

# Wisdom and Discretion

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## Proverbs 2:10-12 (NKJV)

*10 When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul,*

*11 Discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you,*

*12 To deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things,*

### **1. Wisdom, Knowledge, Discretion and Understanding**

These verses of Proverbs 2 include four spiritual and mental assets which are highly essential to living for all God's people and for all people in general. They are Wisdom, Knowledge, Discretion and Understanding. Some people possess great wealth but lack these mental and spiritual assets. Lord Jesus spoke about such a failed life by citing a 'rich fool' in Luke 12:13-21. God spoke to this foolish rich man, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." We hear, from time to time, news of numerous famous, seemingly successful persons who end their lives in suicides, in the U.S. in Korea and elsewhere around the world.

Thanks to the highly advanced information technology available in most developed nations we have easy access to information and thus can increase our store of knowledge. Prophet Daniel prophesied that "knowledge shall increase" in the last times [Daniel 12:4], and we are now living in such an era. Nevertheless, the internet is incapable of providing true wisdom of how to apply the knowledge we have gained wisely to situations and problems we face in our living. True wisdom comes from God of Heaven and Earth and the on-line information providers are devoid of true wisdom.

Now, what is discretion? It is the mental capacity to make thoughtful, considerate decisions based on true wisdom so as to provide protection, love and warmth to oneself and to those around him/her just as God would. A person with a rich store of knowledge, wisdom and discretion has understanding about people, things, matters and problems in the society with the heart of Jesus Christ. We call such persons as Wise Men or Wise Women.

Bible teaches that the foundation of knowledge and wisdom lies in fear of God. What is fear of God? It is the humble attitude that acknowledges God as the creator and the ruler of the entire universe and has sound fear and utmost respect to His authority, majesty, capacity and will. When a person has such a fear toward God of Heaven and Earth, he/she realizes how insignificant he/she is before such an awesome Being and lays down in prostrate position unable to lift his/her head toward Him. We call such an attitude in a person 'fear of God.' And when a person has such a fear toward God, that is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.

*[Proverbs 1:7] The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*[Proverbs 9:10] The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

So-called 'modern theologians' have produced numerous theological views and interpretations on the word of God, most of which are misleading and confusing to both believers and non-believers. There are false, greedy preachers who are outright attempting to make themselves rich using 'prosperity gospels.' These so-called preachers and pastors are liars who have no fear of God. If they had a decent amount of fear of God, they would not be engaged in such outright false behaviors and ways.

Fear of God restrains His servants from doing wrong things and saying things that are not from God. Fear of God constrains them to proclaim the gospel of Christ in all truths without fear of opposition and without any thought of pursuing own self interests. Fear of God drives them to be true to their calling from God and they do not stop telling the truth of God.

But, those without fear of God do not have such restraints. They are driven by selfish desires and Satan's urgings. There is no godliness and holiness in them because these qualities can only come from sound fear of God. Friends, whenever you watch such preachers on TV or listen to radio bible talks, learn to apply godly discretion and make judgment whether the person on the show is a true servant of Jesus Christ who preached without a home, without wealth and yet gave Himself wholly to the sinners of the world without price and without pay.

Friends, if you seek to have true knowledge of God, godly wisdom, Christ-like discretion and understanding with God's heart, learn to lay yourself down prostrate before God every morning and evening in wholesome fear of God and seek to have a private meeting with the Maker and King of the Universe, who will gladly condescend and meet with you in your prayer room. Only then you can open your Bible and start reading His words to gain true understanding, knowledge, discretion and understanding. God will richly fill your spiritual storehouse with His riches which are limitless.

## **2. Condemnation and Discretion**

Lord Jesus taught His disciples not to judge others, for they would be judged in return with the criteria they use in judging others [Matt 7:1, Luke 6:37]. The judgment in these teachings of Jesus is judging to condemn others. There are people around us who somehow have difficulty in seeing their own faults but are quick to identify errors in others. They are incapable of slighting others' errors but must point them and demand that the errors must be rectified. Instead of thinking, "Oh, well, she will learn to correct herself some day," such a self-appointed judge takes upon himself the responsibility of 'making things right.' Otherwise, the society will continue to slide down into evilness and decrepitude.

