

WISDOM

By Dr. Richard J. Krejcir

King Solomon "Please make me wise and teach me the difference between right and wrong. Then I will know how to rule this great nation of yours." 1Kings 3v9

Wisdom can probably be best defined as "the ability to make Godly choices in life." The study and collection of wise sayings that would help people make good decisions was a preoccupation in the ancient world. Kings of many nations employed men to collect and record wise sayings. The wisdom literature contained in the Bible differs from that produced by other nations because it recognises that a relationship with the Living God is the starting point in the search for wisdom. The 'wisdom' books of the Bible are Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs and the Song of Solomon.

Wisdom truly desires the knowledge of God's Word and it's proper application to our life. Wisdom is rooted in doing the will of the Lord; to forsake His Word is to forfeit wisdom (Jer. 8:8-9). Wisdom will enable us to make good judgments and decisions. We will seek what is right and true based on God's will and not how we may feel or think.

People who are wise are nourished by the Word. They get into the Scriptures with study and application, not just read it like a novel. The Word must touch who we are, and transform our very core; this gives us the knowledge that leads and transforms. We cannot be an effective Christian, or lead others, if we do not know the way; to know the way, we must have the knowledge. The knowledge comes from experience, and experience comes from discipleship. The Will of God is for us to study His Word; this will change our behaviors and our lives.

If we do not know who God is and what our call and responsibilities are, then how are we to grow in our faith, in maturity, and in character, not to mention in leading others in the direction of God's call? We can't! The opposite of *maturity* is *immaturity*, as the opposite of *wisdom* is *foolishness*.

Be careful that your knowledge does not puff you up, as Paul warns. *Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.* Remember, all of the fruits of the Spirit, and these other character traits we have been learning, all work together. None stand alone!

The Sovereign Creator of the universe must transform our lives, including our thinking and knowledge. He will pursue, and we are to respond and surrender to His sovereignty. Then, our purpose will be unfolded before us, and the impact we have will be beyond our dreams and expectations.

You may be considered a failure in the eyes of the world. However, in God's eyes, when you remain in His character, and learn from His precepts, you are a winner.

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.