3).

The knowledge imparted by God makes us a new creation, contrary to those who walk about without hope. The very power that created all things now guides and directs our lives. Creation declares His eternal power (Romans 1:20).

Share that which God gives with others

Read Proverbs 3:19-26

The manifestation of the power of God’s word is seen in how it works in our life. We learn that the blessings we receive through making application of verses 9 and 10 are to be utilized in helping those less fortunate. A fundamental principle in obtaining and maintaining the wisdom of God is through recognizing that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The result of this principle is peace with our fellow man (vs. 29-30). Though some may seem to prosper by taking advantage of others, they have no fellowship with God—thus, no real happiness.

The grace extended to us by God is based upon our humility. If someone is not willing to live by God’s precepts and principles, they will not receive spiritual blessings from God.

Questions to consider

1. Discuss some benefits you have received by making application of wisdom in your life. _____

2. What is the result of rejecting God's instruction? _____

3. What do we learn in verse 3 about the nature of wisdom? _____

4. Explain how we bind God's commands around our neck and write them on the tablets of our heart. _____

5. How can a person lose wisdom? _____

