

The Benefits of Wisdom, part 1

“Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.” J.I. Packer

Proverbs 2:1-10 christian Standard Bible

Wisdom's Worth

1 My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,

2 listening closely^[a] to wisdom
and directing your heart to understanding;

3 furthermore, if you call out to insight
and lift your voice to understanding,

4 if you seek it like silver
and search for it like hidden treasure,

5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and discover the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

7 He stores up success^[b] for the upright;
He is a shield for those who live with integrity

8 so that he may guard the paths of justice
and protect the way of his faithful followers.

9 Then you will understand righteousness, justice,
and integrity—every good path.

10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will delight you.

CSB Footnotes

a. 2:2 Lit you, stretching out your ear

b. 2:7 Or resourcefulness

Something to think about...

What life lessons about wisdom can you glean from your childhood and family life?

A CLOSER LOOK

What wonderful blessings wisdom can bring, and with this in mind, we should pay careful attention to the three conditional statements found in the first four verses beginning with the word “if”.

First, one must choose attentiveness (2:1-2). Passive listening is not enough. The father, addressing his son in this section, uses verb after verb urging his son to focus on wisdom—welcoming it, accepting it, and storing away its truths in memory. Wise listeners lean closer to hear, choosing to listen with their hearts, not just their ears. The second condition for gaining wisdom is to ask for it. The writer uses verbs that refer to loud, insistent pleas for help, like the desperate cry of someone begging for deliverance from trouble (cp. Ps. 4:1; Mark 10:46-48). We will gain wisdom when we yearn for it strongly enough to call out for it. A third step in gaining wisdom is to commit oneself to a determined search for it. People go to incredible lengths to find gold or silver or to dig in search of hidden treasure; the search for wisdom demands the same dedication.

If you fulfill these three conditions committing to a disciplined search for wisdom, God promises that you will find what you are looking for. The passage gives two promises: You will gain God (2:5-8), and you will gain God's wisdom (2:9-11).

The person who searches for wisdom will find more than he looked for because God is the source of all wisdom. When you set out to find wisdom, God waits for you at the end of the search.

“LET US PRAY...”

Lord thank you for the blessings found in biblical wisdom. Help us Lord to find you and your will for our lives as we pursue godly wisdom. Help us to be attentive, willing to ask, and committed to pursuing wisdom and growing closer to you. Amen

NEXT WEEK... *The Benefits of Wisdom, part 2— Proverbs 3:13-24*