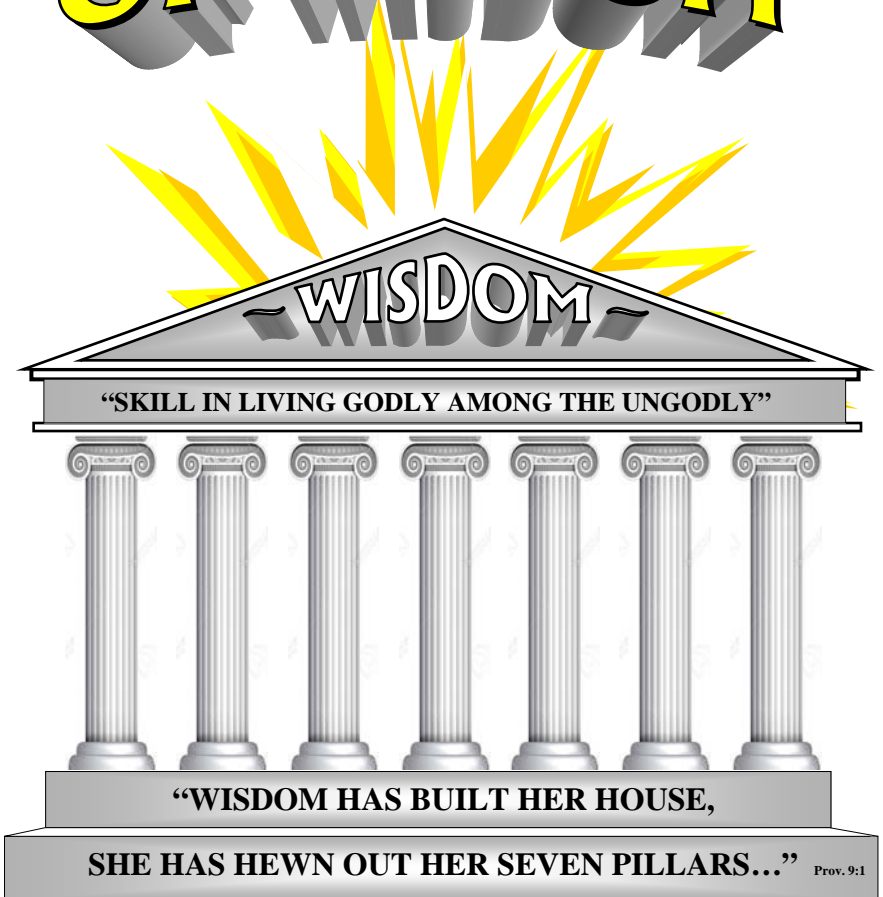
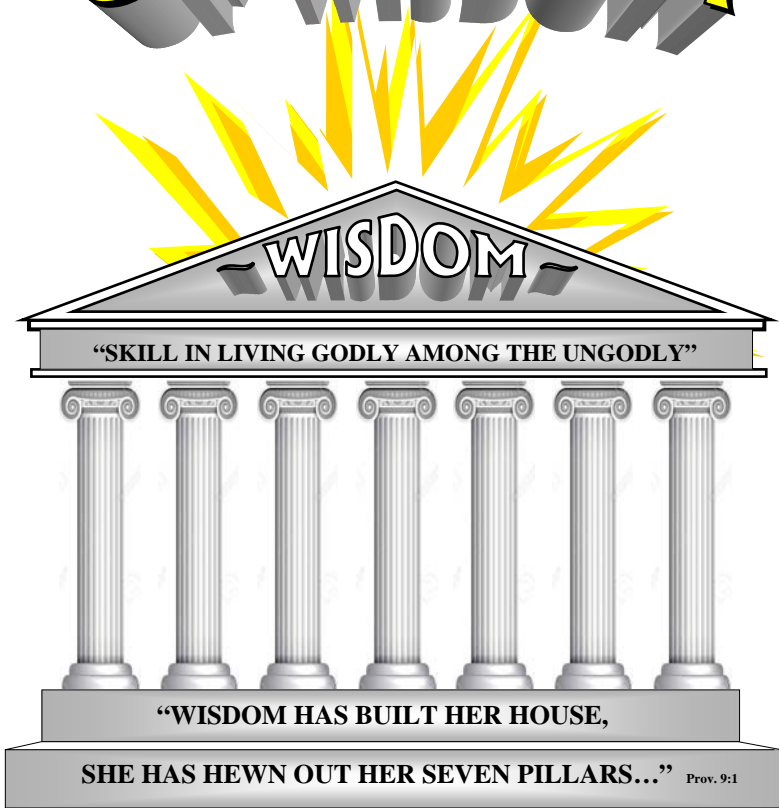


THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM



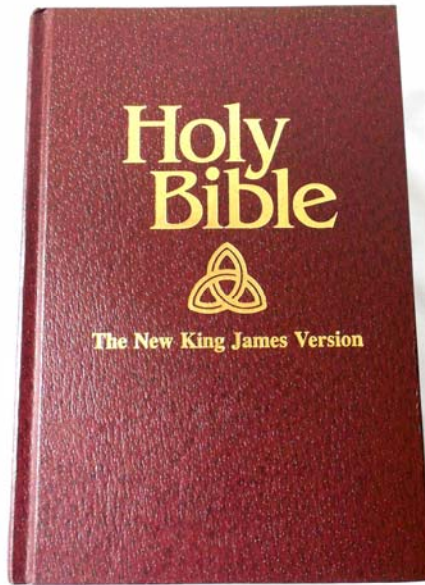
Pastor Randy Shupe

THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM



Pastor Randy Shupe

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The majority of scripture references quoted in this book are from the New King James Version by Thomas Nelson Publishers.

For some time I have been persuaded that this is the finest English translation of the Bible. My thanks to Thomas Nelson Publishers for this helpful aid to God's people.

Pastor Randy Shupe



INTRODUCTION

“The Principal Principle”

FIRST PILLAR OF WISDOM:

“The Fear of the Lord”

SECOND PILLAR OF WISDOM:

“The Instruction of a Father”

THIRD PILLAR OF WISDOM:

“The Knowledge of the Holy One”

FOURTH PILLAR OF WISDOM:

“Understanding”

FIFTH PILLAR OF WISDOM:

“The Multitude of Counselors”

SIXTH/SEVENTH PILLARS OF WISDOM:

“Discretion and Prudence”

THE SEVEN PILLARS IN PROVERBS:

“A Topical Listing of Scriptures”



**“THE WISE
SHALL
INHERIT GLORY,
BUT
SHAME
SHALL BE
THE LEGACY
OF FOOLS.”**
Proverbs 3:35

A vivid contrast between the wise and the foolish is a repetitious theme throughout the book of Proverbs. In the New Testament the apostle Paul picks up this same theme in instructing believers to walk carefully, not as fools, but as wise (Eph. 5:15).

Jesus likewise gives prophetic warning to His followers that it will only be the wise virgins that will be taken at the rapture, but the foolish virgins will be left behind for the tribulation that follows (See Matt. 25:1-13).

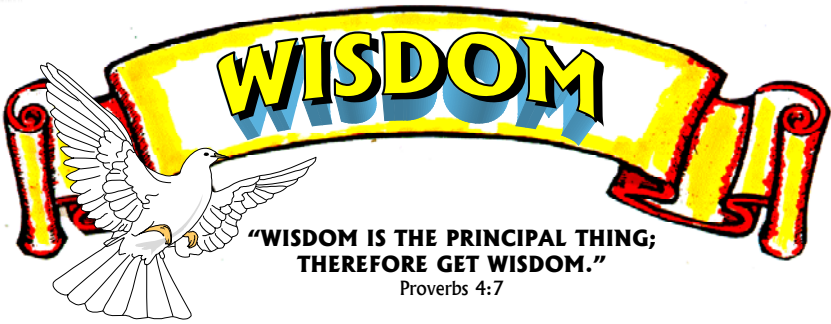
Here in the book of Proverbs we find a similar prophetic warning that the wise are the ones that shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools (Proverbs 3:35). Proverbs has much to say about the clarifying difference between a wise and a foolish believer in God. Many places in scripture warn of such separation of the wise and the foolish, but only in Proverbs do we find distinct clarification made between what constitutes a wise and a foolish believer.

The wise possess wisdom. It is in the book of Proverbs that such wisdom is found that is capable of making a believer wise in God’s sight. Proverbs singles out seven individual pillars that comprise a spiritual house built by the Spirit of wisdom:

**“WISDOM HAS BUILT HER HOUSE.
SHE HAS HEWN OUT HER SEVEN PILLARS...”**
Proverbs 9:1

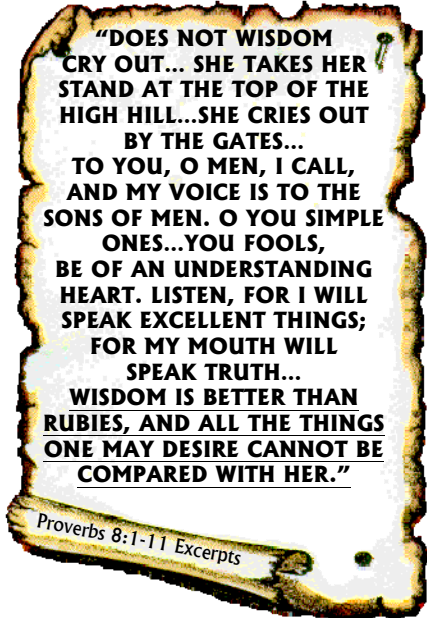
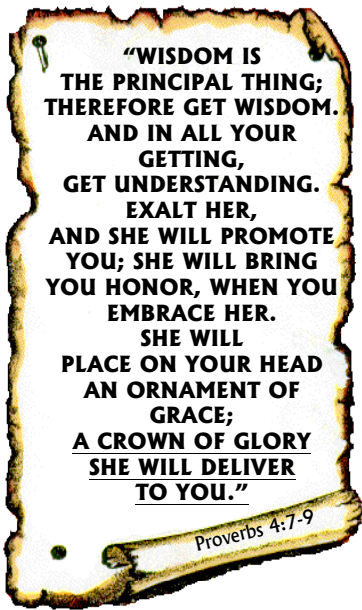
In reading the book of Proverbs, you will quickly discover that not all those depicted are in the construction business. Some are busy at destruction. What the Spirit of wisdom seeks to build in the heart of the wise is systematically being torn down by the foolish in Proverbs:

**“EVERY WISE WOMAN BUILDS HER HOUSE,
BUT THE FOOLISH PULLS IT DOWN WITH HER HANDS.”**
Proverbs 14:1



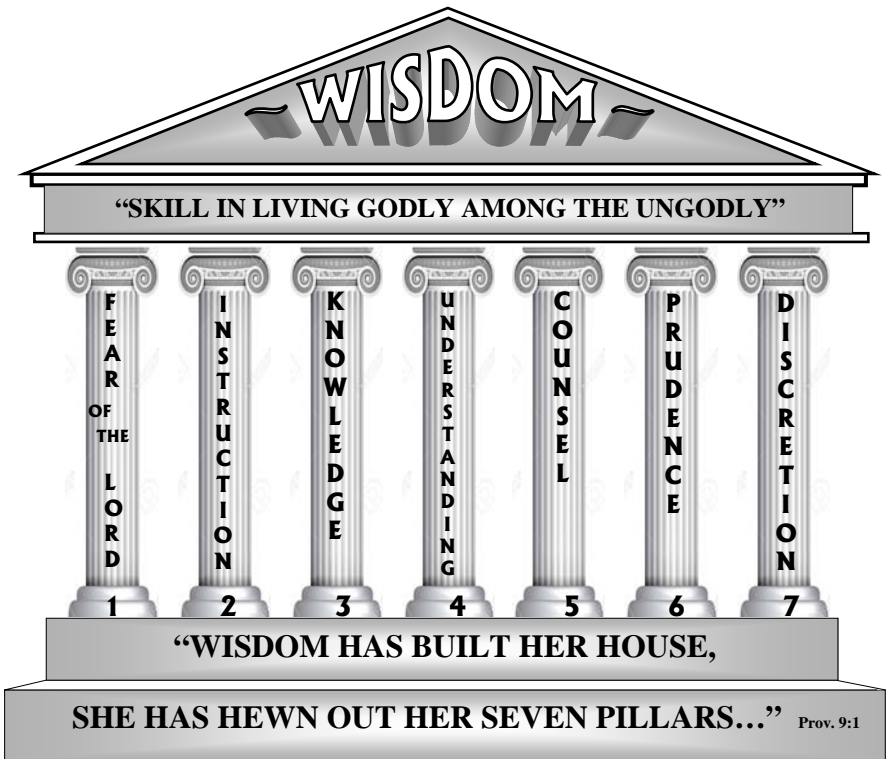
**"WISDOM IS BETTER THAN RUBIES,
AND ALL THE THINGS ONE MAY DESIRE
CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH HER."**
Proverbs 8:11

I have come to refer to wisdom as being "the principal principle" in God's Word. The word wisdom appears 58 times in the book of Proverbs. It is the most talked about subject, and rightly so. There is nothing higher in God's sight than achieving biblical wisdom. It is indeed, "the principal principle." Consider what wisdom is capable of purchasing for the believer:



Let us begin with a meaningful definition of a Christian who understands what wisdom is all about. It isn't about smarts or accumulated knowledge, even Bible knowledge. Wisdom is best stated to be:

"SKILL IN LIVING GODLY AMONG THE UNGODLY"



King Solomon

“THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON
 THE SON OF DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL:
 TO KNOW **WISDOM** AND **INSTRUCTION**,
 TO PERCEIVE THE WORDS OF **UNDERSTANDING**,
 TO RECEIVE THE **INSTRUCTION OF WISDOM**...
 TO GIVE **PRUDENCE** TO THE SIMPLE,
 THE YOUNG MAN **KNOWLEDGE** AND **DISCRETION**.
 A WISE MAN WILL HEAR AND INCREASE LEARNING,
 A MAN OF **UNDERSTANDING**
 WILL ATTAIN WISE **COUNSEL**.
 TO UNDERSTAND A PROVERB AND AN ENIGMA.
 THE WORDS OF THE WISE AND THEIR RIDDLES.
THE FEAR OF THE LORD
 IS THE BEGINNING OF **KNOWLEDGE**,
 BUT FOOLS DESPISE **WISDOM** AND **INSTRUCTION**.”
Proverbs 1:1-7

In the first seven verses which opens the book of Proverbs we find the seven pillars of wisdom revealed. There is an astounding repetition of these seven topics in the book of Proverbs. In so doing, the Holy Spirit has strove to convey to us the importance of these seven topics and their direct relationship upon the subject of wisdom. Combined together, these seven topics comprise the essence of biblical wisdom. This is the spiritual house that wisdom builds.

HOW THE WISE INTERACT WITH WISDOM:

"Does not **WISDOM** cry out, and **UNDERSTANDING** lift up her voice?
She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet.
She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors:
'To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones,
understand **PRUDENCE**, and you fools, be of an **UNDERSTANDING** heart.
Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of My lips will come right things;
for My mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to My lips.
All the words of My mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.
They are all plain to him who **UNDERSTANDS**, And right to those who find **KNOWLEDGE**.
Receive my **INSTRUCTION**, and not silver, and **KNOWLEDGE** rather than choice gold;
for **WISDOM** is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire
cannot be compared with her.
'I, **WISDOM**, dwell with **PRUDENCE**, and find out **KNOWLEDGE** and **DISCRETION**.
THE FEAR OF THE LORD is to hate evil;
pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.
COUNSEL is mine, and sound **WISDOM**; I am **UNDERSTANDING**; I have strength...
I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."
Prov. 8:1-17

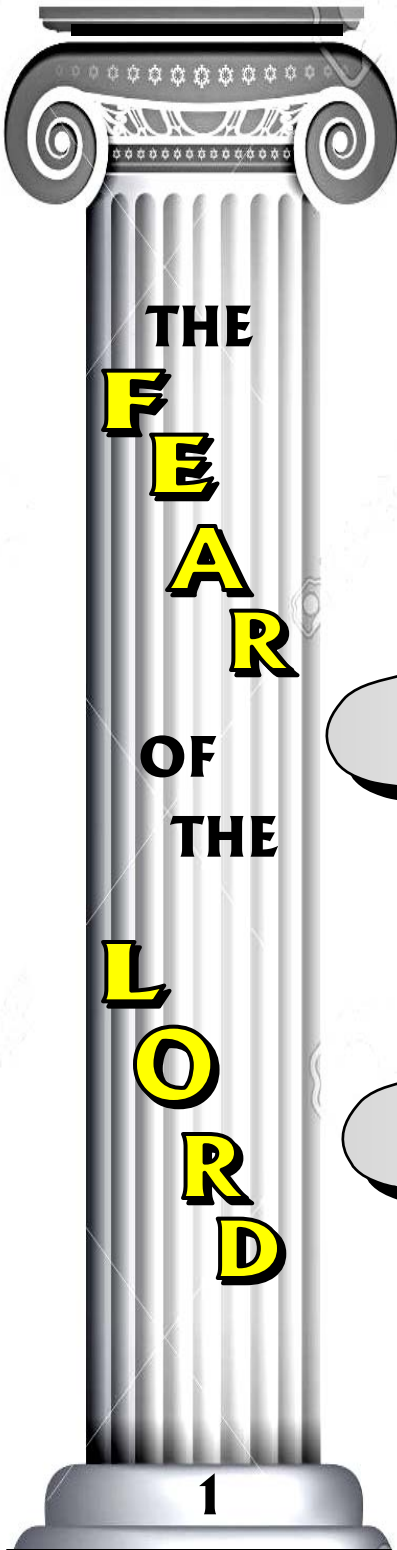
THE
FOOLISH...



THE
WISE...

HOW THE FOOLISH INTERACT WITH WISDOM:

"**WISDOM** calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares.
She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city
she speaks her words: 'How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
For scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate **KNOWLEDGE**.
Turn at My rebuke; surely I will pour out My Spirit on you;
I will make My words known to you. Because I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out My hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all My **COUNSEL**,
And would have none of My reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your
terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes
like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. 'Then they will call on Me,
but I will not answer; they will seek Me diligently, but they will not find Me.
Because they hated **KNOWLEDGE** and did not choose **THE FEAR OF THE LORD**,
they would have none of My **COUNSEL** And despised all My reproof. Therefore they shall eat
the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.
For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy
them; but whoever listens to Me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil."
Prov. 1:20-33



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THE FIRST PILLAR OF WISDOM:

"THE FEAR OF THE LORD
IS THE *BEGINNING*
OF
WISDOM"

Proverbs 9:10

"THE FEAR OF THE LORD
IS THE *INSTRUCTION*
OF
WISDOM"

Proverbs 15:33

THE FIRST PILLAR OF WISDOM IS



My desire also is to teach you what is the fear of the Lord. However, we must realize that to have been taught what is the fear of the Lord does not mean that we now possess it. It only means that we have knowledge of what is the fear of the Lord.



