

BECOMING Wiser

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do get, good judgment.
Proverbs 4:7

LESSON 1 // TUNE IN AND TUNE OUT

We're starting this new year by turning our attention to the topic of wisdom. Our goal is to focus on some key points of wisdom that will help us start our year well, proceed through the year well and begin building a platform for a stronger life, for the rest of our lives. Here's the goal:

Proverbs 19:20 (NLT) *Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life*

The way to make the “rest of your life” the “best of your life” is to become a wiser person. In this lesson our focus is on “tuning in” to the wisdom frequency. By “tuning in” we can begin to “tune up” our lives. Let's look at five lessons that help us do this:

1. **Wisdom is more than smarts, more than intellectual ability, more than the accumulation of knowledge.**

There has never been a time in history when we have had so much knowledge available to us. Yet, interestingly, all this knowledge hasn't improved the morals or cured the social ills in the world. The Bible predicted this dilemma:

2 Timothy 3:7 (NIV) *Always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

The Greek word used in the New Testament for wisdom is *sophia*—“skill in the affairs of life; wise management as shown in forming the best plans and selecting the best means, including the idea of sound judgment and good sense” (CWSB; see Proverbs 8:12, 14).

Wisdom is the accumulation and possession of knowledge, truth, guiding principles, moral precepts, right values, proper priorities, good sense and prudent judgment from God's perspective, and the ability to apply these practically to everyday life and decisions. Wise people have understanding, insight, judgment, intuition, discipline and skills, and know how best to apply acquired information.

2. **There is a difference between human wisdom and God's wisdom.**

Human wisdom is the way the world thinks, acts, decides and judges things. God's wisdom is the way God thinks, acts, decides and judges things. Scripture makes it clear that human wisdom is weak, and actually foolish, when compared to God's wisdom (see Isaiah 55:8, 9; 1 Corinthians 1:19-25; James 3:13-17). Jesus is the door to God's wisdom and the Bible is His wisdom manual.

Colossians 2:3 (NIV) *In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Colossians 3:16 (NIV) *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

3. God's wisdom is the wisdom worth getting.

You should desire God's wisdom more than anything else (Proverbs 3:13-15; 4:7) because it is the pathway to many great things: provision, promotion, productivity, protection, guidance, favor, honor, health and long life.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV) *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

4. Becoming wise is an intentional process and pursuit.

We need to be on a purposeful, active, intentional journey out of foolishness into wisdom. Wisdom comes by intentional processes and pursuits (Proverbs 2:1-6). To get God's wisdom you must want it, value it, look for it and practice it.

5. Wisdom today doesn't guarantee wisdom tomorrow, and foolishness today hasn't disqualified you from gaining wisdom for your tomorrows.

Just because you've chosen wisdom in your past doesn't guarantee that you will choose it in the future. All of us, no matter how wise we have been, can become foolish, just like Solomon did (1 Kings 11:1-6).

On the other hand, foolishness in your past doesn't disqualify you from choosing to live wisely now. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul:

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV) *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Make a meaningful, sincere, serious decision to tune in to God's wisdom so that God can tune up your life!

Discussion questions

1. What is wisdom? Why should you desire to get it?
2. How is God's wisdom different from and more desirable than the world's wisdom?
3. What are some ways you can intentionally and purposefully pursue God's wisdom in your life? What practical steps can you take toward this goal?