



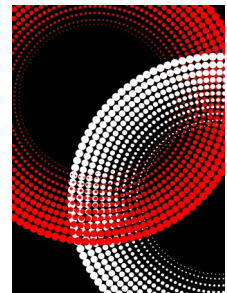
(5) The Wisdom of God

Willing to comply to His plans because they are best (Psalm 104:24)

Making the best decisions can only come from knowing and understanding Him who perfectly designed things! As we get to know the Lord, we begin to gain His wisdom. Because of this, we need to perfect our hearing from God to successfully live out our lives and ministries.

1) Definition of Wisdom

- Wisdom is the ability to grasp all relevant factors to make the best decisions. God's wisdom forever has grasped all knowable factors, even those spread throughout eternity, thus making God All-wise.
- Many people, religions, and philosophies boast of their wisdom, but once they deny God and His wisdom, they become but fools. "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Ps 14:1). Humanism is perhaps the greatest sinful movement because it sees itself as the source for supreme wisdom.
- Man's understanding and wisdom is not the place to start understanding God and wisdom, but it remains the only place for us to begin! Our poor dwarfed wisdom, merely a slight shadow of God's wisdom, should not rightly be considered wisdom at all. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God" (1 Co 3:19). Jesus has at least been to heaven ([John 3:12-13](#)).
- The wisdom of God begs conformity for it reveals the best perspective for any decisions. Counter advice will always prove to be utter failure because the opposite of wisdom is foolishness, countering God and His will.



2) God's Wisdom

Let's look at several aspects of God's wisdom.

- "To the only wise God" (Rom 16:27) cleverly describes the extent of God's wisdom. There were many gods paraded in the streets and altars across Rome, but God was **only** wise. God, unlike idols, was not shaped by man's hands or minds, but always possessed His perfect astuteness. In order to drop all sense of comparison with other gods or minds, Paul rightly added the descriptive word "only." He was (and is) the only wise God, indicating that there are no other gods considered wise. And if there are no other gods that are considered wise, then certainly there are no creatures or beings of any kind that can be considered wise. Man's greatest apex of learning occurs when he discovers the source of all wisdom (and morals) derive from the "only wise God".
- "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" (Rom 11:33) The wisdom of God is beyond man's ability to grasp. We strive to improve our knowledge and refining of our perspectives, but God's wisdom is fully mature, allowing for no improvement or missing of one mere calculation.
- "O LORD, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all" (Psalm 104:24). God's works come from His words which like fireworks display God's wisdom. "Many" is the best way to describe the incomparable nature of His wisdom. This is why the DNA is worth studying for decades by our best scientists trying to crack its perfect code. "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens" (Pr 3:19).
- The purpose of displaying God's wisdom is to bring Him praise. "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen" (Rev 7:12). Other than the fact that God delights in His wisdom, He shares His glory through His works, Words, and redemption plan so that His perfect wisdom is made further manifest in our minds and lives. Foolish decisions, always made apart from Him, bring praise to God as they eventually show their utter nonsense, while those who lean upon

God increase in knowledge and wisdom and so all bring further demonstration of God's wisdom, whether rejected and spurned or loved and enjoyed. Each brings a greater display of God's glorious person.

- Jesus is Wisdom. "But to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Co 1:24). "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who **became to us wisdom from God**, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Co 1:30; also Pro 8:22-32).

Summary

God is only wise and His wisdom is beyond our comprehension, but for that reason, it is totally reliable, enabling the foolish man to become wise. Fortunately, God patiently distributes His wisdom to those who respect Him.

3) God's Wisdom in Us

A key changing point of growth in my life occurred when I heard a preacher explain how God's wisdom was revealed in His Word. All of a sudden, I understood that God's truth always reflects what is best and wonderful. The truth of God's Word leads us to His wisdom! God's truth wonderfully leads us to the best life possible. All worldly thoughts try to look wise and attractive but are not because they counter God's wisdom.

"For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity" (Pro 2:6-7).

- God's works manifest His glory, such as in animals (Job 39:19-25) or the solar systems (Job 38:31-35), but we cannot even begin comprehending their greatness. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding" (Pro 38:4).
- Humans delight in their capabilities, insights, success, feats of the body and through them give praise to God's works in His design of humans. "There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Four which I do not understand: 19 The way of an eagle in the sky, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the middle of the sea, And the way of a man with a maid" (Pro 30:18-19).
- God at times passes some measure of understanding and wisdom onto people. The distributed wisdom is always considered an essential part to the completion of God's sovereign plan.
 - "So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are'" (Ge 41:39).
 - "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship" (Ex 31:3).
 - "Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore" (1Ki 4:29).
 - "For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind" (Ec 2:26).
- The Gospel, in essence, is wisdom to know God. The problem of redeeming man became so impossible that it took the wisdom of God in Christ here on earth to solve it. "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life" (1 John 5:12).
- "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor 4:3-4).
- The church is God's display case. "In order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places" (Eph 3:10).
- The church becomes a key voice broadcasting God's wisdom. "Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Cor 2:6-8).
- Gaining wisdom is directly related to knowing and experience God. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Pr 9:10). The fear of the Lord is a healthy apprehension of God's presence and His expectations which help us guard our activities.
- "For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit" (1 Cor 12:8). "Word of wisdom"(8) is, as in the Old Testament, the way the Spirit of God passes special insight and wisdom to certain believers so that they personally can make and communicate wise decisions and their importance.

Summary

We were made in God's image and were able to tap into God's wisdom. The Lord in His wisdom carefully uncovered His scheme to overcome the devil (Mark 3:24-27) and won back His elect through Christ, once again enabling us through the Holy Spirit to commune with Him to know and do His will. This is the difficult work done behind the scenes that we might gain the wisdom of God and live uprightly in cooperation with His will. This is why worldliness is so heinous. After His proof of love and enabling us to commune with Him, we still awkwardly ignore Him and doubt the goodness of His will, thinking He is keeping something from us. For us to know God is to experience His wisdom for daily life and ministry so that we constantly see His awesome input into our lives.

Study Questions

- Why do people think they are so wise? Are they really? How do we know?
- Can any activity without the wisdom of God be wise? Explain.
- Do you have the fear of God? How do you know?

“The effect of His gift of wisdom is to make us more humble, more joyful, more godly, more quick-sighted as to His will, more resolute in the doing of it and less troubled.”⁷