We begin our examination of wisdom with the subject of the fear of the Lord simply because Proverbs itself bears witness that this pillar is indeed the entry level to acquiring wisdom.



We will consider two witnesses to each of our seven pillars, as we see displayed here with the first pillar of the fear of the Lord.

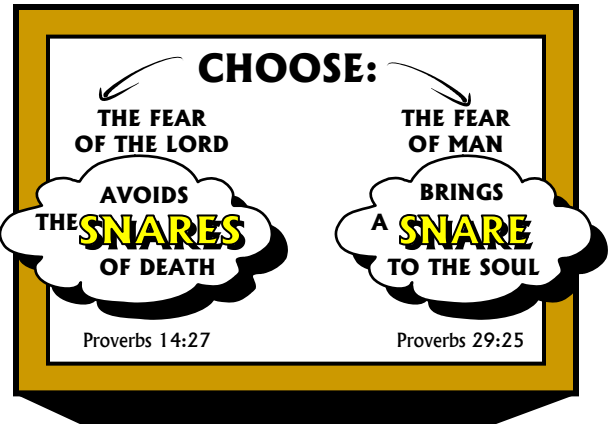
These types of passages will reveal a direct correlation between what we identify as a pillar and how it relates to wisdom. Proverbs itself will prove that these seven topics are indeed the pillars which support the house that wisdom builds. In the spiritual realm, God has ordained that we must first embrace the fear of the Lord if we are to have wisdom. Let me state right up front that the fear of the Lord is something that we must initially choose to embrace:

"THEY WILL SEEK ME DILIGENTLY, BUT THEY WILL NOT FIND ME. BECAUSE THEY HATED KNOWLEDGE AND DID NOT CHOOSE THE FEAR OF THE LORD."

Proverbs 1:28-29

If you take time to read the context of these verses from Proverbs Chapter 1, you will find that God is placing judgment upon those who not only did not choose the fear of the Lord, but were also guilty of hating knowledge. God goes on to charge them with having none of His counsel, and even despising reproof (instruction). Note that God lists four of the seven pillars in giving a reason why He is allowing such severe judgment to come upon the foolish. We can begin to grasp why it is important to get wisdom. Apart from it, God will consider us to be among the foolish that, in the end, He will reject (Prov. 1).

First of all we must choose the fear of the Lord over the fear of man. Every choice we make in life has an alternative. The alternate choice to the fear of the Lord is to live in bondage to the fear of man.



Note that one choice is a healthy one leading to life, while the other is most unhealthy for it leads to bondage. Let us consider an example of each of these types of fear, one from the Old Testament and the other from the New Testament:



“AND I SAY UNTO YOU, MY FRIENDS, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY, AND AFTER THAT HAVE NO MORE THAT THEY CAN DO . BUT I WILL SHOW YOU WHOM YOU SHOULD FEAR: FEAR HIM, WHO AFTER HE HAS KILLED, HAS POWER TO CAST INTO HELL; YES, I SAY TO YOU, FEAR HIM!”
 Luke 12: 4-5



“BECAUSE YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WORD OF THE LORD, HE ALSO HAS REJECTED YOU FROM BEING KING. THEN SAUL SAID TO SAMUEL, ‘I HAVE SINNED, FOR I HAVE TRANSGRESSED THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD AND YOUR WORDS, BECAUSE I FEARED THE PEOPLE AND OBEYED THEIR VOICE.’ ”
 1 Samuel 15:23-24

The **FEAR** of the **LORD**

“PHOBEO” / “PHOBOS”

“KURIOS”

To understand what is meant by the fear of the Lord, we must define the two key words in that phrase. They are (1) “fear” and (2) “Lord”. Let us first consider the two Greek words translated in the New Testament as “fear”. They are “Phobeo” and “Phobos”. They sound nearly alike, but their meanings are not the same:

Usually only one definition is ever presented to New Testament believers as the fear of the Lord. Perhaps that stems from those in the pulpit having a fear of man that sit in their pews.



I suspect you can guess which one is not presented as being part of the God of the New Testament. It is “Phobos”- the God of “alarm, fright, terror and afraid”. However, there are many places in the scriptures where “Phobos” is used to convey such alarm, fright and terror toward God. Let us consider several of them:

PHOBOS FEAR OF GOD

“alarm, fright, terror, afraid”

“THEN ANANIAS, HEARING THESE WORDS, FELL DOWN AND BREATHED HIS LAST. SO GREAT FEAR CAME UPON ALL THOSE WHO HEARD THESE THINGS...SO GREAT FEAR CAME UPON ALL THE CHURCH AND UPON ALL WHO HEARD THESE THINGS.”

Acts 5:5-11

“THEN THE CHURCHES THROUGHOUT ALL JUDEA, GALILEE, AND SAMARIA HAD PEACE AND WERE EDIFIED. AND WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND IN THE COMFORT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THEY WERE MULTIPLIED.”

Acts 9:31

“THEREFORE, HAVING THESE PROMISES, BELOVED, LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL FILTHINESS OF THE FLESH AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD.”

2 Cor.7:1

Let us now consider the definition of whom we are to fear. It is the Lord:



The LORD Jesus

Fear of the **LORD**
"Kurios"
"SUPREME IN AUTHORITY, RULER, CONTROLLER, DOMINION, MASTER"

"WHY DO YOU CALL ME, 'LORD, LORD,' AND NOT DO THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?"
Luke 6:46

If we are going to lay the foundation of the fear of the Lord in our lives, we must cultivate the lordship of Jesus Christ. In Christendom, it has been greatly established that Jesus is our Savior. However, the scripture gives emphasis to both aspects of Jesus:

"GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE FROM GOD THE FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR."
Titus 1:4

It is interesting to note that Jesus is called Savior only twenty-four times in the New Testament while He is called Lord almost seven-hundred times. Yet we hear more preaching about Him as Savior than Lord. Let me share with you how this affects our ability to obtain the fear of the Lord. Look at the two scriptures below:

"THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY ONE IS UNDERSTANDING"
Proverbs 9:10
"THEY HATED KNOWLEDGE AND DID NOT CHOOSE THE FEAR OF THE LORD"
Proverbs 1:29

It is the knowledge of the Holy One which brings understanding, and fools hate such knowledge of God. A fool is one who loves the image of Jesus as Savior, but hates the knowledge of Him as Lord-the Holy One of Israel.

- 1 ***Our Father***
- 2 ***The Lamb of God***
- 3 ***Our Savior***
- 4 ***Our High Priest***
- 5 ***The Good Shepherd***

the "Grace" side of the New Covenant
Hebrews 8:12

In over-emphasizing the aspect of a grace covenant, the knowledge of God is often limited to these five aspects when taught. They are all truths, but they do not contain all the truth about God. These are not aspects revealing God as the Holy One. Let us balance out that presentation with the other side of the coin:

Isaiah 33:22 reveals that Jesus is not only our Savior, but also our Judge, our Lawgiver, and our King.

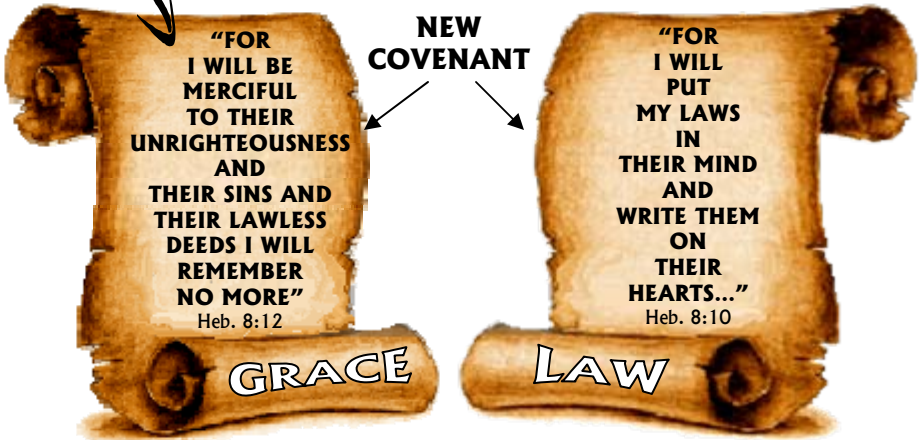
**“FOR THE LORD IS OUR JUDGE,
THE LORD IS OUR LAWGIVER,
THE LORD IS OUR KING;
HE WILL SAVE US”**

Isaiah 33:22

These are specific aspects of God that relate to the law term of the New Covenant.

If you don't believe the New Covenant has both, then take time to read the fine print:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Our Father</i> 2. <i>The Lamb of God</i> 3. <i>Our Savior</i> 4. <i>Our High Priest</i> 5. <i>The Good Shepherd</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The Lord is our Judge...</i> 2. <i>The Lord is our Lawgiver...</i> 3. <i>The Lord is our King...</i>
<p>the “Grace” side of the New Covenant Hebrews 8:12</p>	<p>the “Law” side of the New Covenant Hebrews 8:10</p>



The New Covenant was first promised to Israel in Jeremiah 31:31-34. When Paul refers to the New Covenant in Hebrews 8:7-13, he quotes directly from Jeremiah 31. Later in Hebrews 10:15-18, he stresses that the Holy Spirit also witnesses about this very same covenant belonging to Gentile believers. In Romans 11 he calls us, Gentile believers “grafted-in branches” to this New Covenant. Read it carefully as stated in Hebrews 8:10-12. It is a covenant of grace and a covenant of law. Rather than eliminating law, Paul tells us, that of necessity, there was a change in the law (Hebrews 7:12). The change in the law is that it is now written on our hearts/minds rather than upon stone tablets. Paul repeats this even more clearly in 2 Cor. 3:2-6. Paul’s argument is that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law, but faith does not nullify the need for law. Law does not, nor cannot save us. Law sanctifies us. (Romans 3:28).

Paul always sought to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). Consider the balanced perspective he now presents:



“THEREFORE WE CONCLUDE THAT A MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH APART FROM THE DEEDS OF THE LAW... DO WE THEN MAKE VOID THE LAW BY FAITH? CERTAINLY NOT! ON THE CONTRARY, WE ESTABLISH THE LAW.”

Romans 3:28-31

The New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant that was founded upon an outward observance with a new one based on an inward experience of the heart. The change in the law was from stone tablets to the fleshly tablets of the heart. If you still doubt that, take time to study Matthew Chapter 5. Jesus stresses this truth emphatically by comparing what was said in the old with what He now says in the new. He is using the moral law of God as His foundation. He emphasizes that He did not come to destroy the law, but in fact, clearly states that being great or least in the future kingdom of God depends upon whether we keep or break His commandments in this present life (Matt. 5:19). Law is important. The point that I am stressing is simply this: unless we balance out our perspective of the New Covenant from being one of grace and **NO** law, to one of grace **AND** law, we cannot identify with the concept that God is not only our Savior, but we are accountable to Him as our Judge, our Lawgiver, and our King:

“AND THERE IS NO CREATURE HIDDEN FROM HIS SIGHT, BUT ALL THINGS ARE NAKED AND OPEN TO THE EYES OF HIM TO WHOM WE MUST GIVE ACCOUNT.”

Hebrews 4:13

These are words written to New Covenant believers reminding us that our God is the Righteous Judge (Rom. 14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10-14).

Unless we cultivate this accountability we have before the Judgment Seat of Christ, we cannot hold the fullness of what constitutes the fear of the Lord.



“THE LORD IS OUR JUDGE,

THE LORD IS OUR LAWGIVER,

THE LORD IS OUR KING” Isa. 33:22

“Phobos”
**REVERENCE,
AWE,
RESPECT**

“Phobos”
**ALARM,
TERROR,
FRIGHT**

Perhaps it is needful to stress that the Judgment Seat of Christ is not for accountability of confessed sin. What is placed under the blood through repentance is forgiven and forgotten by God. Rather, the Judgment Seat of Christ is for measuring how we have lived our lives as Christians.

Only when we embrace the whole counsel about God, will we be able to reconcile the love of God which flows from God our Savior along with a healthy fear of Him as the Lord. We need both. It is the love of God that should motivate us forward in the things of God, and it is the fear of the Lord which is to be our rear-ward guard

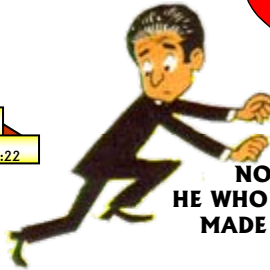
to defer us from departing from God through an evil heart of backsliding (Heb. 3:12).

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Our Father</i> 2. <i>The Lamb of God</i> 3. <i>Our Savior</i> 4. <i>Our High Priest</i> 5. <i>The Good Shepherd</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The Lord is our Judge...</i> 2. <i>The Lord is our Lawgiver...</i> 3. <i>The Lord is our King...</i>
<p>the "Grace" side of the New Covenant Hebrews 8:12</p>	<p>the "Law" side of the New Covenant Hebrews 8:10</p>

A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE OF THE HOLY ONE



"BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD ONE DEPARTS FROM EVIL."
Proverbs 16:6



"THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE... HE WHO FEARS HAS NOT BEEN MADE PERFECT IN LOVE."
1 John 4:18

Paul calls love the "bond of perfection" (Col. 3:14). Paul's love for God convinced him not to allow anything to "separate him from the love of Christ" (Rom. 8:36-39). These verses in Romans are often quoted as an expression of God's love for us, but this is not really Paul's contextual emphasis. Read these passages carefully. It is our love for God that Paul states is the ability to endure tribulation, distress, hardship, persecution etc. Sadly, we do not find such love for God being the prime motivator in every area of our lives. Therefore we also have need of the fear of the Lord to help us decide to depart from evil.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD
THE FEAR OF THE LORD



“THE LORD IS OUR JUDGE,

THE LORD IS OUR LAWGIVER,

THE LORD IS OUR KING”

Isa. 33:22

**“LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY...
 WHOEVER RESISTS AUTHORITY WILL BRING JUDGMENT ON THEMSELVES.
 FOR RULERS ARE NOT A TERROR TO GOOD WORKS, BUT TO EVIL.
 DO YOU WANT TO BE UNAFRAID?
 DO WHAT IS GOOD,
 AND YOU WILL HAVE PRAISE FROM THE SAME.”**

Romans 13:1-3

Certainly Paul's words here are directed at submission to human rulers. However, in principle they also apply to the Lord, the One who is the Supreme Authority, Ruler, Master. What is the key to not being afraid? It is to do good and receive praise from the same ruler who also meets out terror. Paul clearly teaches this pertaining to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Consider these two different perspectives that he held:

**“WE MUST
 ALL APPEAR BEFORE
 THE JUDGMENT
 SEAT OF CHRIST...
 KNOWING,
 THEREFORE
 THE TERROR
 OF THE LORD,
 WE PERSUADE
 MEN...”**

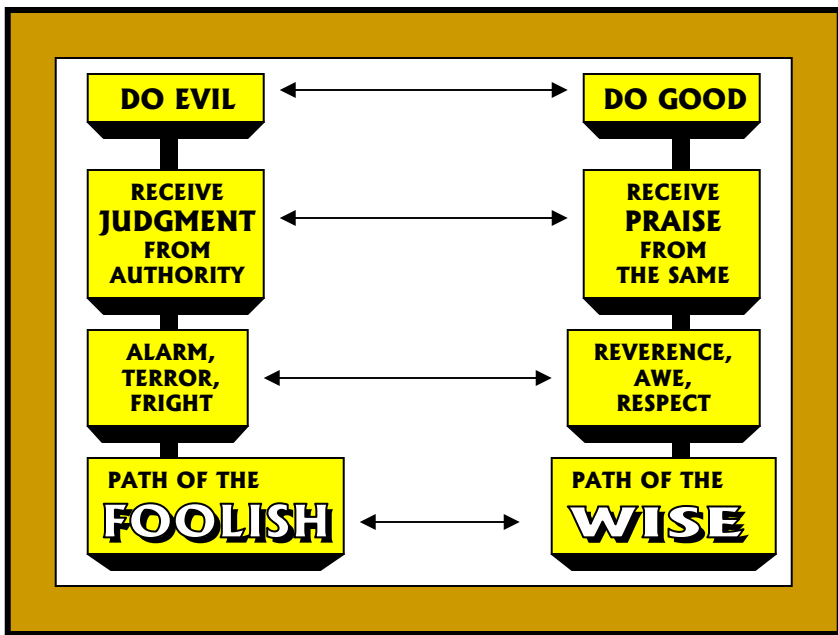
2 Cor. 5:10-11



**“I HAVE FOUGHT
 THE GOOD FIGHT...
 FINISHED THE RACE...
 KEPT THE FAITH...
 THERE IS LAID UP
 FOR ME
 THE CROWN OF
 RIGHTEOUSNESS,
 WHICH THE LORD,
 THE RIGHTEOUS
 JUDGE,
 WILL GIVE TO ME
 ON THAT DAY.”**

2 Tim. 4:7-8

Although he knew of the terror (“Phobos”) of the Lord, Paul looked forward to his day in court with the Righteous Judge simply because he knew he was a doer of good rather than of evil.



“LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY... WHOEVER RESISTS AUTHORITY WILL BRING JUDGMENT ON THEMSELVES. FOR RULERS ARE NOT A TERROR TO GOOD WORKS, BUT TO EVIL. DO YOU WANT TO BE UNAFRAID? DO WHAT IS GOOD, AND YOU WILL HAVE PRAISE FROM THE SAME.”

Romans 13:1-3

Take time to meditate upon the above contrasts. You can see that it is a matter of choice as to whether we dwell in alarm, fright and terror (“Phobos”) or in reverence, awe and respect (“Phobeo”). Both are the fear of the Lord.

We must cultivate this image of Jesus as Lord just as we have with the image of Jesus as Savior. There are plenty of examples in the New Covenant of the call to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We shall consider several passages as examples on the next page.



Isa. 33:22

“Phobeo”
REVERENCE,
AWE,
RESPECT

“Phobos”
ALARM,
TERROR,
FRIGHT

Jesus as

THE JUDGE:

“THEREFORE WE MAKE IT OUR AIM TO BE WELL PLEASING TO HIM. FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, THAT EACH ON MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN THE BODY, ACCORDING TO WHETHER GOOD OR BAD. KNOWING, THEREFORE, THE TERROR OF THE LORD, WE PERSUADE MEN.”

2 Cor. 5:9-11

Jesus as

THE LAWGIVER:

“FOR IF WE SIN WILLFULLY...THERE REMAINS A CERTAIN FEARFUL EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT, AND FIERY INDIGNATION... ANYONE WHO HAS REJECTED MOSES’ LAW DIES WITHOUT MERCY...HOW MUCH WORSE PUNISHMENT...WILL HE BE THOUGHT WORTHY WHO HAS TRAMPLED THE SON OF GOD UNDERFOOT, COUNTED THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT BY WHICH HE WAS SANCTIFIED A COMMON THING, AND INSULTED THE SPIRIT OF GRACE? FOR WE KNOW HIM WHO SAID...THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE. IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO FALL IN THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD.”

