

God Promises to Give Wisdom to Those Who Ask

Opener: When have you received what you knew was wise advice, but you didn't want to take it?

Scripture: Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. James 1:2-8

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ . . . ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:13-17

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3

Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. . . . ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. I Corinthians 1:26-30

Discussion Questions

1. Wisdom is discernment in action. With that in mind, what's the difference between knowledge and wisdom? How do they work together? How does wisdom apply to facing trials? James 1:5
2. How would you characterize worldly wisdom versus Godly wisdom? Where do people look for wisdom other than God? Under what circumstances should a Christ-follower consider or use worldly wisdom? James 1:2-4; 3:13-17
3. What does God promise to those who ask Him for wisdom? What does wisdom given “without finding fault” look like? If you've ever received wisdom from someone who gave it while finding fault, how did it affect you? James 1:5
4. What's the difference between asking and not doubting and asking while doubting? What are some doubts someone could have when asking for wisdom? James 1:6
5. How can someone be like a wave of the sea, double-minded and unstable in all they do? How does being double-minded prevent us from making wise choices? Have you ever been double-minded? If you were able to overcome it, how did you do it? James 1:6-8
6. Colossians 2:3 tells us that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. I Cor. 1:30 explains that Jesus has become wisdom from God for us, resulting in our righteousness, holiness and redemption. How does this elevate the importance of wisdom in our lives?

Wrap Up: Wisdom is discernment in action. It's more than knowing what to do at any given moment. It's God-given insight and God-given determination to do what He calls us to do in the way He wants it done. To reject the wisdom God gives is to reject what Jesus died to provide. As I Corinthians 1:30 explains, “It is because of God that we are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”