



Living Well

Wisdom



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August 2013

Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.org
Photos and writings about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com
Encouragement/culture on marriage - www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com
Marriage events in the state, resources for marriage - www.marriagenetworkok.net
Making Marriage Memorable blog - www.marriagenetworkok.nblogger.com

What it means....

Wisdom is the means by which the godly can both discern and carry out the will of God. Douglas Moo

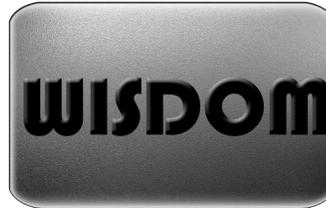
Wisdom is looking at life from God's point of view. Chuck Swindoll

The dictionary on **wisdom**: knowledge of what is right or true coupled with just judgment as to action.

A person can be very knowledgeable about finances and skilled at making money, **but does that mean he has wisdom handling money?**

What about a person who is an excellent communicator, knows the statistical realities of marriage and divorce, **does that mean he has wisdom in his marriage?**

According to a worldly definition of wisdom, those questions could both be answered as true.



Knowledge and understanding are prerequisites to wisdom. **A person can't have wisdom** about a topic if there is no knowledge. **He can't show wisdom** if he doesn't understand the dynamics of how the knowledge works together in real life.

When we get to the part about "just judgment," the definition can take on a different meaning. **What is just** to one person may not be just at all to another person.

Truth and justice that apply to all people at all times only comes from God - it doesn't change with the culture or the year.

A person who has a lot of knowledge of economics and financial systems might be able to make a lot of money. **If he doesn't use God's truth with what he knows**, he application and action may not show **wisdom** at all. **If he applies his own morality to the situation instead of God's will**, the outcome will not honor the Lord and His creation.

Wisdom means that I know God's heart on a subject or a situation. **Wisdom is when** we can see life in the same way that God sees life - with an eternal perspective.

Wisdom is knowing God so intimately that we know what He thinks about our situation. Then we follow His will in His way.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6

Where to find Wisdom....

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. James 1:5

The Lord gives us His wisdom when we ask. As He goes on to say in this passage, that we are to ask believing that He will give it. Then we believe what He says - we don't compare it with other people's advice,

then decide which one we will take. That approach is what the Bible calls double-minded.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. Psalm 111:10

Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding. Job 28:28

It's impossible to have wisdom without a fear of the Lord. This

fear is not being afraid that God is going to zap you when you mess up.

To fear God is:

1. to reverence Him,
2. to have a sense of awe before Him, and
3. to humble ourselves before Him in all things;
4. to understand that He is the final authority, the ultimate source knowledge and wisdom.

On the reverse side:

Wisdom in Marriage

Wisdom with Money

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When a man no longer seeks his comfort from any creature, then he first begins to enjoy God perfectly, and he will be well content with whatever befalls him. Then he will neither rejoice over having much, nor grieve over having little, but will commit himself fully and trustfully to God, who is all in all to him.

Thomas à Kempis

Wisdom in Marriage

If I wanted to gain wisdom about marriage, where would I go? Whom would I seek out?

When I google "marriage wisdom," a multitude of options wait for me until one catches my eye.

Among the choices were two articles in national publications - one by someone married 8 years, and one by someone married 50 years. ***Which one has the most real wisdom?***

Most people tend to consider that a person with more experience would have more wisdom.

Real wisdom takes knowledge and pours it through the sieve of experience. **Experience takes time.**

For the wisdom to be true, godly wisdom (the only kind of real wisdom), the knowledge has to be **true knowledge and understanding from the Lord**, not worldly ideas.

Wisdom in marriage means that I know God's heart and His perspective on what is happening between me and my spouse.

To know God's heart, I have to know Him in a personal and intimate way. When I am at that place, I will want to love my spouse in the same way God loves him/her. I love without limit, without conditions, no matter what happens.

I will forgive my spouse in the same way God's forgives me - unlimited.

Sound oversimplified?

It's simple but it is not easy. Often I don't want to do it God's way. I would rather do my way or follow a friend's advice. I don't want to change. *If I change, doesn't he have to change? Why do I have to be the one to change?*

Wisdom in marriage means that I seek God on what my part is, not what my spouse should be doing. After I seek Him, I follow through on what He shows me to do (even something I don't like!).

Wisdom using Money

From the very beginning, the enemy tempted Adam and Eve with discontentment. He showed them the only fruit from the only tree that they were to avoid.

They decided to eat the fruit of discontentment. ***How much of the money we spend is motivated by discontentment?***

I want a different house - bigger, newer, nicer, better area - the house bought with discontentment.

I "need" new clothes - nicer, more variety, latest trends - the clothes of discontentment.

How often do I spend money on things I want, just because I can? I can buy them because I make enough money or I can use my credit card.

Wisdom with money means that I ask God how He wants me to spend my money. **Wisdom with money begins with** an admission that it all belongs to God, it isn't "my money."

Then, I take the next step to seek Him about how much He wants me to invest in His work to draw more into His kingdom. The enemy does not want me to invest in God's work. He wants to build barriers between God, His

work, and those who are not believers. When we fail to invest in His kingdom, we fall into the ways of the enemy and believe his lies about God.

After I give to kingdom work and my share to the government, **I seek God for a plan** on how to spend what is left. If I am married, my spouse and I seek God together and agree together on His will.

To have wisdom in money issues, I keep track on how the money was spent. *Did I/we spend it according to the plan God gave me/us?*

I display God's wisdom when I follow His plan!