Hebrews 10:26-31

Jesus as

THE KING:

“...WHEN THE LORD JESUS IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN WITH HIS MIGHTY ANGELS IN FLAMING FIRE TAKING VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO (1) DO NOT KNOW GOD (2) ON THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. THESE SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD AND FROM THE POWER OF HIS GLORY...” 2 Thess. 1:7-9

We know all about the picture of Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). However, there is another alternative picture of the Lamb shown to John:

“AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH, THE GREAT MEN, HID THEMSELVES IN THE CAVES...AND SAID TO THE MOUNTAINS AND THE ROCKS, FALL ON US AND HIDE US FROM THE FACE OF HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND FROM THE WRATH OF THE LAMB! FOR THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH HAS COME.”

Revelation 6:15-17

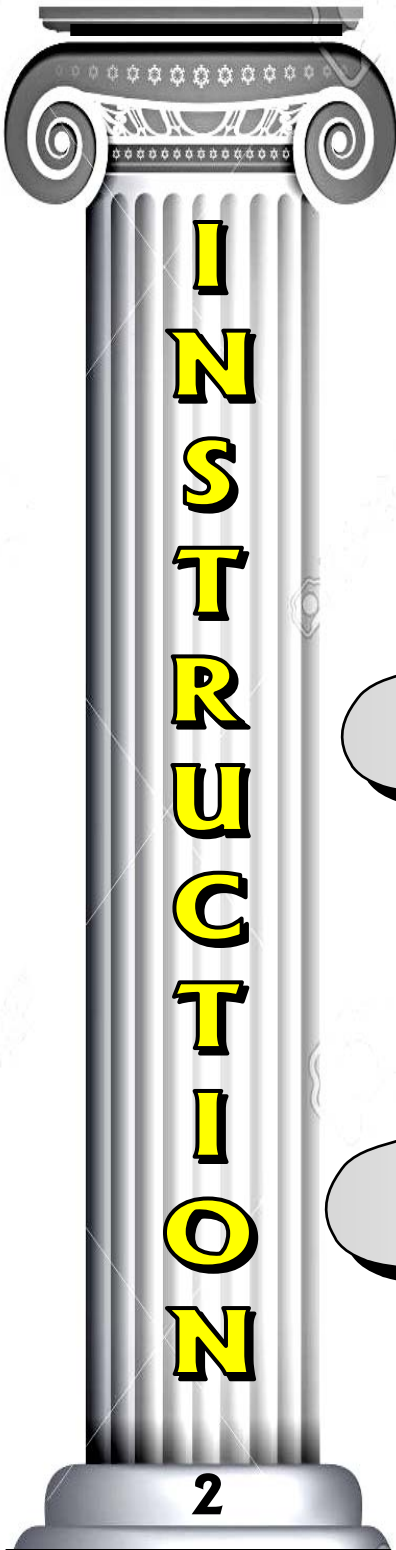
We should ponder often the picture of Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in Revelation 19 in which “He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” (Rev.19:15) We would do well to also focus upon the image of Jesus that John was shown in the first three chapters of Revelation appearing as the Righteous Judge in the midst of His churches. To the majority of His churches (5 out of 7), His message was highly corrective, “repent or else...”



Finally, take time to ponder what the book of Proverbs has to say about the fear of the Lord. There are nine (number of the Holy Spirit) verses found in Proverbs pertaining to the fear of the Lord. Notice that they lead to healthy, productive paths. This is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. We cannot progress along the paths of wisdom until we develop a healthy fear of the Lord.

1. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE."** (1:7)
2. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL."** (18:13)
3. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM."** (9:10)
4. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD PROLONGS DAYS."** (10:27)
5. **"IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD THERE IS STRONG CONFIDENCE."** (14:26)
6. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS A FOUNTAIN OF LIFE TO AVOID THE SNARES OF DEATH."** (14:27)
7. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE INSTRUCTION OF WISDOM."** (15:33)
8. **"BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD ONE DEPARTS FROM EVIL."** (16:6)
9. **"THE FEAR OF THE LORD LEADS TO LIFE, AND HE THAT HAS IT WILL ABIDE IN SATISFACTION, HE WILL NOT BE VISITED WITH EVIL."** (19:23)

FEAR OF THE LORD



THE SECOND PILLAR OF WISDOM:

"HEAR
INSTRUCTION
AND BE
WISE
AND DO NOT DISDAIN IT."
Proverbs 8:33

"RECEIVE
INSTRUCTION
THAT YOU MAY BE
WISE
IN YOUR LATTER DAYS"
Proverbs 19:20



This second pillar of the house that wisdom builds deals with instruction. Note that we must not only HEAR instruction, but we must also RECEIVE it. The apostle James gives ample warning about the danger of only hearing the Word apart from becoming a doer of the Word (James 1:22). He also stresses that we are to receive the implanted Word with meekness. (James 1:21)

This pillar of instruction has several things in common with our previous pillar of the fear of the Lord. First of all, both represent God as an authoritative figure. It is the prophet Isaiah that first identifies God as our Father. This second pillar is not merely instruction, but the authoritative instruction that comes from a caring father. Consider these examples:

AUTHORITATIVE FIGURE:
**"THE LORD IS OUR JUDGE,
THE LORD IS OUR LAWGIVER,
THE LORD IS OUR KING"**
Isa. 33:22

AUTHORITATIVE FIGURE:
**"DOUBTLESS, YOU ARE OUR FATHER...
YOU O LORD ARE OUR FATHER"**
Isa.63:16

"MY SON, HEAR THE INSTRUCTION OF YOUR FATHER."
Proverbs 1:8
"A WISE SON HEEDS HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTION..."
Proverbs 13:1
"A FOOL DESPISES HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTION..."
Proverbs 15:5
**"HEAR, MY CHILDREN, THE INSTRUCTION OF A FATHER...
WHEN I (SOLOMON) WAS MY FATHER'S SON,...HE (DAVID) TAUGHT ME..."**
Proverbs 4:1-3

Since the wisdom of Solomon is, in reality, the wisdom God gave to him as a gift (2 Chron. 1:7-12), we can receive this instruction of a father as being from God our Father to us personally rather than merely Solomon speaking to his son. This personalization of the scripture in which we can substitute our own name in place of "my son", can be a great help in enabling us to hear/receive God's instruction to us.

Another parallel is found between the pillar of the fear of the Lord and the instruction of a father by considering the definition of the word "instruction". Like the word "fear", we find both a negative and positive aspect to this word "instruction".

The negatives are always tied to rebellion and sin, while the positives deal with willingness and obedience. Consider how Isaiah states it:

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

"YIRAH"

<u>NEGATIVE:</u>	<u>POSITIVE:</u>
TERROR, FRIGHT, AFRAID	REVERENCE, AWE, RESPECT

INSTRUCTION

"MUSAR"

<u>NEGATIVE:</u>	<u>POSITIVE:</u>
CHASTISE... CORRECTION... REPROVE/REBUKE... DISCIPLINE... WARNING...	INSTRUCT... TEACH... TRAIN...

**"IF YOU ARE WILLING AND OBEDIENT,
YOU SHALL EAT OF THE GOOD OF THE LAND;
BUT IF YOU REFUSE AND REBEL,
YOU SHALL BE DEVoured BY THE SWORD,
FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IT."**

Isaiah 1:19-20

The point is that when it comes to either the fear of the Lord or the instruction of a father, we can live in a negative realm or a positive realm. It all depends upon our attitude toward these pillars.

You will remember that we saw this comparison in our first pillar. → We can choose which kind of fear that will govern us. It is the same principle at work when it comes to the instruction of a father.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

<u>NEGATIVE:</u>	"... RULERS ARE NOT A TERROR TO GOOD WORKS, BUT TO EVIL. DO YOU WANT TO BE UNAFRAID? DO WHAT IS GOOD, AND YOU WILL HAVE PRAISE FROM THE SAME (ruler)."	<u>POSITIVE:</u>
TERROR, FRIGHT, AFRAID	Romans 13:1-3	REVERENCE, AWE, RESPECT

We will live in either the positive or the negative aspect depending upon our attitude toward the instruction of a father.

INSTRUCTION
"MUSAR"



**"A FOOLISH SON
DESPISES HIS FATHER'S
INSTRUCTION."**

Proverbs 15:5

NEGATIVE:

CHASTISE...
CORRECTION...
REPROVE...
REBUKE...
DISCIPLINE...
WARNING...

POSITIVE:

INSTRUCT..
TEACH...
TRAIN...



**"A WISE SON
HEEDS HIS FATHER'S
INSTRUCTION."**

Proverbs 13:1

In noting these prophetic contrasts of the wise and foolish, consider now:

**"MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD,
NOR DETEST HIS CORRECTION; FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES
HE CORRECTS, JUST AS A FATHER THE SON IN WHOM HE DELIGHTS."**

Proverbs 3:11-12

It is important to realize that we decide which aspect of the instruction of a father under which we shall dwell. Take the time to read the New Testament counterpart to these verses found in Hebrews 12:5-11. Note that Paul begins with the admonition "You have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons.." (Hebrews 12:5)

5 "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.'

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons;
for what son is there who a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect.

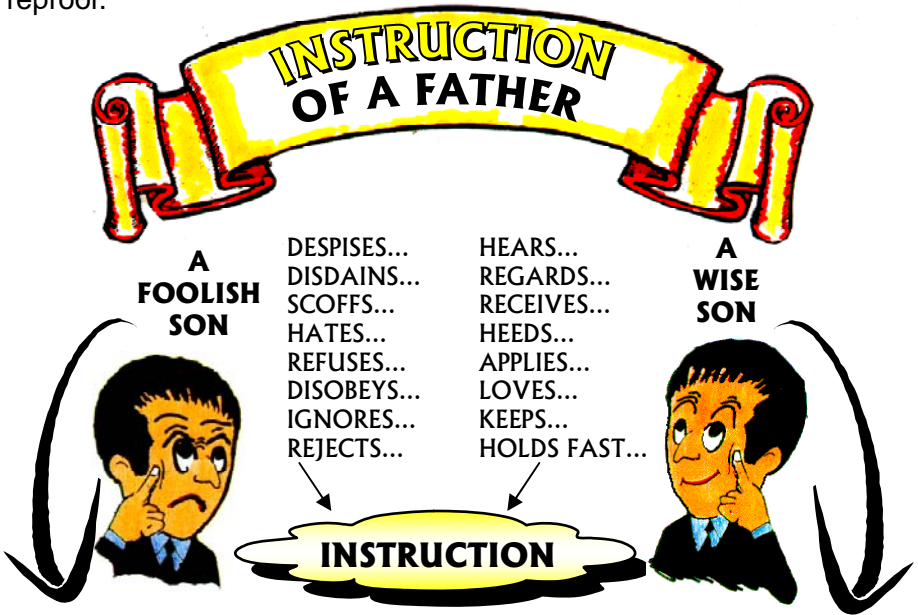
Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Hebrews 12:5-11

Proverbs contains twenty-five verses that translate the Hebrew word “musar” as instruction. There are five additional verses in which the word “musar” is translated as correction. The use of the word instruction is often in context with reproof/rebuke. We need to see that the concept of instruction goes way beyond just teaching. It encompasses correction, discipline, chastening, rebuke and reproof.



“...he who HATES reproof is stupid.”

(12:1)

“A scoffer does NOT LISTEN to rebuke.”

(13:1)

“He who REFUSES reproof goes astray.”

(10:7)

“Fools DESPISE...instruction.”

(1:7)

“Poverty and shame come to him who DISDAINS correction (instruction).”

(13:8)

“A fool DESPISES his Father’s instruction.”

(15:5)

“He who DISDAINS instruction despises his own soul.”

(15:32)

“CEASE LISTENING to instruction, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.”

(19:27)

“How I have HATED instruction and my heart DESPISED reproof! I have NOT OBEYED the voice of my teachers, NOR INCLINED MY EAR to those who have instructed me!”

(5:12-13)

“A wise son HEEDS his father’s instruction...”

(13:1)

“HEAR instruction and do not disdain it...”

(8:33)

“RECEIVE my instruction and not silver...”

(8:10)

“RECEIVE instruction that you may be wise in your latter days.”

(19:20)

“APPLY your heart to instruction.”

(23:12)

“whoever LOVES instruction loves knowledge.”

(12:1)

“Take FIRM HOLD of instruction.”

(4:13)

“He who KEEPS instruction is in the way of life.”

(10:17)

**"I WILL INSTRUCT YOU
AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO;
I WILL GUIDE YOU WITH MY EYE.
DO NOT BE LIKE THE HORSE, OR LIKE THE MULE WHICH
HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING, WHICH MUST BE
HARNESSED WITH BIT AND BRIDLE,
ELSE THEY WILL NOT COME NEAR YOU."**

Psalm 32:8-9

Contained within these verses from Psalm 32 is God's plan for guidance. He has a Plan A and a Plan B. You choose the plan:



INSTRUCT..
TEACH..
TRAIN....



**"I WILL
INSTRUCT
YOU
AND TEACH
YOU IN THE WAY
YOU SHOULD GO.
I WILL GUIDE YOU
WITH MY EYE."**

Psalm 32:8



CHASTISE..
REPROVE..
REBUKE...



**"DO NOT BE LIKE
THE HORSE
OR MULE WHICH HAVE
NO UNDERSTANDING
WHICH MUST BE
HARNESSED WITH
AND BRIDLE, ELSE THEY WILL
NOT COME NEAR YOU."**

Psalm 32:9

Contained within these verses from Psalm 32 is God's plan for guidance. He has a Plan A and a Plan B. All horses are not like TV's portrayal of Silver and Trigger who instantly respond to the whistle of their beloved masters. In reality, unless a horse has a bit and bridle, they will not obey. God uses this illustration in context of instruction. If need be, God indicates, He will use a spiritual bit and bridle consisting of chastening, discipline, correction, rebuke, reproof, and restraint to bring us under His instruction. The choice of plans is up to us. Paul give us the New Testament counterpart to this truth:

**"FOR IF WE WOULD JUDGE OURSELVES, WE WOULD NOT BE JUDGED.
BUT WHEN WE ARE JUDGED, WE ARE CHASTENED BY THE LORD,
THAT WE MAY NOT BE CONDEMNED WITH THE WORLD."**

1 Cor. 11:31-32

Paul speaks of the easy way and the hard way. We can judge ourselves or let God do it for us. He also states why God will administer judgment if we will not judge ourselves. It is so that we are not condemned with the world. God states that He is going to bring judgment to the house of God at the rapture when He takes the wise and rejects the foolish (Matt. 25:1-13). How important it becomes for us to be found as a wise son heeding his Father's instruction.

Whether we consider the Old Covenant or the New Covenant, we find that God is an unchanging God, as He testifies of Himself (Mal.3:6, Heb. 13:8). We can follow the positive path or the negative path of His instruction. We can choose to judge ourselves according to the instruction found in the Word of God, or by default, we can allow Him to judge us.

INSTRUCTION OF A FATHER

**THE EASY WAY:
GUIDE YOU WITH MY EYE**

"IF WE WOULD JUDGE OURSELVES WE WOULD NOT BE JUDGED."

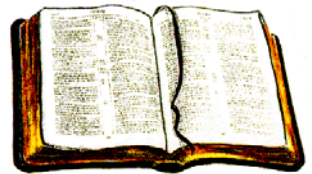
**THE HARD WAY:
HARNESS WITH BIT AND BRIDLE**

BUT WHEN WE ARE JUDGED, WE ARE CHASTENED BY THE LORD..."

How is it that God will guide us with His eye? To answer that question let us consider the purpose for which God gave us the scriptures:



"...THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION... ALL SCRIPTURE IS... PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS,



THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK."

2 Tim. 3:15-17

Notice that God's purpose for the scriptures goes beyond just making us wise for salvation. This pathway of instruction goes on to prepare the saved for a life of good works. God wants His people to be instructed in paths of righteousness. It requires more than doctrine. It includes embracing reproof, correction and instruction.

INSTRUCTION

**INSTRUCT..
TEACH...
TRAIN....**

**CHASTISE..
REPROVE...
REBUKE...**



All scripture is profitable
for **DOCTRINE...**
for **REPROOF...**
for **CORRECTION...**
for **INSTRUCTION...**



"I WILL GUIDE YOU WITH MY EYE..."

REBUKE:

to reprimand...
 to tell a fault...
 to censure...
 to criticize...



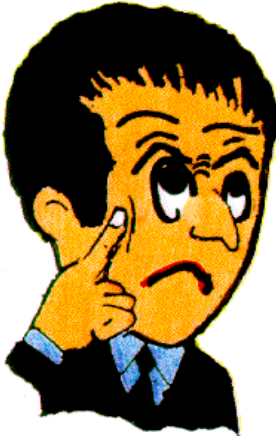
One final point
 I would like to make
 concerning instruction:

REPROVE:

to convince...
 to convict...
 to reason...
 to argue...

Proverbs often uses the words “rebuke” and “reprove” in association with the concept of instruction. Look at the definition of these two words above. We can all remember if we have ever been rebuked. It is not pleasant by any means. Rebuke is a form of severe correction.