I must confess that I was such a person myself before awakening came to me. Lord Jesus teaches us that we must recognize that we have faults that need to be taken care of first before we can attempt to improve others' lives. Therefore, when someone's faults come into our view, let us look into our own life and spend our time wisely in first addressing the faults and shortcomings in us. Remember, God gave us the primary mission of governing our own lives before helping others.

On the other hand, Lord Jesus and His apostles taught Christians how to apply wise discretion based on divine wisdom. First, Lord Jesus teaches us to discern the times by watching the signs of the times and applying the prophetic warnings about the end times.

*[Matt 16:3] And in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.'  
[a]Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.*

We are seeing a number of signs that indicate nearing of the end times. Wise people of God recognize them in reference to the signs in prophetic sayings and place their hopes in the second coming of Lord Jesus. If you also see these signs, the wisdom is not to waste your life and resources in vain pursuits that will not last into eternity, take stock of the spiritual readiness of yourself and your family, and faithfully come to Jesus Christ in anticipation of His coming.

*[Matt 7:15-16] Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?*

Lord Jesus teaches us how to discern false preachers, not by what they say but by their fruits. Not all preachers and pastors are true servants of God. There are many that work for money only. And some are ravenous wolves that prey on the believers by exploiting them psychologically and materially and leaving them destitute in the end. Wise people of God need to apply sharp discretion and discern them from true servants of God.

*[1 Corinthians 12:10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

What Apostle Paul says is that not every believer has the ability to discern spirits but only some to whom God grants such a capability. A saint who has been imbued with such spirit discerning gift is responsible for exercising his/her gift and discern the wrong spirits that are working within the kingdom of God from the true spirits and help other Christians with the resulting discernment.

Exercising wise discernment is also necessary in the political arena just as it is in the spiritual and ecumenical. Dictators and leftist groups in the U.S., South Korea, North Korea, China, Russia and Belorussia, just to name a few, are misleading the peoples while destroying and depriving them of their fundamental rights and liberties without much restraint, only for the sole purpose of the misguided goals of their socialist and dictatorial dreams. In those countries, however, there are enlightened leaders in churches, civic groups, academia and political parties who have the clear insight into the situations they are facing and have come forward to awaken the peoples to rise up against the enemies of their countries. I believe God has given them the ability of divine discernment to identify the wrong from the right. I wish to encourage my readers to listen to such voices of the right, to support their endeavors and to pray God that His special help be with your peoples and nations so that the kingdom of God thrives in the countries you love. In dire situations Christians need to rise up and raise their voices clearly so that they are heard and heeded.

*[Hebrews 4:12] For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*[Hebrews 5:14] But solid food belongs to those who are [a]of full age, that is, those who by reason of [b]use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Where does one obtain the ability of discretion or discernment? The first verse above tells us that the word of God is the source of divine discernment as it is like a sharp two-edged sword that divides the good and the evil and discerns even the inwards thoughts and intents of people when they are not even expressed verbally. Isn't it such a fearfully powerful source of discernment?

No Wikipedia, encyclopedia or knowledge system in this world comes close to the word of God in terms of knowledge, wisdom and discernment. Therefore, wise Christians should read the word of God, meditate on it, and have his/her soul fed with the life and word of Jesus Christ daily. And that is the sure way of obtaining wisdom and discernment to discern the affairs of this world from God's viewpoint and to know good from evil.

*[Proverbs 2: 5-6] Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.*

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

Lord God gives wisdom to seeking men and women. When God speaks to your heart in your private time of prayer and meditation, you may obtain divine knowledge and understanding that go beyond what renowned philosophers have ever come to know.

The world is full of confusion because persons without divine wisdom and discernment have made themselves leaders of people. Worse yet, people with evil intents create confusion and commotion so as to deprive our society of rest, peace and security. How can we expect our country to have peace and security when it is led by a person who lacks divine wisdom and discernment regardless of political parties? Whether in a church, a community or a nation, we need leaders who are led by the spirit of God and know how to obtain instruction and guidance from the Almighty God of Heaven and Earth. And let us all seek to receive divine wisdom and discernment from the throne of God daily. Amen.