

# GOD'S WISDOM

## Intro

How would you like to know everything?

I had a professor in college that was a history professor. He had his doctorate in the period of history between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War in American History.

He had his own 20,000 volume library on just that period of history. I helped him move when I was in college and his library shelves filled a two car garage.

His knowledge of that period of history was amazing but he was not a good teacher. He had great knowledge but lacked the ability to effectively relate his knowledge to the students. He actually had a hard time relating to the students.

Having great knowledge is one thing. God is omniscient which means he possesses all knowledge but that is not the same as wisdom.

My oldest brother is very intelligent but at times lacks common sense. He has book smarts but that doesn't always translate to making wise decisions with how he lived.

My brother was a terrible driver. He has totaled at least three cars. I remember one time we were on our way to get ice cream in the summer. On the way my brother hit some gravel did a complete 360 with the car. The car hit bunch of grass along the side of the road, the hubcap flew off, and he jumped out of the car, threw the hubcap back into the back seat of the car, and kept on driving without saying a word to me.

He acted like this was a normal occurrence. While I am sitting in the passenger seat terrified speechless.

So tonight, I want to talk about wisdom. Our God is not only omniscient but wise.

## I. Wisdom Defined- What is wisdom?

A. Wisdom is more than just knowledge. It is knowing how to apply that knowledge.

B. Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goals, together with the surest means of attaining them.

## C. Scripture affirms God's wisdom

1. Rom. 11:33 "Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out."

2. Rom. 16:27 He is called "the only wise God"

3. Job 9:4 he is called "wise in heart"

4. Psalm 104:24 God's wisdom is seen at creation.

"In wisdom you have made them all, the earth is full of your creatures."

D. God's wisdom is coupled with His other attributes so that His wisdom is never

frustrated.

1. Can you think of a time when you thought you were acting wisely and when the occasion came to its conclusion, you saw there was a wiser course of action?
2. Winter canoe trip.
3. That is why we say, "Hindsight is always 20/20".
4. God never experiences that.
  - a. He couples His wisdom with His omniscience. Isa.40:28

b. He couples wisdom with His omnipotence. Job 9:4, 12:13,36:5,

Rom.16:25,27

Job 12:13 "To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.

5. Wisdom without power is pathetic, power without wisdom is frightening, but because God possesses both, he can be trusted fully.
6. Has there ever been a time when you questioned God's wisdom? (It is usually because we don't see the big picture. Job didn't know about the conversation between God and Satan before Job's trials.) We must learn to trust God even when we don't understand.

## II. Examples of God dealing with His people with wisdom

### A. Abraham

1. Abraham was a man who lied to protect himself--putting his wife in danger (Gen.12:10-20)
2. He was vulnerable to giving in to his wife's demands. She insisted he father

a

child by Hagar and when she was jealous of Hagar, she insisted Hagar be driven away (Gen. 16:5-6).

3. God took this man and taught him to see all of life in relationship to God. He learned to totally trust God and depend upon Him.

4. Abraham responds by leaving his home and traveling to a new land (Gen.12:1-7).

5. Abraham learns a new patience as he waits 25 years for the birth of his son, Isaac (Gen. 21:1-5).

6. Abraham learned to trust God so much he was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, in obedience to God even though he didn't fully understand (Gen. 22).

### B. Jacob

1. God dealt with Jacob differently because God knew exactly what he needed

to follow God.

2. Jacob was a deceitful Mama's boy who used his own cleverness to get what he wanted.
3. He tricked his Dad to get his brother's birthright (Gen. 28:13-15).
4. God allowed Jacob to get some of his own medicine when Uncle Laban tricked him into marrying Leah first and then Rachel (Gen. 29:15-30).
5. Laban gets so angry at Jacob over the breeding practices that Jacob decides it's time to leave (Gen. 30:25-31:55). He leaves and goes toward his homeland and hears his brother is coming to meet him with an army. Jacob is caught in a tight spot. His dishonest ways are catching up with Him.
6. During this time, God meets with Jacob at night and wrestles with him until Jacob realizes he can't win. He is helpless and without hope unless God blesses him. Jacob is humbled and out of tricks. God then is able to bless him and lames his hip to remind him that he needs to lean on God (Gen. 32:24-30).

C. How God deals with us

1. Every day of our lives we can quiet our hearts before God with the knowledge of God's infinite wisdom.
2. God knows what we need so that we'll become more like Him and grow in our relationship with Him because He has all wisdom.

Rom. 8:28-29 says that "All things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose- to make us more like Christ."

3. Often times God brings circumstances, people and trials into our lives and wants to use them to cause us to grow (1 Peter 1:6-7).
  3. At times we may not understand what God is doing or why, but we need to trust His wisdom that He knows what is best for us. (i.e. Job)
- I Peter 4:19 "So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."

4. Prov. 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."  
How does having a proper fear of God grant us wisdom?

If we fear dishonoring God or displeasing Him and if we fear his fatherly discipline, then we will have the motivation that makes us want to follow his ways and live according to His commands.

Have you ever been tempted to do something you know that you shouldn't do but you didn't do it because you knew if your parents found out it would break their hearts and you knew you'd get in trouble? That is the

beginning of wisdom because you are doing what is right.

5. How can we know God's wisdom?

Knowing how we should live to please God comes primarily from reading and obeying His Word.

Ps. 19:7 "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple."

6. How should we respond to trying situations?

a. Take them as from God and ask, "How does God want me to respond to this and what does he want me to learn?"

b. Seek God's face specifically about the situation.

James 1:5 "if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

(Pray, seek God, His counsel from His Word and other wise people)

6. When Paul was having problems of a physical infirmity, he went to God three times (2 Cor. 12:7-9). God did not remove the problem but promised that He would give grace to deal with it. That answer was accepted by Paul because He trusted God knew what He was doing. Paul accepted that God is ALL WISE.

7. Tell about Jenny having a miscarriage between Leah and Joy

### Application

1. Do you believe God is all wise and always acts wisely?

2. When the circumstances of life don't make sense to you, will you trust that God is wise and knows that He is doing?

3. Will you trust God even when you don't see the big picture?

4. When trials come, will you ask, "What is God trying to teach me?" instead of "why" because you know that God loves you and knows what He is doing.

It is really hard to run to God when hard times come if you aren't assured that He is all wise and that He loves you more than you will ever know.

### Small groups

1. How would you define wisdom? Would you consider yourself to be wise? Why/why not?
2. What does it mean to you when you hear that God is all wise?
3. Do you struggle to trust God when trials come into your life? Why/why not?
4. What would the fear of God look like in a teen's life? Would you say you fear God? Why/why not?
5. How can you apply this lesson to your life this week?