However, I want to stress that reproof is something we are exposed to every time the Word is taught. To teach is to present proof of what is right. To re-prove is simply to teach, re-teach, and teach again the same truths from various perspectives. Take the time to consider what Proverbs records of the relationship between reproof and instruction. There are seven (number of perfection) verses:



**“CEASE LISTENING
 TO INSTRUCTION,
 MY SON,
 AND YOU WILL
 STRAY FROM
 THE WORDS
 OF
 KNOWLEDGE.”**

Proverbs 19:27

1. “How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised **REPROOF!** I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who have instructed me! I was on the verge of total ruin in the midst of the congregation and assembly.”
 Proverbs 5:12-14
2. “**REPROOFS** of instruction are the way of life.”
 Proverbs 6:23
3. “He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses **REPROOF** goes astray.”
 Proverbs 10:17
4. “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates **REPROOF** is stupid.”
 Proverbs 12:1
5. “Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction (instruction) but he who regard **REPROOF** will be honored.”
 Proverbs 13:18
6. “A fool despises his father’s instruction, but he who receives **REPROOF** is prudent.”
 Proverbs 15:5
7. “He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who gets **REPROOF** gets understanding.”
 Proverbs 15:32

THE THIRD PILLAR OF WISDOM:

**K
N
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E**

3

**"WISE
PEOPLE STORE UP
KNOWLEDGE"**

Proverbs 10:14

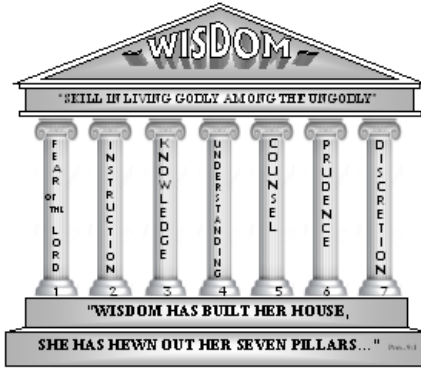
**"FOOLS
HATE
KNOWLEDGE"**

Proverbs 1:22

THE THIRD PILLAR OF WISDOM IS



"WISDOM HAS BUILT HER HOUSE, SHE HAS HEWN OUT HER SEVEN PILLARS"
Prov. 9:1



"A WISE WOMAN BUILDS HER HOUSE, BUT THE FOOLISH PULLS IT DOWN WITH HER HANDS."
Prov. 14:1

HOW YOU INTERACT WITH THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM DETERMINES WHETHER YOU ARE WISE OR FOOLISH

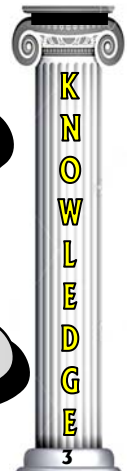
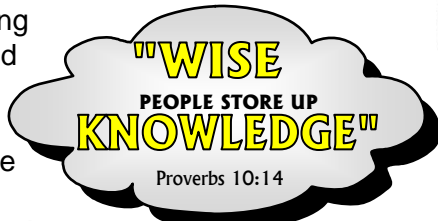
Multitudes of God's people seem to have a better idea than what God has recorded in His Word. However, you need only to remove a few key pillars before the roof caves in on you.

Philosophy is defined as the love/pursuit of knowledge. However, not all that is called knowledge is from God. Paul warned his son in the faith Timothy, of this danger:

"O TIMOTHY GUARD WHAT WAS COMMITTED TO YOUR TRUST, AVOIDING THE PROFANE AND VAIN BABBLINGS, AND CONTRADICTIONS OF WHAT IS FALSELY CALLED KNOWLEDGE-BY PROFESSING IT SOME HAVE STRAYED CONCERNING THE FAITH..."

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Here then is a distinguishing mark between the wise and the foolish: While the wise are busy storing up knowledge, the foolish hate such knowledge. What is hated is the knowledge of the truth. It has been replaced with what is falsely called knowledge. Our goal must become to learn how to distinguish one from the other.



Take time to ponder the reaction of the wise vs. the foolish toward our first three pillars, and you will see why God will take the wise and leave the foolish behind at the rapture (see Matthew 25:1-13).

Path of the wise... (indicated by an arrow pointing to the top of the first pillar)

Path of the foolish... (indicated by an arrow pointing to the bottom of the first pillar)

Pillar 1: FEAR OF THE LORD

The WISE: "BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD ONE DEPARTS FROM EVIL" Prov. 16:6

The FOOLISH: "DOES NOT CHOOSE THE FEAR OF THE LORD" Prov. 1:29

Pillar 2: INSTRUCTION

The WISE: "A WISE SON HEEDS HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTION" Prov. 13:1

The FOOLISH: "A FOOL DESPISES HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTION" Prov. 15:5

Pillar 3: KNOWLEDGE

The WISE: "WISE PEOPLE STORE UP KNOWLEDGE" Prov. 10:14

The FOOLISH: "FOOLS HATE KNOWLEDGE" Prov. 1:22

God is a Righteous Judge (Psalm 7:11). Therefore He always has a reason for what He does. In Proverbs 1, He states in detail why He is going to reject the foolish. It is because they continually reject His pillars of wisdom:

"...I HAVE CALLED AND YOU REFUSED...BECAUSE YOU DISDAINED ALL MY COUNSEL, AND WOULD HAVE NONE OF MY REPROOF (INSTRUCTION)...BECAUSE THEY HATED KNOWLEDGE AND DID NOT CHOOSE THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THEY WOULD HAVE NONE OF MY COUNSEL AND DESPISED ALL MY REPROOF (INSTRUCTION),

THEREFORE THEY SHALL EAT THE FRUIT OF THEIR OWN WAY...THE COMPLACENCY OF FOOLS WILL DESTROY THEM...I WILL LAUGH AT YOUR CALAMITY...

TERROR...DESTRUCTION...DISTRESS AND ANGUISH. THEN THEY WILL CALL ON ME, BUT I WILL NOT ANSWER; THEY WILL SEEK ME DILIGENTLY, BUT THEY WILL NOT FIND ME..."

Proverbs 1 excerpts

Let us now examine how Proverbs contrasts the wise and the foolish reaction to the pillar of knowledge:

Pillar 3: KNOWLEDGE

"WISE PEOPLE STORE UP KNOWLEDGE." Proverbs 10:14

"A WISE MAN IS STRONG, YES, A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE INCREASES STRENGTH." Proverbs 24:5

"THROUGH KNOWLEDGE THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BE DELIVERED." Proverbs 11:9

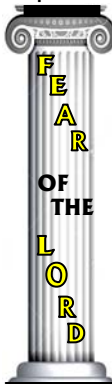


"FOOLS HATE KNOWLEDGE." Proverbs 1:22

"MY PEOPLE HAVE GONE INTO CAPTIVITY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE." Isaiah 5:13

"MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. BECAUSE THEY REJECTED KNOWLEDGE..." Hosea 3:6

Notice that knowledge can increase strength and bring deliverance. Contrarily, Hosea tells us that God's people were not lacking availability of knowledge, but rather that they rejected the knowledge given to them. The end result of that choice is captivity and destruction.

We have seen that in our first two pillars the Hebrew words translated as “fear” and “instruction” have a positive and a negative aspect in definition:

	<p>“YIRAH”</p> <p>POSITIVE: “REVERENCE... AWE... RESPECT...”</p> <p>NEGATIVE: “TERROR... FRIGHT... DREAD... AFRAID...”</p>		<p>“MUSAR”</p> <p>POSITIVE: “INSTRUCT... TEACH... TRAIN... GUIDE...”</p> <p>NEGATIVE: “CHASTEN... CORRECT... REPROVE... REBUKE... DISCIPLINE...”</p>		<p>“DA’ATH” (Hebrew)</p> <p>“CUNNING” ?</p> <p>“GINOSKO” (Greek)</p> <p>“TO KNOW” ?</p>
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However, as you can see, this dual factor is not present in the meaning of either the Hebrew or the Greek word translated as “knowledge.” In an attempt to shed light on the meaning of knowledge, let us consider Webster’s definition of “cunning” (Hebrew word-da’ath-cunning-knowledge):

What I found of great interest in Webster’s definition was that intermingled in it are two different aspects, one good and the other evil. Although we cannot make doctrine from Webster’s definition, it did prompt me to see if this good and evil use of the word “cunning” existed in the Word of God. It did.

cun-ning, kun’ing, n. (M.E., verbal noun of cunnen, (cunnan, know, be able.) Ability, skill, or expertise; skill employed in a crafty manner; skillful deceit; craftiness; guile. – a. Exhibiting ingenuity; artfully subtle or shrewd; crafty; sly; guileful; quaintly pleasing or attractive. –cun-ning-ly, adv.-cun-ning-ness,n.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>GOOD aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 ABILITY 2 SKILL 3 EXPERTISE 4 PLEASING 5 INGENUITY 6. ATTRACTIVE 7. SKILL EMPLOYED IN A CRAFTY MANNER | <p>EVIL aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 SKILLFUL DECEIT 2 ARTFULLY SUBTLE 3 GUILEFUL 4 SLY 5 SHREWD 6 CRAFTINESS |
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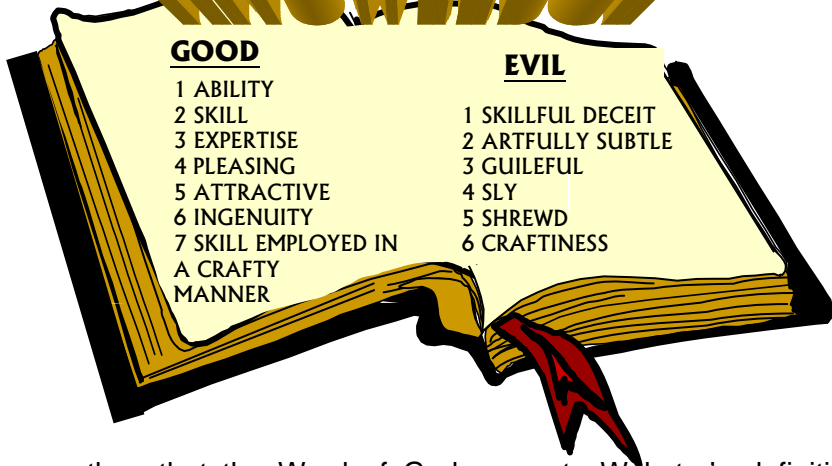
The word “cunning” appears extensively in Exodus in the description of the building of the Tabernacle of Moses:

“...cherubims of **CUNNING** work shalt thouand fine twined linen of **CUNNING** work: fine twined linen, with **CUNNING** work...breastplate of judgment with **CUNNING** devise c works, to work in gold, to make any manner of **CUNNING** work... and of the **CUNNING** workman, and of those that devise **CUNNING** work... cherubims made he it of **CUNNING** work... an engraver and a **CUNNING** workman... in the fine linen, with **CUNNING** work... the breastplate of **CUNNING** work...” Excerpts from Exodus 26-39

The word “cunning” is also used in a good way in the Book of Daniel:

“... Children in whom was no blemish, but well-favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and **CUNNING** in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chal-de’ans...” Dan. 1:4

"CUNNING" KNOWLEDGE



We see then that the Word of God supports Webster's definition of "cunning" in a good sense. However, it also bears witness to the other half of Webster's definition of cunning having an evil connotation. The word "cunning" appears three times in scripture describing evil. One is found in the Old Covenant, and two are in the New Covenant:

OLD TESTAMENT:

"NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE **CUNNING** THAN ANY BEAST OF THE FIELD WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD MADE..."

Genesis 3:1

NEW TESTAMENT:

"BUT WE DID NOT FOLLOW **CUNNINGLY** DEVISED FABLES..."

2 Peter 1:16

"...WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY THE TRICKERY OF MEN, IN THE **CUNNING** CRAFTINESS BY WHICH THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE."

Eph. 4:14

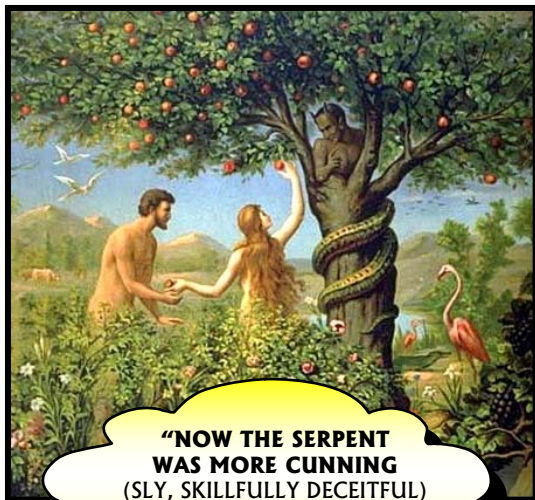
Notice in the origin of evil, "cunning" is found in the Serpent, or Satan, as he is also called (Rev. 12:9). Notice also that the New Testament usage of cunning applies to false doctrine. Paul warned of "deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons". (1 Timothy 4:1). I have said all these things about cunning knowledge in preparation for us to examine the pillar of knowledge. Earlier I stated that we shall consider two kinds of knowledge. One is from God to be stored up (Proverbs 10:14), but the other is falsely called knowledge and is to be rejected by God's people. Consider again Paul's warning:

"...AVOID THE PROFANE AND VAIN BABBLINGS AND CONTRADICTIONS OF WHAT IS FALSELY CALLED KNOWLEDGE- BY PROFESSING IT, SOME HAVE STRAYED CONCERNING THE FAITH.."

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Let us begin by bringing to remembrance the fact that the Serpent tempted Eve from his dwelling place in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

This tree contained what God considered forbidden fruit for Adam and Eve.



“NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE CUNNING (SLY, SKILLFULLY DECEITFUL) ...HAS GOD SAID?...”

Gen. 3:1

The original deception came from eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Today’s continual deception among God’s people stems from eating spiritual food from the same Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is comprised of the still-present cunningly devised fables Peter spoke of in his day. It is still forbidden fruit of those who, like the Serpent, in cunning craftiness, lie in wait to deceive (Eph.4:14).

Satan’s deception of Eve focused on these dual concepts:

“IN THE DAY THAT YOU EAT OF IT, YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD...”

Genesis 3:5

MAKE YOU WISE

“...THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE WAS PLEASANT TO THE EYES, A TREE DESIRABLE TO MAKE ONE WISE...”

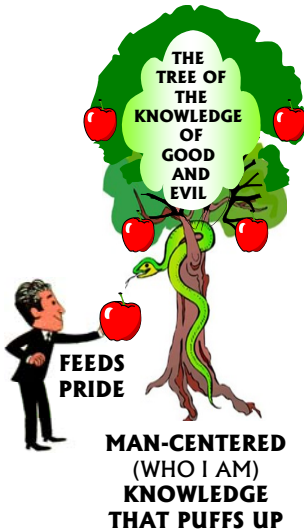
Genesis 3:6

BE LIKE GOD



Let us understand that to “become wise” and to “be like God” are God-given objectives. We are to get wisdom (Proverbs 4:7), and we are to be conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18). However, it is not to be accomplished by eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This is pride-based, and therefore forbidden knowledge.

God's plan for us today is the same one He gave to Adam and Eve. We are to choose to eat spiritual food from the Tree of Life and avoid the forbidden fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.



“...THE LORD GOD MADE EVERY TREE GROW THAT IS PLEASANT TO THE SIGHT AND GOOD FOR FOOD. THE TREE OF LIFE WAS ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.”
 Genesis 2:9



It is important to realize that these two trees have different roots. Both use knowledge from the Word of God. One uses it to puff up the self-image of man while the other uses it to build up the image of God in man's eyes. Simply put, one is man-centered while the other is God-centered. One will lead to pride and the other to humility. A prime example in today's theology of this truth can be seen by examining the so-called "faith for prosperity" gospel. It is a man-centered gospel focusing upon who we are in Christ rather than who Christ is in us. It diminishes that we are sinners saved by grace and emphasizes that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. It is a gospel which emphasizes what we can get from God by faith rather than what we can give to God by faith. It is a gospel that teaches us to have God's kind of faith rather than having faith in God. It places the promises of the Word of God above the God of the promises. The important point to see is that we can have two opposing philosophies originating from the same source of knowledge-the Bible. One is producing fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil while the other has its fruit produced by the Tree of Life. Consider this principle Jesus gave about trees and the fruit they are capable of producing:

“...EVERY GOOD TREE BEARS GOOD FRUIT, BUT A BAD TREE BEARS BAD FRUIT. A GOOD TREE CANNOT BEAR BAD FRUIT, NOR CAN A BAD TREE BEAR GOOD FRUIT... THEREFORE BY THEIR FRUIT YOU SHALL KNOW THEM.”

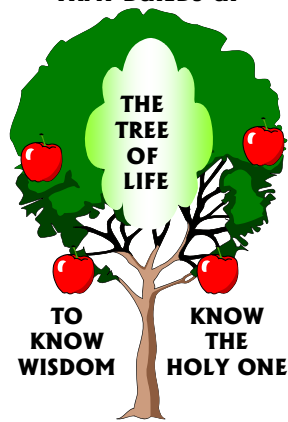
Matthew 7:17-20

MAN-CENTERED
(WHO I AM)
KNOWLEDGE
THAT PUFFS UP

GOD-CENTERED
(WHO GOD IS)
KNOWLEDGE
THAT BUILDS UP



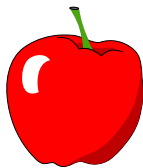
**“BY
THEIR FRUITS
YOU SHALL
KNOW THEM...”**
Matt. 7:20



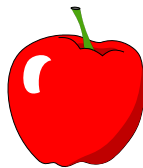
BAD TREE-BAD FRUIT

GOOD TREE-GOOD FRUIT

Once you understand that it is possible to eat from either the Tree of Life or the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you can judge true and false doctrine simply by looking at the fruit it produces in us. Is it man-centered or God-centered fruit? Does it produce pride or humility in us? Remember pride was Lucifer's original sin. Remember too that Jesus was meek (humble) and lowly in heart. (Matthew 11:29). Proverbs is not emphasizing man-centered knowledge. Consider now two verses which speak of the two kinds of knowledge that are good in God's sight:



**BY
YOUR FRUITS
YOU SHALL
BE KNOWN!**



**“THE FEAR OF THE LORD
IS THE BEGINNING
OF WISDOM
AND THE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE HOLY ONE
IS UNDERSTANDING.”**

Proverbs 9:10

**“MY SON EAT HONEY
BECAUSE IT IS GOOD...
SO SHALL THE
KNOWLEDGE OF WISDOM
BE TO YOUR SOUL.”**

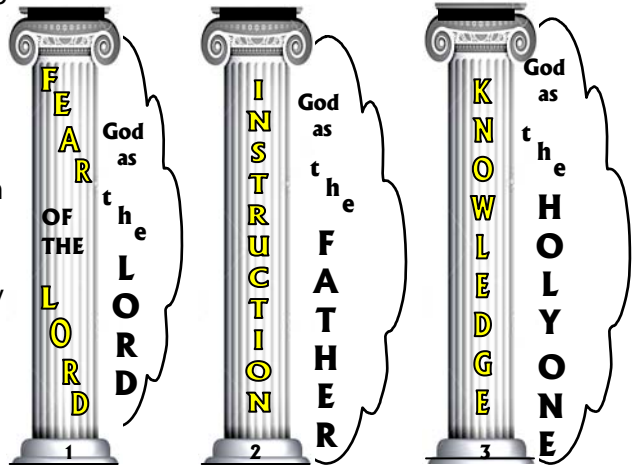
Proverbs 24:14

Proverbs gives us two sources of knowledge. One is the knowledge of the Holy One and the other is the knowledge of wisdom. Focus upon these two sources of knowledge and you will eat from the Tree of Life. You will also fulfill the two-fold mandate we discussed earlier, to be like God, and eat fruit which will make one wise, as God intended. Choose to follow God's plan rather than the prideful, deceptive counterfeits of the Serpent.

If we back up and compare our first three pillars we can see that what we are studying is truly the knowledge of God Himself.

Note that these pillars all focus upon God as our Lord, God as our Father, and God as the Holy One. This kind of knowledge is the fruit of the Tree of Life.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF WISDOM IS GOD-CENTERED KNOWLEDGE:



Remember our text scripture in Proverbs 24:5 said “a wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength”. If we grow in the knowledge of God, then we shall be strong. If we do not, we will not be all that God wants us to be. Keep in mind that Proverbs states adversity is that which measures the level of our strength:

**“IF YOU FAINT IN THE DAY OF ADVERSITY,
YOUR STRENGTH IS SMALL.”**

Proverbs 24:10

Consider also what is recorded in the Book of Daniel:

**“...THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD
SHALL BE STRONG ,
AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS.”**

Daniel 11:32

We might also consider the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

**“THUS SAYS THE LORD:
LET NOT THE WISE MAN GLORY IN HIS WISDOM ,
LET NOT THE MIGHTY MAN GLORY IN HIS MIGHT,
NOR LET THE RICH MAN GLORY IN HIS RICHES;
BUT LET HIM WHO GLORIES GLORY IN THIS:
THAT HE UNDERSTANDS AND KNOWS ME...”**

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Considering Jeremiah’s words that we are to give priority to understand and know God, let us ponder why Proverbs says “the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

“THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY ONE IS UNDERSTANDING”

Prov. 9:10

Since our next pillar to be considered is “understanding”, I shall refrain from greatly expounding on the knowledge of the Holy One as the key to understanding. However, I would like to bring out some aspects of the understanding of the knowledge of God for your consideration. Paul tells us in Colossians where true knowledge can be found:

**“...FOR AS MANY AS HAVE NOT SEEN MY FACE
(I PRAY)...THAT THEY MAY (ATTAIN)
TO ALL RICHES OF THE FULL ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING,
TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERY OF GOD,
BOTH OF THE FATHER AND OF CHRIST,
IN WHOM ARE HIDDEN ALL THE TREASURES
OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.”**

Colossians 2:1-3 excerpts

Peter also bears witness as well:

**“GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU IN THE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OF JESUS OUR LORD...
HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN TO US ALL THINGS THAT
PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS THROUGH THE
KNOWLEDGE OF HIM WHO CALLED US...”**

2 Peter 1:2-3

Both Paul and Peter emphasize what kind of knowledge we should attain. They both stress it is the knowledge of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. These are hidden treasures containing all that is necessary for life and godliness:

**“ATTAINING TO
THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD,
BOTH OF
THE FATHER AND OF CHRIST
IN WHOM ARE HIDDEN
ALL THE TREASURES OF
WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.”**

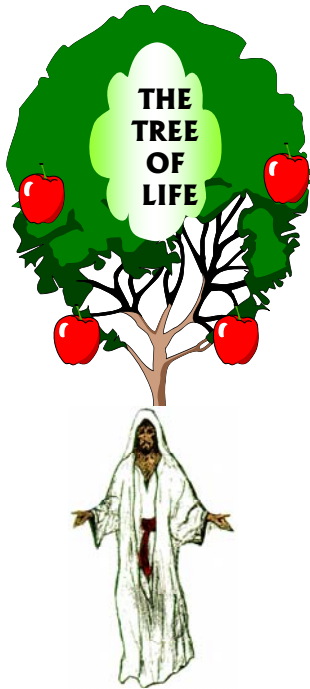
Colossians 2:2-3



**“GRACE AND PEACE
BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU IN
THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD
AND OF
JESUS OUR LORD,
AS HIS DIVINE POWER
HAS GIVEN US ALL THINGS
THAT PERTAIN TO
LIFE AND GODLINESS THROUGH
THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM
WHO CALLED US.”**

2 Peter 1:2-3

The apostle Paul repeatedly used the phrase “in Him” in unfolding the depths of the knowledge of Christ to the saints.



“YOU ARE COMPLETE *IN HIM.*”

Col. 2:10

“*IN HIM* DWELLS ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD.”

Col. 2:9

“*IN HIM* WE HAVE REDEMPTION, THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN, THROUGH HIS BLOOD.”

Eph. 1:7

“HE THAT KNEW NO SIN BECAME SIN FOR US THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD *IN HIM.*”

2 Cor. 5:21

“*IN HIM* YOU WERE CIRCUMCISED.”

Col. 2:11

“ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD *IN HIM* ARE YES AND *IN HIM* AMEN.”

2 Cor. 1:20

“*IN HIM* WE LIVE, MOVE, AND HAVE OUR BEING.”

Acts 17:28

“ROOTED AND BUILT UP *IN HIM.*”

Col. 2:7

The Tree of Life represents the one who called Himself “The Life” (Jn. 14:6). It is Jesus, in whom the fullness of the Godhead is found (Col. 2:9). Philip asked Jesus, “show us the Father”. In response, Jesus did not claim to be the Father, but rather that He bears the exact image of the Father. Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus is the “express image of His person” (God the Father). Likewise, of the Spirit, Jesus said, “when the Holy Spirit comes...He will glorify Me, He will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-14). To study the image of Jesus is to study the completeness of the Godhead. We are to be completely rooted and built up in Him (Col.2:7) In light of that mandate, consider these two passages from Proverbs 12 which reveal that the roots of the tree will affect the fruit that it produces:

“THE ROOT OF THE RIGHTEOUS YIELDS FRUIT.”

Prov. 12:12

If we are rooted in the triune Godhead of the Father, the Holy One, and Jesus Christ, we are going to produce good fruit.

“THE ROOT OF THE RIGHTEOUS CANNOT BE MOVED.”

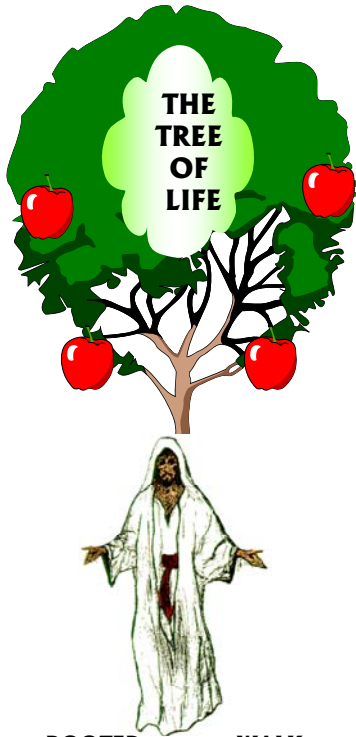
Prov. 12:3

God's plan of perfection is found in His perfect Son. Having stated this clearly in Colossians 2:1-7, Paul goes on in verse 8 to give this warning:



"BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEIT, ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONS OF MEN, ACCORDING TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST."

Col. 2:8



ROOTED IN HIM

WALK IN HIM

COMPLETE IN HIM

After stating the various things that we are "in Him", Paul now speaks of four things which can cheat us from what we can be in Him. Paul states that these things are not according to Christ, but are according to the god of this world. Here are the roots of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that Satan still offers to God's people.



TRADITION OF MEN...

EMPTY DECEIT...

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD...

PHILOSOPHY...

If you don't think Paul is warning about spiritual counterfeits, read the rest of Colossians 2 in which

Paul speaks of feast days and sabbaths, of false humility, the worship of angels, man-made regulations, and things according to the commandments and doctrines of men.

His concluding comment is very significant in light of our topic being wisdom:

"THESE THINGS INDEED HAVE AN APPEARANCE OF WISDOM IN SELF-IMPOSED RELIGION..."

Colossians 2:23

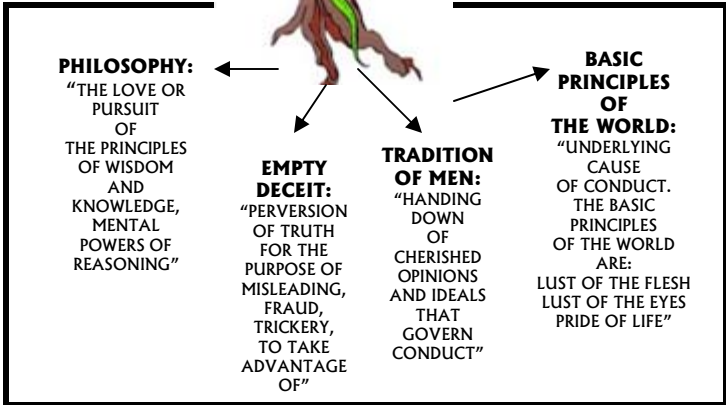
THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE

OF GOOD AND EVIL

“BEWARE
LEST ANYONE
CHEAT YOU THROUGH
PHILOSOPHY
AND EMPTY DECEIT,
ACCORDING TO THE
TRADITIONS OF MEN,



ACCORDING TO
THE BASIC
PRINCIPLES OF
THE WORLD
AND NOT
ACCORDING
TO CHRIST.”
Col. 2:8



Consider carefully the above definitions that Webster gives to these four words that Paul says can cheat us from what is in Christ.

PHILOSOPHY –Philosophy (the love of knowledge) is prideful intellectualism that thrives on mental powers of reasoning. God calls His people to rest their belief on faith, not reasoning. Not everything is logical in God’s Word. Paul said of the natural man:

“BUT THE NATURAL MAN DOES NOT RECEIVE THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, FOR THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS TO HIM, NOR CAN HE KNOW THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.”

1 Cor.2:14

If you are given to philosophy you will be cheated of many things that are in Christ that must be appropriated by faith.

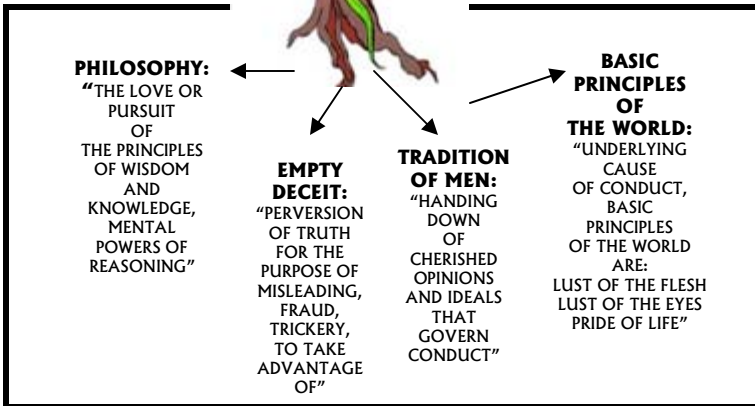
EMPTY DECEIT – Sadly, scripture warns of many in the ministry who “lie in wait to deceive by cunning craftiness” (Eph. 4:14). Also we see those who “peddle the Word of God” (2 Cor.2:17) and “handle the Word of God deceitfully” (2 Cor.4:2). There are “false teachers who by covetousness exploit you with deceptive words” and cause the “way of Truth to be blasphemed” (2 Peter 2:3). Unless you become a good Berean as depicted in Acts 17:11, you may become deceived. Jesus and Paul both stressed often, “let no one deceive you”.

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE

OF GOOD AND EVIL

“BEWARE
LEST ANYONE
CHEAT YOU THROUGH
PHILOSOPHY
AND EMPTY DECEIT,
ACCORDING TO THE
TRADITIONS OF MEN,

ACCORDING TO
THE BASIC PRINCIPLES
OF THE WORLD
AND NOT ACCORDING
TO CHRIST.”
Col. 2:8



TRADITION – So powerful is tradition at work in the lives of God’s people that Jesus warned it is capable of even making the Word of God of no effect:

**“FOR LAYING ASIDE
THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,
YOU HOLD TO THE TRADITION OF MEN...
ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT
THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD,
THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION...
MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT
THROUGH YOUR TRADITION WHICH YOU
HAVE HANDED DOWN.”**

Mark 7:8,13



Jesus told the Pharisees that they were guilty of laying aside the commandment of God in order to hold the tradition of men. The church is equally guilty. We traditionally celebrate the birth of Christ with all of its pagan “Christian” traditions, when the Word of God rather tells us to celebrate His death till He comes. (1 Cor. 11:26).

Out of the 2,000 nouns in the New Testament Greek language, there are only two words which bear the evil numerical value of 666. One is the word translated “wealth”, the other is the word rendered as “tradition”. Often, traditions are antichrist in principle because they are unscriptural and contrary to God’s written Word.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD – John tells what these three principles are in 1 John 2:16:

**“FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD –
THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES,
AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE...”**

1 John 2:16

Satan tempted Eve with all three. She saw the tree to be good for food which is the lust of the flesh. She saw it to be pleasant to the eyes which is the lust of the eyes. Satan told her it would make her wise, which is the pride of life. Satan also used the above three principles on Jesus in the wilderness. The lust of the flesh was used by Satan in telling Jesus to turn stones into bread. He used the lust of the eyes on Jesus with the temptation of all the kingdoms of this world and their glory. He used the pride of life on Jesus by seeking to get Him to throw Himself off the temple roof for God would not allow any harm to come to the Son of God. Surely, as it is written, said Satan, the angels would catch Him. (Read Matthew 4:1-10).

Read about Moses in Hebrews 11 and again you will find that he overcame the same three basic principles of this world. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. That is the pride of life. He chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. That is the lust of the flesh. He also esteemed the reproach of Christ to be greater riches than the treasures in Egypt. That is the lust of the eyes.

So we have a clear repeated pattern from the very beginning in how Satan uses the basic principles of this world in an attempt to cheat God’s people from what is found in Christ. How then are we to deal with this tree? John the Baptist tells us to lay the ax to the root of the tree (Matt.3:10). Paul advises the believer to avoid what is falsely called knowledge, because by “professing it, some have erred from the faith” (1 Tim. 6:20).

Finally, let us also consider Solomon’s counsel pertaining to knowledge that is contrary to God’s Word:



**“GO FROM THE PRESENCE OF A FOOLISH MAN,
WHEN YOU DO NOT PERCEIVE IN HIM,
THE LIPS OF KNOWLEDGE.”**

Proverbs 14:7

**“WISE PEOPLE STORE UP KNOWLEDGE,
BUT THE MOUTH OF THE FOOLISH
IS NEAR DESTRUCTION.”**

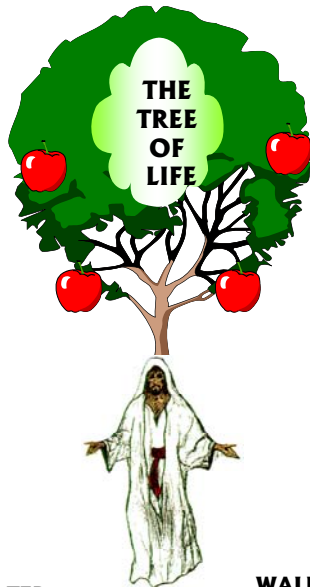
Prov 10:14

**“BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD...
FOR HE SHALL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY THE WATERS,
WHICH SPREADS OUT IT’S ROOTS BY THE RIVER...
...AND WILL NOT CEASE FROM YIELDING FRUIT.”**

Jer. 17:8



Jeremiah describes the man of God like a tree. Because his trust is in the Lord, he will never cease bearing fruit (see John 15:8,16). This Tree of Life is rooted in the knowledge of Christ. It is this kind of knowledge that wise people store up. It is such knowledge of which wisdom consists.



**ROOTED
IN HIM**

**COMPLETE
IN HIM**

**WALK
IN HIM**

THE FOURTH PILLAR OF WISDOM:

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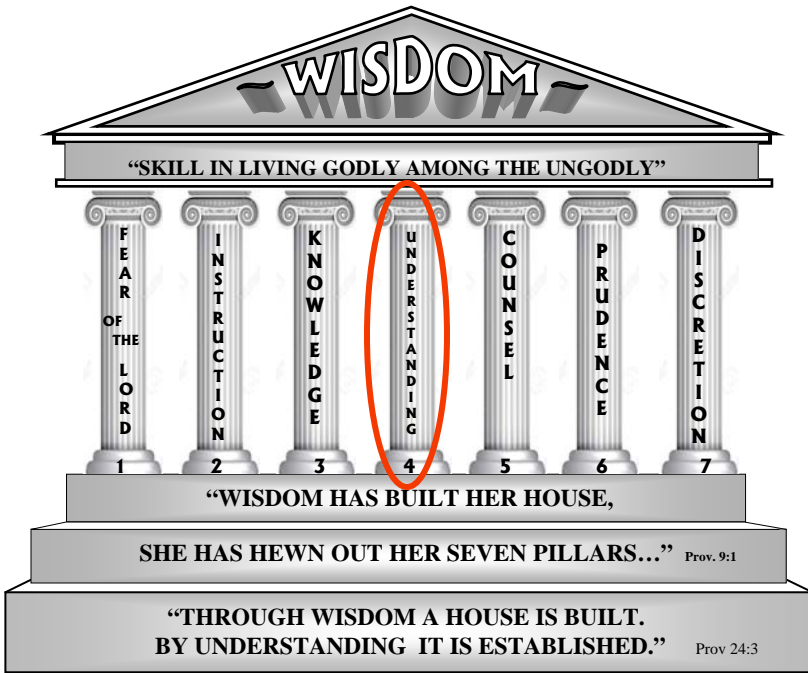
**"WISDOM
IS IN THE SIGHT OF HIM WHO HAS
UNDERSTANDING"**

Proverbs 17:24

**"WISDOM
IS FOUND ON THE LIPS
OF HIM WHO HAS
UNDERSTANDING"**

Proverbs 10:13

THE FOURTH PILLAR OF WISDOM: UNDERSTANDING



In our pursuit of wisdom as defined in Proverbs, we have come to the fourth pillar. It is the pillar of understanding. Due to the emphasis in Proverbs upon the concept of understanding, we can graphically portray this pillar as the main support pillar of wisdom. Repeatedly in Proverbs, we find that when wisdom is spoken of, a reference to understanding often quickly follows.

How Important is **UNDERSTANDING?**



**“HAPPY IS THE MAN
WHO FINDS WISDOM
AND THE MAN WHO GAINS
UNDERSTANDING.”**

Proverbs 3:13

**“SAY TO WISDOM,
YOU ARE MY SISTER,
AND CALL
UNDERSTANDING
YOUR NEXT OF KIN.”**

Proverbs 7:4

**“GET WISDOM! GET UNDERSTANDING!
IN ALL YOUR GETTING,
GET UNDERSTANDING.”**

Proverbs 4:5-7

Understanding is to wisdom what the Vice-Presidency is to the Presidency – his right hand man.

Understanding is the center support pillar in this house of wisdom. The three pillars on the left and right of it are vitally connected to this main pillar. Consider these three examples of this close inter-relationship from Proverbs



THE FOURTH PILLAR:

**"WISDOM
IS IN THE SIGHT OF HIM WHO HAS
UNDERSTANDING"**
Proverbs 17:24

**'WISDOM
IS FOUND ON THE LIPS
OF HIM WHO HAS
UNDERSTANDING"**
Proverbs 10:13

From these two passages taken from among the fifty-four references to understanding in the Book of Proverbs, we can see how important it is to possess it. We cannot have wisdom apart from it.

WHAT IS

UNDERSTANDING?



OUR OBJECTIVE:

**"UNDERSTANDING
UNDERSTANDING"**

UNDERSTANDING

"TOWBUNAH"

"BIYNAH"

"LEB"

There are three (number of divine completeness) Hebrew words translated in Proverbs as understanding. As with many truths in the Word of God that comes in threes, there is a progressive revelation of meaning found in these three words. They depict different levels of understanding. Once we define these words we will be able to see that they provide understanding to the three levels of the soul, the mind, the will, and the emotions. God desires to bring understanding to the entire soul. Let us begin by defining the first Hebrew word translated as understanding. It is the word "towbunah" which means:

**"INTELLIGENCE, TO KNOW PERFECTLY,
SKILLFULNESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND IN ARGUMENT"**

In this first aspect of understanding we will consider its impact upon the mind. Ponder these two example of men who possessed this quality:



“THEREFORE, BRETHREN, SEEK OUT FROM AMONG YOU SEVEN MEN OF GOOD REPUTATION, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WISDOM WHOM WE MANY APPOINT OVER THIS BUSINESS: ‘BUT WE WILL GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER AND TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD.’ AND THE SAYING PLEASSED THE WHOLE MULTITUDE. AND THEY CHOSE STEPHEN, A MAN FULL OF FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. AND STEPHEN, FULL OF FAITH AND POWER, DID GREAT WONDERS AND SIGNS AMONG THE PEOPLE. THEN THERE AROSE SOME... DISPUTING WITH STEPHEN AND THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO RESIST THE WISDOM AND THE SPIRIT BY WHICH HE SPOKE.” Acts 6:3-9

TOWBUNAH:

“INTELLIGENCE,
TO KNOW
PERFECTLY,
SKILLFULNESS
IN KNOWLEDGE
AND ARGUMENT.”

“NOW A CERTAIN JEW NAMED APOLLOS, BORN AT ALEXANDRIA, AN ELOQUENT MAN AND MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES, CAME TO EPHESUS. THIS MAN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED IN THE WAY OF THE LORD; AND BEING FERVENT IN SPIRIT, HE SPOKE AND TAUGHT ACCURATELY THE THINGS OF THE LORD, THOUGH HE KNEW ONLY THE BAPTISM OF JOHN. SO HE BEGAN TO SPEAK BOLDLY IN THE SYNAGOGUE. WHEN AQUILA AND PRISCILLA HEARD HIM, THEY TOOK HIM ASIDE AND EXPLAINED TO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE ACCURATELY. AND WHEN HE DESIRED TO CROSS TO ACHAIA, THE BRETHREN WROTE, EXHORTING THE DISCIPLES TO RECEIVE HIM; AND WHEN HE ARRIVED, HE GREATLY HELPED THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED THROUGH GRACE; FOR THE VIGOROUSLY REFUTED THE JEWS PUBLICLY, SHOWING FROM THE SCRIPTURES THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST.” Acts 18:24-28

The source of these men’s abilities was their knowledge of God’s Word. Paul charges the saints to:

“...BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND.”

Ephesians 4:23

“...BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND...”

Romans 12:2

**“BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD,
A WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED,
RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.”**

2 Timothy 2:15

**“...A SERVANT OF THE LORD MUST NOT QUARREL
BUT BE GENTLE TO ALL, ABLE TO TEACH, PATIENT,
IN HUMILITY CORRECTING THOSE WHO ARE IN OPPOSITION...”**

2 Timothy 2:24-25

**“PREACH THE WORD! BE READY...
CONVINCE, REBUKE, EXHORT WITH ALL
LONGSUFFERING AND TEACHING.”**

2 Timothy 4:2

Paul reproves the saints of his day in Hebrews 5:12 with the words, “by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again...”. If we have been instructed in the way of God more perfectly, we are then qualified to teach others as did Aquila and Priscilla with Apollos. This is one needful aspect of possessing understanding, the ability to teach others what we ourselves have been taught.

The second word translated as understanding has to do with the strength of the soul which is the will:

UNDERSTANDING

TOWBUNAH

“INTELLIGENCE, TO KNOW PERFECTLY, SKILLFULNESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND ARGUMENT.”



BIYNAH

“TO MAKE A DISTINCTION, TO SEPARATE MENTALLY, TO VIEW WISELY, TO DISCERN BETWEEN.”



“AT GIBEON THE LORD APPEARED TO SOLOMON IN A DREAM BY NIGHT; AND GOD SAID, ‘ASK! WHAT SHALL I GIVE YOU?’ ‘...THEREFORE GIVE TO YOUR SERVANT AN UNDERSTANDING HEART TO JUDGE YOUR PEOPLE, THAT I MAY DISCERN BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. FOR WHO IS ABLE TO JUDGE THIS GREAT PEOPLE OF YOURS?’ AND THE SPEECH PLEASED THE LORD, THAT SOLOMON HAD ASKED THIS THING. ‘BEHOLD. I HAVE DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR WORDS; SEE I HAVE GIVEN YOU A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING HEART, SO THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANYONE LIKE YOU BEFORE YOU, NOR SHALL ANY LIKE YOU ARISE AFTER YOU.’” 1 Kings 3:5-12

It is the will which makes choices. God desires that we would have understanding governing our will. He wants us to make a distinction, to separate mentally, to view wisely, to discern between the choices. Note the example of Solomon. He had the rare opportunity to choose as he wished before his God. He asked for an understanding heart to enable him to discern between good and evil. Notice this request was pleasing to God. In Hebrews Chapter 5, we looked at a people that Paul felt “by this time ought to be teachers” but they “needed some one to teach them again” (Hebrews 5:12). He goes on to say:



“...YOU HAVE NEED OF MILK AND NOT SOLID FOOD... SOLID FOOD BELONGS TO THOSE WHO... BY REASON OF USE, HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.”

Hebrews 5:12, 14

Paul is speaking of spiritual maturity. He is revealing what constitutes a mature saint. It is a twofold manifestation:



UNDERSTANDING

What Paul presents as spiritual maturity is also expressed in the definitions of our first two words translated as “understanding”. To be spiritually mature we must get proper understanding.

1. TOWBUNAH
 “INTELLIGENCE, TO KNOW PERFECTLY. SKILLFULNESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND ARGUMENT.”

“BY THIS TIME YOU OUGHT TO BE TEACHING OTHERS.”

Heb. 5:12 Amp.

2. BIYNAH
 “TO MAKE A DISTINCTION, TO SEPARATE MENTALLY. TO VIEW WISELY, TO DISCERN BETWEEN”.

“BY REASON OF USE HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.”

Heb.:13-14

UNDERSTANDING

<p>1. TOWBUNAH “INTELLIGENCE, TO KNOW PERFECTLY, SKILLFULNESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND ARGUMENT.”</p> <p>“STEPHEN AND APOLLOS”</p>	<p>2. BIYNAH “TO MAKE A DISTINCTION, TO SEPARATE MENTALLY, TO VIEW WISELY, TO DISCERN BETWEEN.”</p> <p>“SOLOMON”</p>	<p>3. LEB ←</p> <p>“CENTER-THE HEART”, TO REGARD, TO REVERE, TO RESPECT, TO HONOR, TO LOVE, TO HEED.”</p> <p>“THE WISE SCRIBE”</p>
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Let us add the definition of the third word which is translated as “understanding”. It is the word “Leb”. We can see it deals with the emotional realm.

The word “Leb” is translated 484 times in the Old Testament as “heart”. Proverbs translates this same word ten times as “understanding”. The heart is the center or seat of our emotions. Consider the example of the commendation Jesus gives to the wise scribe.

“SO THE SCRIBE SAID TO HIM, ‘WELL SAID, TEACHER. YOU HAVE SPOKEN THE TRUTH, FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND THERE IS NO OTHER BUT HE. ‘AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART, WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING WITH ALL THE SOUL, AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS ONESELF, IS MORE THAN ALL THE WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES.’ SO WHEN JESUS SAW THAT HE ANSWERED WISELY, HE SAID TO HIM, ‘YOU ARE NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD.’”

Mark 12:32-34

God desires that understanding would govern our heart as well as our mind and our will. It is His plan for restoring our soul. Take time to ponder this progressive revelation of what constitutes understanding.

We can see the fullness of God's plan for us.

We are to get understanding in our mind, in our will, and in our emotions.

UNDERSTANDING

TOWBUNAH
(CONVINCE)
"INTELLIGENCE, TO KNOW PERFECTLY, SKILLFULNESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND ARGUMENT."



the
MIND

BIYNAH
(PERCEIVE)
"TO MAKE A DISTINCTION, TO SEPARATE MENTALLY, TO VIEW WISELY, TO DISCERN BETWEEN."



the
WILL

LEB
(REVERE)
"THE HEART TO REGARD TO REVERE, TO RESPECT, TO HONOR, TO LOVE, TO HEED."



the
EMOTIONS

THE SOUL OF MAN

It will be difficult to retain in our thinking the meaning of these three Hebrew words which define understanding. However, an easy way to remember the essence of understanding is to liken it to "CPR". In the natural realm we have seen CPR revive the dead. Here is a form of spiritual CRP. It can also save lives.

"CPR"

to
CONVINCE

TO SATISFY BY EVIDENCE, TO BRING TO FULL BELIEF BY ARGUMENT.

to
PERCEIVE

TO DISCERN, TO KNOW, TO COMPREHEND, TO UNDERSTAND.

to
REVERE

TO STAND IN AWE, CHERISH, WORSHIP, VALUE HIGHLY.



This is the main pillar of wisdom that we are examining. Let us move from the revelation contained within the Hebrew words to pondering the two Anglo-Saxon words which make up understanding. There is also much revelation contained within which will help us to "understand understanding".

A simplistic way to grasp the meaning of this word is to consider the meaning of the two words that comprise it- "under" and "stand". Look at Webster's definitions of these words: Are they not a synopsis of what the Word of God presents through the apostle Paul as the normal Christian life?

To make it even more clear, we need only to reverse these two words to bring forth the idea that we are talking about- spiritual warfare. We are to stand (resist) our adversary as we submit to come under God's authority. (James 4:7)

We might also consider Satan's subtle substitutes for understanding as expressed in two other words containing the word "stand". Both are designed to keep God's people from embracing understanding.

UNDER-STANDING

"UNDER"

SUBJECT TO THE RULE, DIRECTION OR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE AUTHORITY- TO BE SUBMISSIVE TO OBEY, TO SUPPORT.

"STAND"

TO TAKE A POSITION, TO ADOPT A CERTAIN COURSE, FIRMNESS, TO STAND AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION OR RESISTANCE.

"STAND"



TO TAKE A POSITION, TO ADOPT A CERTAIN COURSE, FIRMNESS, TO STAND AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION OR RESISTANCE.

"UNDER"

SUBJECT TO THE RULE, DIRECTION OR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE AUTHORITY - TO BE SUBMISSIVE TO OBEY, TO SUPPORT.



BYSTANDER WITHSTAND

"ONE WHO IS PRESENT BUT TAKES NO PART IN WHAT GOES ON."
Webster

Nothing makes Satan happier than seeing God's people be "bystanders." Just do nothing! Be nothing! Be content just watching others!



"TO RESIST, TO OPPOSE, TO STAND AGAINST."
Webster

Satan also likes those who "withstand" what others try to do for God. Get in the way! Resist needful change! Defy authority! Always have a better idea!



Instead of properly “standing under” God’s truths, we can passively “stand by” truth, remaining hearers only of what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

“NOW THESE ARE THE ONES SOWN AMONG THORNS; THEY HEAR THE WORD, AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD, THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, AND THE DESIRES FOR OTHER THINGS ENTERING IN CHOKE THE WORD.”

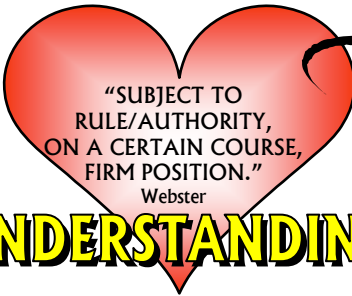
Mark 4:18-19



Instead of “standing under” a truth, we can “withstand” the truth with cries of bondage, legalism and condemnation.

“...WHEN TROUBLE OR PERSECUTION ARISES ON ACCOUNT OF THE WORD, THEY IMMEDIATELY BECOME DISPLEASE, INDIGNANT, RESENTFUL...”

Mark 4:17 Amp.



Or, we can “understand”, and “stand under”, what the Spirit of truth is saying.

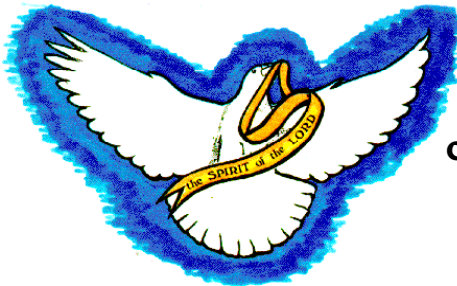
“BUT HE WHO RECEIVED SEED IN THE GOOD GROUND IS HE WHO HEARS THE WORD AND UNDERSTANDS IT...”

Matthew 13:23

The Holy Spirit bears the title of being the Spirit of truth.

(John 16:13) and also the Spirit of understanding. (Isaiah 11:2).

The question we need to ask ourselves is whether we are standing under (the Spirit of) truth?



**SUBJECT TO...
THE RULE,
DIRECTION,
INSTRUCTION
OF THE AUTHORITY
TO BE SUBMISSIVE,
TO OBEY,
TO FOLLOW...**



Every believer has this two-fold responsibility to stand for the truth and to come under the authority of truth. It is the essence of walking after/in the spirit (Galatians 5:16).

STAND

TO TAKE A POSITION,
TO ADOPT A CERTAIN COURSE,
FIRMNESS,
TO STAND AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION,
ALL RESISTANCE

UNDER

SUBJECT TO THE RULE, DIRECTION, OR INSTRUCTION OF THE AUTHORITY,
TO BE SUBMISSIVE,
TO OBEY,
TO FOLLOW

UPON TRUTH

ALL TRUTH

As the Spirit of understanding, the Holy Spirit has nine aspects relating to understanding.
Let us briefly consider them:

**“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM,
THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM
AND UNDERSTANDING...”**

Isaiah 11:2

STAND



UNDER



1. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME TO REVEAL THE HOLINESS OF GOD:

“THE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE HOLY ONE
IS UNDERSTANDING.”
Prov. 9:10

“FOR I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD,
THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL,
YOUR SAVIOR.”
Isaiah 43:3

It takes the knowledge of the Holy One to bring understanding. The knowledge that God is holy is lacking proper emphasis today. Rather, all emphasis is placed on God as being “our Savior”, but it is clearly stated that “the Holy One” is our Savior. Do not separate God the Savior from God the Holy One or truly you will lack understanding of who God really is. The Word of God labors to keep these two concepts of God vitally tied together. Consider Peter’s admonition:



“...REST YOUR HOPE FULLY UPON THE GRACE...BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST...BUT AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

1 Peter 1:13-16

If we only see Jesus as Savior, then we only focus upon the fact that we are saved. If we also see Him as holy, we will concentrate upon the mandate to be holy as He is holy. Do we have understanding in this area? Are we standing for holiness? Are we standing under this call Peter gives to every believer of holiness to the Lord?

STAND



UNDER



2. THE WORD, AUTHORED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BRINGS UNDERSTANDING

“THE ENTRANCE OF YOUR WORD...GIVES UNDERSTANDING.”

Psalms 119:130

What is our attitude toward the Word of God? Let me show you what it should be, and in so doing, we will see what it means to “stand under” the Word of God:

THE PSALMIST’S ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE WORD OF GOD:

**“HOW SHALL A YOUNG MAN CLEANSE HIS WAY?
BY TAKING HEED TO YOUR WORD.”**

Psalms 119:9

**“YOUR WORD I HAVE HIDDEN IN MY HEART
THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU.”**

Psalms 119:11

“I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR WORD...I TRUST IN YOUR WORD.”

Psalms 119:16,42

“FOREVER YOUR WORD IS SETTLED...I HOPE IN YOUR WORD.”

Psalms 119:89,114

“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.”

Psalms 119:105

**“THE ENTRANCE OF YOUR WORD GIVES LIGHT
AND UNDERSTANDING TO THE SIMPLE.”**

Psalms 119:130

“DIRECT MY STEPS BY YOUR WORD...YOUR WORD IS VERY PURE.”

Psalms 119:133,140

“THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.”

Psalms 119:160

“MY HEART STAND IN AWE OF YOUR WORD.”

Psalms 119:161



STAND



UNDER



3. THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WILL OF GOD LEADS TO UNDERSTANDING

“BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL...SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING.”

Colossians 1:9

“SEE THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE...DO NOT BE UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS...”

Ephesians 5:15-18

Paul often bluntly says “this is the will of God...” (1 Thess.4:3). We also can know the will of God simply through the written promises of God and the commandments of God. They express His will for us. Do we know His will? It is part of possessing understanding.

STAND



UNDER



4. GOD’S MERCY AND TRUTH BRING UNDERSTANDING

“WRITE MERCY AND TRUTH ON YOUR HEART, AND SO FIND FAVOR AND UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF GOD AND MAN.”

Prov. 3:4

“ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE MERCY AND TRUTH.”

Psalms 25:10

God is a God of mercy and truth. True understanding is obtained only when we blend the mercy of God with the truth of God. Follow this theme in the Word and you will see that mercy often accompanies truth.

STAND



UNDER



5. MOTIVATION FOR ETERNAL TREASURES IS IMPARTED THROUGH DEVELOPING “OUR EYES OF UNDERSTANDING”

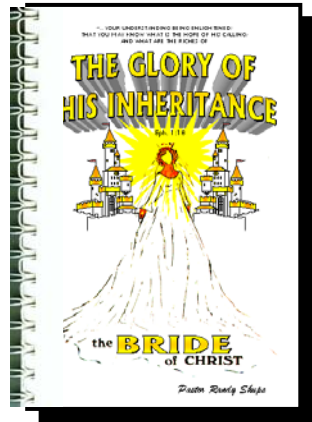
“...THAT THE FATHER OF GLORY MAY GIVE TO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION... THAT THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; YOU MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS.”

Ephesians 1:18

This fifth area in which the scripture speaks of the need of understanding deals with a subject dear to my heart, having once written a book dedicated to that theme entitled, “The Glory of His Inheritance”.

The goal of this book is to instill in the hearts of God’s people a biblical vision of a race to be run and a prize to be won.

The commonly held theory that “we got it all when we got saved” will not hold up to the light of scripture. It was certainly not Paul’s confession:



“...LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US...”

Heb. 11:1

“...REACHING FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD, I PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS...”

Phi. 3:13-14

“...ALL RUN BUT ONE RECEIVES THE PRIZE... RUN IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOU MAY OBTAIN IT... WE (RUN) FOR AN IMPERISHABLE CROWN.”

1 Cor. 9:24-25

STAND



UNDER



6. UNDERSTANDING IS THE FRUIT OF MEDITATING UPON THE PRECEPTS OF GOD'S WORD

“THROUGH YOUR PRECEPTS
I GET UNDERSTANDING.”
Psalm 119:104

“PROVERBS...TO PERCEIVE THE WORD
OF UNDERSTANDING.”
Proverbs 1:2

This sixth area of understanding speaks of the importance of precepts. Consider Webster’s definition of a precept:

“A RULE OF ACTION OR CONDUCT... INSTRUCTION IN MORAL CONDUCT,
A CONCEPT, IDEA OR MAXIM.” Webster

Webster speaks of a precept as a maxim which is, in essence, a “chief opinion, a principle for life, a proverb.” If you consider Webster’s definition of a proverb, you will find it is a practical precept. The psalmist tells us that understanding comes through the precepts of God which are found primarily in the Book of Proverbs. To meditate in, and even memorize the Proverbs, will bring us understanding. This is why Proverbs opens by stating that the purpose of Proverbs is “to perceive the words of understanding” (Proverbs 1:2)

STAND



UNDER



7. UNDERSTANDING IS HELD BY THOSE WHO DEPART FROM EVIL

“TO DEPART FROM EVIL
IS UNDERSTANDING.”
Job 28:28

“THE SOLID FOUNDATION
OF GOD STANDS...
DEPART FROM INIQUITY.”
2 Tim. 2:19

The seventh area in which understanding is defined in the Word of God deals with the relationship of the believer to sin. If he departs from it, he has understanding. Paul presents this concept as part of the “solid foundation of God” (2 Timothy 2:19). Today’s theology erroneously presents unconditional eternal security as the solid foundation of God.

STAND



UNDER



8. UNDERSTANDING IS MEASURED BY OBEDIENCE TO GOD

**“A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THOSE
WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS.”**

Psalm 111:10

The eighth area that constitutes understanding deals with doing God's commandments. In the midst of the cries of legalistic bondage, these words of Jesus say just the opposite:

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS,
THAT THEY MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE.”**

Revelations 22:14

It is interesting that this passage from Jesus was among His last words to His people and speak of a blessing that comes from doing His commandments. Let us add what were among His first words spoken in Matthew 5. They also speak of a blessing from doing His commandments:

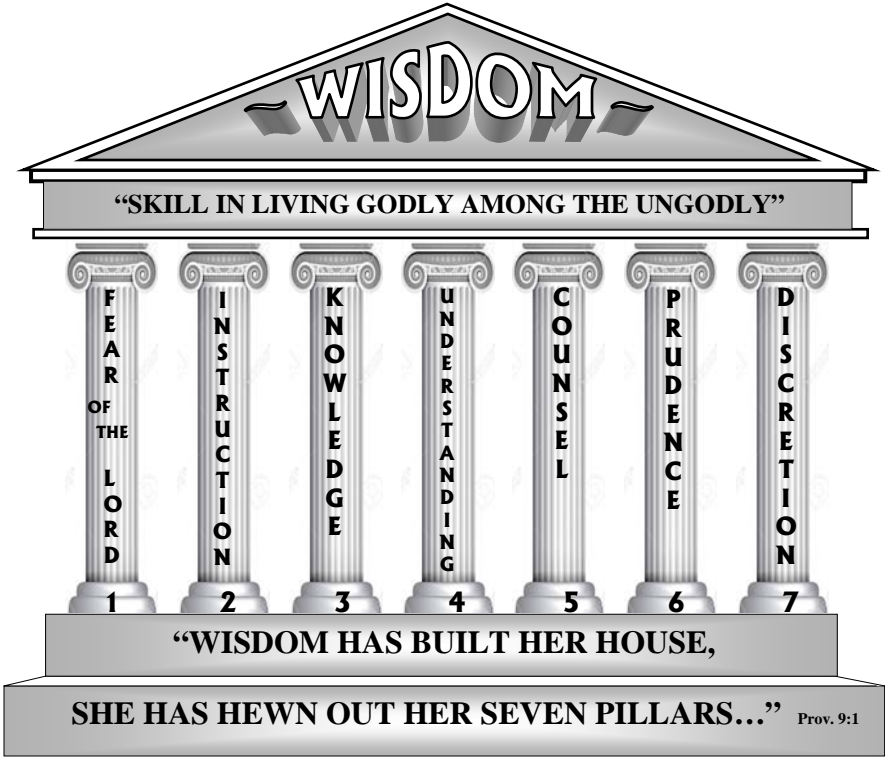
**“WHOEVER THEREFORE BREAKS ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE
COMMANDMENTS, AND TEACHES MEN SO, SHALL BE CALLED THE LEAST
IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; BUT WHOEVER DOES AND TEACHES THEM,
HE SHALL BE CALLED GREAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.”**

Matthew 5:19-20

The context of these words speak of the law, and specifically, the ten commandments (see 5:21-48). In a zeal to keep God's people from attempting to being saved by obedience to the law, we have thrown out the baby with the bath water. God still intends for His people to obey His commandments. Read the New Covenant in Hebrews 8:7-12. In addition to being merciful to their unrighteousness, remembering their sins no more, we find God intends to put His laws in their minds, write them on their hearts. An understanding heart realizes that Jesus began and ended His exhortation to His people with the blessings which result from keeping His commandments. Whether we are moved by potential blessings or not, we should grasp that doing His commandments is proof-positive of our love for God:

**“HE WHO HAS MY COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPS THEM,
IT IS HE WHO LOVES ME.”**

John 14:21



THE FIFTH PILLAR OF WISDOM:

**C
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L**

5

"LISTEN TO
COUNSEL
THAT YOU MAY BE
WISE
IN YOUR LATTER DAYS"

Proverbs 19:20

"HE WHO
HEEDS
COUNSEL
IS
WISE"

Proverbs 12:15

THE FIFTH PILLAR OF WISDOM:
THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD

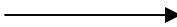


**“LISTEN TO COUNSEL AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTION,
 THAT YOU MAY BE WISE IN YOUR LATTER DAYS.
 THERE ARE MANY PLANS IN A MAN’S HEART, NEVERTHELESS,
 THE LORD’S COUNSEL – THAT WILL STAND.”**

Proverbs 19:20-21

The natural question to ask is:
 What is the counsel of
 the Lord?
 We shall seek to answer that
 question.

Let us first consider two key
 text passages from Proverbs
 pertaining to counsel:



1. **"LISTEN**
TO COUNSEL
THAT YOU MAY BE WISE
IN YOUR LATTER DAYS."
 Proverbs 19:20

2. **"HE WHO**
HEEDS
COUNSEL IS WISE."
 Proverbs 12:15

We must do two things: Listen and heed. If we do, then we shall be considered wise in our latter days.

Let us begin by defining the word "counsel". Whether we consider the Hebrew/Greek meanings or just Webster's Dictionary, we come up with the same basic definition. Counsel is advice:

HEBREW:

Ya'ats – Advise, guide,
 direct

Etsah – Advice,
 to plan,
 purpose

GREEK:

Sumbouleuo –
 Give/take advice,
 to recommend
Boule - Advice

WEBSTER:

Counsel- To consult,
 advise, to recommend,
 to give opinion...
 Information or opinion,
 to aid the judgment or
 decision of another.

Several times the Hebrew/Greek words normally translated as counsel are also translated as advice. One example is found in Proverbs:

"...BUT WITH THE WELL-ADVISED (COUNSELED) IS WISDOM."
Proverbs 13:10

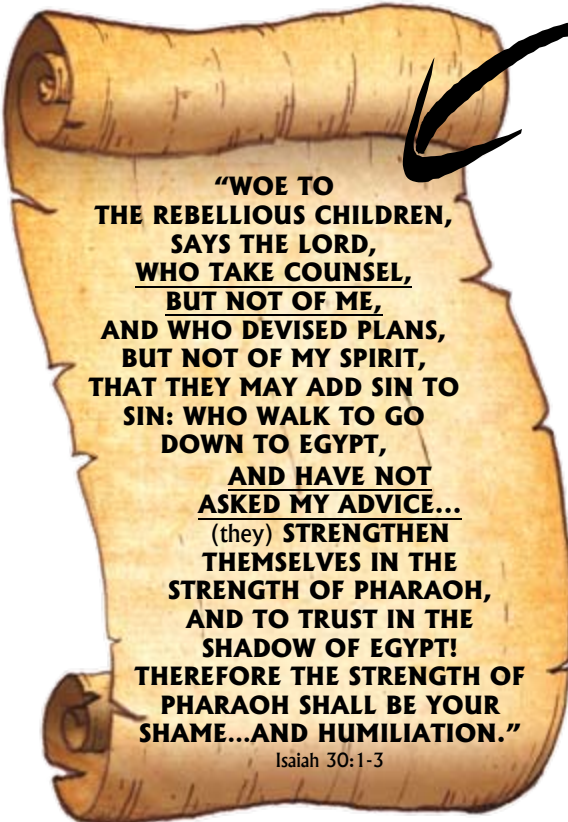
Another important distinction we must make is that the counsel of the Lord is not the same as the commandments of the Lord. Paul gives us such a distinction:

"I SPEAK NOT BY COMMANDMENT...AND IN THIS I GIVE MY ADVICE..."
2 Corinthians 8:8,10

We need to see that where the commandments of the Lord are mandatory, the counsel of the Lord is optional. You do not have to obey God's counsel. However, God warns His people about the consequences of not thinking very highly of His counsel:

"BECAUSE YOU DISDAINED ALL MY COUNSEL...I WILL LAUGH AT YOUR CALAMITY, I WILL MOCK WHEN YOUR TERROR COMES..."
Proverbs 1:25-26

"THEY WOULD HAVE NONE OF MY COUNSEL... THEREFORE THEY SHALL EAT THE FRUIT OF THEIR OWN WAY, AND BE FILLED TO THE FULL WITH THEIR OWN FANCIES."
Proverbs 1:30-31



Consider this sober warning to those who go shopping elsewhere for counsel. Egypt is a picture of the world. Dare we choose the counsel of this world over the counsel of the Lord? The psalmist tells us:

"BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO WALKS NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY..."
Psalm 1:1

Consider well what the psalmist records as the fate of those who despise God's counsel:

"...THOSE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH, BOUND IN AFFLICTION AND IRONS – BECAUSE THEY REBELLED AGAINST THE WORDS OF GOD, AND DESPISED THE COUNSEL OF THE MOST HIGH..."

Psalm 107:10-11

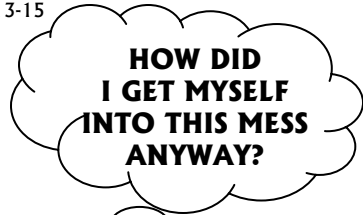
"THEY SOON FORGOT HIS WORKS, THEY DID NOT WAIT FOR HIS COUNSEL, BUT LUSTED EXCEEDINGLY...AND TESTED GOD... AND HE GAVE THEM THEIR REQUEST, BUT SENT LEANNESS INTO THEIR SOUL."

Psalm 106:13-15

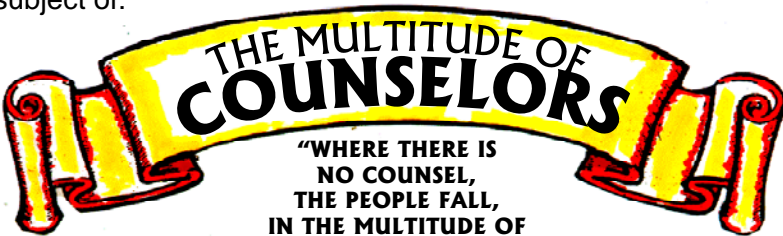
1. WOE....
2. SHAME...
3. HUMILIATION...
4. AFFLICTION...
5. SHADOW OF DEATH...
6. LEANNESS OF SOUL...

How did he get himself into such a mess?

HE DESPISED THE COUNSEL OF THE MOST HIGH!



Let us begin to unfold what the scriptures teach concerning the subject of:



"WHERE THERE IS NO COUNSEL, THE PEOPLE FALL, IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS THERE IS SAFETY."

Proverbs 11:14

"WITHOUT COUNSEL, PLANS GO AWRY, BUT IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS THEY ARE ESTABLISHED."

Proverbs 15:22

"FOR BY WISE COUNSEL YOU WILL WAGE YOUR OWN WAR, AND IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS THERE IS SAFETY."

60

Proverbs 24:6

We are called to
“fight the good fight
of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12).

To do so, we will
need a good battle
strategy.

These three
passages from
Proverbs

reveal all that a good
soldier of Jesus

Christ needs

(2 Timothy 2:3-4).

THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS

**“YOUR PLANS
(FOR BATTLE)
ARE ESTABLISHED.”**

Proverbs 15:22

**“YOU WILL WAGE
YOUR OWN WAR.”**

Proverbs 24:6

**“YOU WILL HAVE
SAFETY.”**

Proverbs 11:14 & 24:6



It is important to see that the counsel of the Lord will teach us how to wage our own warfare. God never intended either a pastor or a human counselor to wage our warfare for us. Any such counsel that makes us spiritually dependent upon blow-by-blow counsel is not the counsel of the Lord. The counsel of the Lord will teach you how to stand on your own two feet and place your trust in the commander-in-chief, the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you remember the meeting Joshua had with the commander-in-chief of the army of the Lord?

“AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN JOSHUA WAS BY JERICHO, THAT HE LIFTED HIS EYES AND LOOKED AND BEHOLD, A MAN STOOD OPPOSITE HIM WITH HIS SWORD IN HIS HAND. AND JOSHUA WENT TO HIM AND SAID TO HIM, ‘ARE YOU FOR US OR FOR OUR ADVERSARIES?’ SO HE SAID, ‘NO, BUT AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE LORD I HAVE NOW COME.’ AND JOSHUA FELL ON HIS FACE...AND WORSHIPPED, AND SAID TO HIM, ‘WHAT DOES MY LORD SAY TO HIS SERVANT?’”

Joshua 5:13-14

You know the rest of the story. The commander of the army of the Lord gave Joshua his battle plans for taking Jericho. Only by following the counsel of the Lord did they find safety in battle. Let us now begin to examine the multitude of counselors. I want to stress that the idea of going to and fro from counselor to counselor is not a biblical concept of the multitude of counselors. That will lead to confusion, and we know that God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33).

There are seven sources of counsel mentioned in God’s Word. They constitute what is meant by the multitudes of counselors. As we examine them briefly, let us ponder whether we are partaking of the multitude of counselors.

Just as important is what God says to us, so likewise is how He conveys it. There are three ways in which God delivers the multitude of His counsel: →

THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS

WAGE YOUR OWN WAR...
PLANS ARE ESTABLISHED...

FIND SAFETY...



1. COUNSEL FROM GOD'S WORD

WHAT DOES MY LORD SAY TO HIS SERVANT?



2. COUNSEL FROM GOD HIMSELF

3. COUNSEL FROM GOD'S PEOPLE

One of these three has preeminence over the other two. It is the Word of God. This is true because the Word of God does not need to be tested. It is already pure as silver, tested seven times:

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES."

Psalms 12:6

"BELOVED, DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TEST THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD."

1 John 4:1

1. JESUS IS OUR COUNSELOR, AS WELL AS SAVIOR AND LORD:



"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER. AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED... COUNSELOR."

Isaiah 9:6

Here is the first of our seven types of counselors. It is Jesus Himself. The Word of God is full of His counsel to His people. Let us consider one example spoken specifically to His church:

"I COUNSEL YOU TO BUY FROM ME... THAT YOU MAY BE CLOTHED, THAT YOUR SHAME AND NAKEDNESS MAY NOT BE REVEALED..."

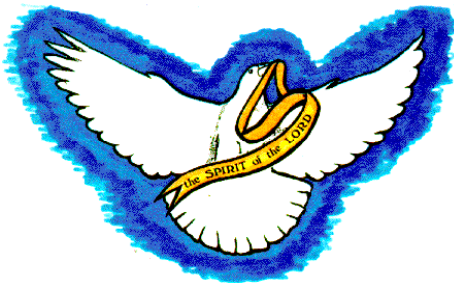
Revelation 3:18 Excerpts

We do not have to heed His counsel. However, know that we will be ashamed/naked in eternity as Jesus forewarns. Jesus tells us in another place to lay up treasure in heaven for ourselves. We do not have to pay any attention to the counselor's counsel in this area either, but do not expect then to have treasure in heaven when you get there.

Much could be said pertaining to Jesus as our counselor. We need to read the words of Jesus with the thought in mind that He is functioning as our counselor. For instance, He has much to say to His followers pertaining to our relationship to the world and to the god of this world. We cannot overcome either the world or the god of this world apart from giving heed to the counsel of the Lord.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL :

Isaiah 11:2 reveals that the Holy Spirit manifests Himself as the Spirit of counsel. That counsel comes through hearing what the Spirit says to the churches, as stated seven times in Revelation.



"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL."
Isaiah 11:2

In addition, He also speaks His counsel through the gifts of the Spirit (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, prophecy, tongues with interpretation). Paul warns the church not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). He also warned them not to quench the Spirit or despise prophecies (1 Thess. 5:19-20). Consider also that Paul gives preeminence to the pursuing of spiritual gifts that flow from the Spirit whenever the church is assembled together:

"PURSUE LOVE, AND DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BUT ESPECIALLY THAT YOU MAY PROPHECY...HE WHO PROPHESES SPEAKS EDIFICATION AND EXHORTATION AND COMFORT TO MEN. I WISH YOU ALL SPOKE WITH TONGUES, BUT EVEN MORE THAT YOU PROPHESED...THAT THE CHURCH MAY RECEIVE EDIFICATION... LET IT BE FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH THAT YOU SEEK TO EXCEL.... THEREFORE, BRETHREN, DESIRE EARNESTLY TO PROPHECY..."

1 Corinthians 14:1-39 Excerpts



3. PAUL, AND THE OTHER APOSTLES, ARE A SOURCE OF COUNSEL:



**“I HAVE NOT SHUNNED TO
DECLARE TO YOU
THE WHOLE COUNSEL
OF GOD.”**
Acts 20:27

The writer of two-thirds of the New Testament, makes a bold declaration concerning counsel. He has not avoided to declare the whole counsel of God to the church.

In the Book of Ephesians Paul tells us that the foundation of the house of God is built upon the apostles and prophets. The apostle John tells us that only those who hear us (the apostles) are of God. He goes on to say it is the way in which we can know the spirit of truth from the spirit of error (see 1 John 4:1-6). The early church continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine (Acts 2:42). Here then is a great source of the whole counsel of God. Paul considered his gospel so complete that he was willing to let those who preach any other gospel to be accursed (Galatians 1:7-8).

4. THE HOLY PROPHETS ARE A SOURCE OF COUNSEL:

The other half of the foundation of the house of God is the prophets (Ephesians 2:20). Jeremiah, one of God’s prophets, makes this statement about the ministry of the prophet:



**“... (he will) CAUSE
MY PEOPLE
TO HEAR MY WORDS
TO TURN THEM
FROM THEIR EVIL WAY.”**
Jeremiah 23:18-23

**“THEREFORE,
HEAR THE COUNSEL
OF THE LORD...”**
Jeremiah 50:45

However, they often chose not to hear the Word of the Lord as delivered by the likes of Jeremiah the prophet. The word of counsel from the prophet of God has usually been despised and rejected because of its content consisting of severe correction.

**“BEHOLD I (GOD) HAVE PUT MY WORDS IN YOUR MOUTH ...
TO ROOT OUT, AND TO PULL DOWN,
TO DESTROY AND TO THROW DOWN,
TO BUILD AND TO PLANT.”**

Jeremiah 1:9-10

Due to pride and selfish interest, Israel could never get to the final stage of the ministry of the prophet of God. They could not endure what was contained in the rooting out, pulling down, destroying and throwing down. It is true in the church as well. We desire the positive (build/plant) apart from the negative (root out, pull down, etc...) The unique ministry of the prophet was to bring counsel that no one wanted to hear. Listen to Isaiah:

**“THIS IS A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE... WHO WILL NOT HEAR THE LAW
OF THE LORD...WHO SAY TO THE SEERS (PROPHETS)
DO NOT SEE...DO NOT PROPHECY TO US RIGHT THINGS,
SPEAK SMOOTH THINGS, PROPHECY DECEITS.”**

Isaiah 30:9-11

The Amplified Bible is even more graphic:

**“GET OUT OF THE TRUE WAY, TURN ASIDE OUT OF THE PATH,
CEASE HOLDING UP BEFORE US THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.”**

Isaiah 30:11 - Amp.

The key lies in the rejection of the holiness of the Lord. An unholy people do not desire a holy God in spite of Peter's call to “be holy in all your conduct...be holy for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16). Far too many of God's people are following this religious deception singled out by Leonard Ravenhill:



**“MANY CHRISTIANS
PREFER TO
CHANGE THE IMAGE OF GOD
RATHER THAN
BEING CHANGED INTO
THE IMAGE OF GOD.”**

In refuting the message of the false prophets, God spoke these truths about counsel:

**“...IF THEY HAD STOOD IN MY COUNSEL....
THEN THEY WOULD HAVE TURNED THEM (MY PEOPLE)
FROM THE EVIL OF THEIR DOINGS...
IS NOT MY WORD LIKE A FIRE...LIKE A HAMMER,
THAT BREAKS THE ROCK IN PIECES?”**

Jeremiah 23:22,29

5. THE TESTIMONIES OF THE LORD PROVIDE COUNSEL:

The psalmist identifies for us our fifth source of counsel. It is the testimonies of the Lord. What is a testimony?

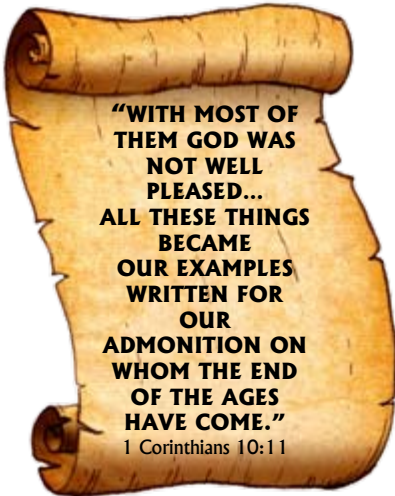
It is a life-story. Each of us have a testimony being written at this very moment. God's Word is full of such testimonies.

Some are positive testimonies and others are painfully negative. We are to learn from both. God's Word records His dealings in the hearts of men according to the actions of men. They are recorded for our learning:

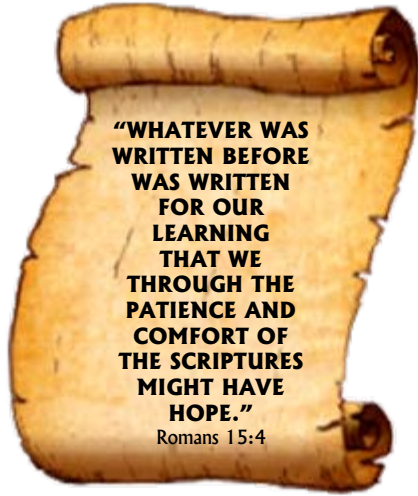
"YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE MY DELIGHT AND MY COUNSELORS"



NEGATIVE:



POSITIVE:



1 Corinthians 10 records for us a list of the negative testimonies. In Hebrews 11 we find another list of positive testimonies. Study the men of the Bible, the good and the bad. We are to learn from them, for God is an unchanging God (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8). How God dealt with them is how He will deal with us. A New Covenant does not change that. Equally important is the testimony of the Lord Himself. We need to get to know the God of the Bible. It leads to understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)

6. SOLOMON'S WORDS ARE A SOURCE OF COUNSEL:

In Proverbs 22:20,
Solomon states rather boldly
that he has written to us
“excellent things of counsel...” .
The wisdom imparted to
Solomon came from God
Himself as a gift (1 Kings 10:24).
The record of Solomon's
personal walk indicates that he
did not heed his own counsel
(see 1 Kings 11). However, we can
still learn from his words even
though they were spoken from
a position of hypocrisy.

**“HAVE I NOT WRITTEN
TO YOU
EXCELLENT THINGS
OF COUNSELS
AND KNOWLEDGE?”**
Proverbs 22:21



Jesus gave such counsel to His own disciples concerning the
teachings of the Pharisees:

**“THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES SIT IN MOSES' SEAT.
THEREFORE WHATEVER THEY TELL YOU TO OBSERVE,
THAT OBSERVE AND DO,
BUT DO NOT DO ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS;
FOR THEY SAY, AND DO NOT DO.”**

Matthew 23:2-3

The excellent counsel of which Solomon boasted is also to be
heeded. However, we are not to do as he did, for like the Pharisees,
he said what was right counsel, but did not do so himself.

7. HUMAN COUNSELORS CAN ALSO IMPART COUNSEL:

**“TO THE COUNSELORS
OF PEACE IS JOY.”**

Proverbs 12:20 Amp.

God spoke to Moses in this manner through his father-in-law:

**“LISTEN NOW TO MY VOICE;
I WILL GIVE YOU COUNSEL AND GOD WILL BE WITH YOU.”**

Exodus 18:19

Human counselors are just that-human. What is given under this
form of counsel must be carefully tested by the Word of God as to
whether it is in agreement with it.

THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS

WAGE YOUR OWN WAR...

PLANS ARE ESTABLISHED...

FIND SAFETY...

COUNSEL
FROM
GOD'S WORD



WHAT DOES MY LORD SAY TO HIS SERVANT?

COUNSEL
FROM
GOD HIMSELF

COUNSEL
FROM
GOD'S PEOPLE

1. JESUS IS OUR COUNSELOR, AS WELL AS SAVIOR AND LORD

"...AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED...COUNSELOR."
Isaiah 9:6

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM,
THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL."
Isaiah 11:2

3. PAUL, AND THE OTHER APOSTLES, ARE A SOURCE OF COUNSEL

"I (Paul) HAVE NOT SHUNNED TO DECLARE TO YOU
THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD."
Acts 20:27

4. THE HOLY PROPHETS ARE A SOURCE OF COUNSEL

"THEREFORE, HEAR THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD..."
Jeremiah 50:45

5. THE TESTIMONIES OF THE LORD PROVIDE COUNSEL

"YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE MY DELIGHT AND
MY COUNSELORS"

6. SOLOMON'S WORDS ARE A SOURCE OF COUNSEL

"HAVE I (Solomon) NOT WRITTEN TO YOU
EXCELLENT THINGS OF COUNSELS AND KNOWLEDGE?"
Proverbs 22:21

7. HUMAN COUNSELORS CAN ALSO IMPART COUNSEL

"TO THE COUNSELORS OF PEACE IS JOY."
Proverbs 12:20 Amp.

THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH PILLARS OF WISDOM:

**P
R
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6

**“I
WISDOM,
DWELL
WITH
PRUDENCE,
AND
FIND OUT
KNOWLEDGE
AND
DISCRETION.”**

Prov. 8:12

**D
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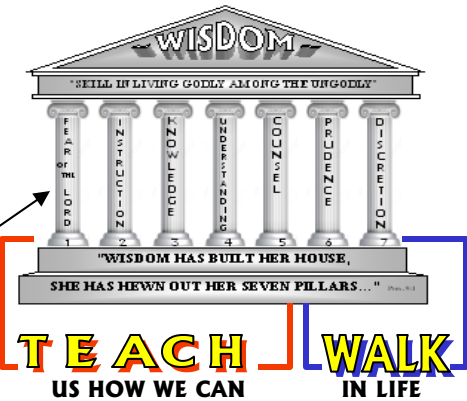
PRUDENCE AND DISCRETION

**“I WISDOM,
DWELL WITH PRUDENCE,
AND FIND OUT KNOWLEDGE
AND DISCRETION.”**
Proverbs 8:12

Wisdom identifies herself with our last two pillars, prudence and discretion. We shall consider these two pillars together for reasons I will show you as we progress on. These two pillars depict skill in living godly among the ungodly. By this I mean that these two pillars are manifestations of how we walk. I have come to see that the presence or absence of these pillars depend upon whether we have responded to the first five pillars or not. The first five pillars can be considered to be our teachers. If we have given heed to what they have taught, the result will be a walk marked by prudence and discretion. Consider this passage from Isaiah 30.

“YOUR TEACHERS WILL NOT BE MOVED INTO A CORNER ANYMORE, BUT YOUR EYES SHALL SEE YOUR TEACHERS. YOUR EARS SHALL HEAR A WORD BEHIND YOU, SAYING, ‘THIS IS THE WAY, WALK IN IT, WHENEVER YOU TURN TO THE RIGHT...OR LEFT.’ ”

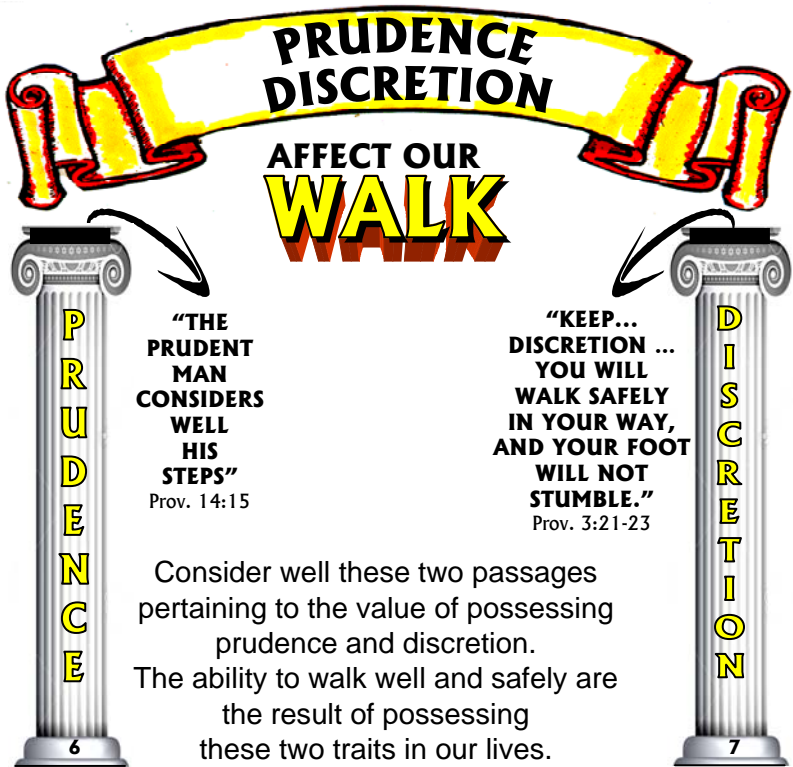
Isaiah 30:20-21



“YOUR TEACHERS”

To walk in prudence and discretion requires that you hear your teachers. I believe those teachers are the fear of the Lord, the instruction of a father, the knowledge of the Holy One, understanding and the counsel of the Lord. If you hear them, they will provide the knowledge necessary to enable you to walk with prudence and discretion.

In essence, prudence and discretion are measuring sticks of the degree in which we are hearing our teachers. We do not learn prudence or discretion. They are the result of what we have learned from our teachers.



“THE PRUDENT MAN CONSIDERS WELL HIS STEPS”
 Prov. 14:15

“KEEP... DISCRETION ... YOU WILL WALK SAFELY IN YOUR WAY, AND YOUR FOOT WILL NOT STUMBLE.”
 Prov. 3:21-23

Consider well these two passages pertaining to the value of possessing prudence and discretion. The ability to walk well and safely are the result of possessing these two traits in our lives.

Let us first examine the pillar of discretion. Consider what the psalmist says:

“A GOOD MAN... WILL GUIDE HIS AFFAIRS WITH DISCRETION. SURELY HE WILL NEVER BE SHAKEN.”
 Psalm 112:5-6

The psalmist is not speaking of having discreet affairs, but rather to guide our affairs or daily activities with discretion. If we do so, we shall never be shaken. I am not saying these things to be funny. There is a direct correlation between discretion vs. immorality:

“WHEN WISDOM ENTERS YOUR HEART, AND KNOWLEDGE IS PLEASANT TO YOUR SOUL, DISCRETION WILL PRESERVE YOU: UNDERSTANDING WILL KEEP YOU. TO DELIVER YOU FROM THE WAY OF EVIL, FROM THE MAN WHO SPEAKS PERVERSE THINGS, FROM THOSE WHO LEAVE THE PATHS OF UPRIGHTNESS TO WALK IN THE WAYS OF DARKNESS; WHO REJOICE IN DOING EVIL, AND DELIGHT IN THE PERVERSITY OF THE WICKED; WHOSE WAYS ARE CROOKED, AND WHO ARE DEVIOUS TO THEIR PATHS; TO DELIVER YOU FROM THE IMMORAL WOMAN, FROM THE SEDUCTRESS WHO FLATTERS WITH HER WORDS, WHO FORSAKES THE COMPANION OF HER YOUTH, AND FORGETS THE COVENANT OF HER GOD. FOR HER HOUSE LEADS DOWN TO DEATH, AND HER PATHS TO THE DEAD; NONE WHO GO TO HER RETURN, NOR DO THEY REGAIN THE PATHS OF LIFE- SO YOU MAY WALK IN THE WAY OF GOODNESS, AND KEEP TO THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. FOR THE UPRIGHT WILL DWELL IN THE LAND, AND THE BLAMELESS WILL REMAIN IN IT. BUT THE WICKED WILL BE CUT OFF FROM THE EARTH, AND THE UNFAITHFUL WILL BE UPROOTED FROM IT.”

DISCRETION

WILL PRESERVE YOU (2:11)

TO DELIVER YOU FROM

TO DELIVER YOU FROM



Since we were talking about immorality, let us consider this second topic first. Consider how sober are these words recorded in Proverbs 2:16-19. →

They contain a deadly warning: Her house leads to death. The subject of the immoral woman is the second largest topic in Proverbs next to wisdom.

“FROM THE SEDUCTRESS WHO FLATTERS WITH HER WORDS...WHO FORSAKES THE COMPANION (HUSBAND) OF HER YOUTH... AND FORGETS THE COVENANT OF HER GOD...HER HOUSE LEADS TO DEATH...HER PATHS TO THE DEAD...NONE WHO GO TO HER RETURN... NOR DO THEY REGAIN THE PATHS OF LIFE.”
(2:16-19)

“MY SON, PAY ATTENTION TO MY WISDOM LEND YOUR EAR TO MY UNDERSTANDING, THAT YOU MAY PRESERVE DISCRETION, AND THAT YOUR LIPS MAY KEEP KNOWLEDGE. FOR THE LIPS OF AN IMMORAL WOMAN DRIP HONEY, AND HER MOUTH IS SMOOTHER THAN OIL; BUT IN THE END SHE IS BITTER AS WORMWOOD, SHARP AS A TWO-EDGED SWORD. HER FEET GO DOWN TO DEATH. HER STEPS LAY HOLD OF HELL. LEST YOU PONDER HER PATH OF LIFE-HER WAYS ARE UNSTABLE; YOU DO NOT KNOW THEM.”

Let us compare these thoughts ← with Proverbs 5:1-6. Again notice her feet go down to death. These are indeed deadly warnings. What is the cure? It is mentioned again here in Proverbs 5. It is discretion.

IMMORTALITY - IMMORALITY

In researching the word “immortality”, I noticed that the word below it in Webster’s dictionary was “immorality”. If you remove the letter “T” from the word immortality, you are left with immorality. Proverbs 2 and 5 stress that immorality can impact immortality in stating their victims do not regain the paths of life, and that her steps lay hold of hell.

There is a reason that the subject of the immoral woman is second only to wisdom in Proverbs. It depicts not only the danger of physical entanglement with a literal harlot, but also it prophetically speaks of spiritual harlotry with mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots.

**“COME, I WILL SHOW YOU THE ...GREAT HARLOT...
 WITH WHOM THE KINGS OF
 THE EARTH COMMITTED FORNICATION, AND THE
 INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH WERE MADE DRUNK
 WITH THE WINE OF HER FORNICATION...
 ON HER FOREHEAD A NAME WAS WRITTEN:
 MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
 THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
 AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”**

Revelation 17:1-2,5



When you begin to read the verses in Proverbs with an eye for the spiritual harlot, then all the sober warnings take on a new perspective in addition to the obvious.

Not only will discretion deliver us from the immoral woman but also from the way of evil. Take note that this speaks of believers who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness. God’s people need a dose of discretion when it comes to choosing friends:

**“THE RIGHTEOUS SHOULD CHOOSE HIS FRIENDS CAREFULLY,
 FOR THE WAY OF THE WICKED LEADS THEM ASTRAY.”**

Prov. 12:26

DISCRETION

WILL PRESERVE YOU (2:11)

TO DELIVER YOU FROM

TO DELIVER YOU FROM



**“FROM THE MAN WHO
 SPEAKS PERVERSE
 THINGS...WHO LEAVE
 THE PATHS OF
 UPRIGHTNESS...TO WALK
 IN THE WAYS OF
 DARKNESS...WHO
 REJOICE ON DOING
 EVIL...WHO DELIGHT IN
 THE PERVERSITY OF THE
 WICKED...WHOSE WAYS
 ARE CROOKED...WHO
 ARE DEVIANT IN THEIR
 PATHS..”**
 (Proverbs 1:12-15)

Discretion doesn’t only keep us from things but also leads us to the way of goodness, and to the paths of righteousness.

**“SO THAT
 YOU MAY**

**WALK IN
 THE WAY OF
 GOODNESS...**

**AND KEEP TO
 THE PATHS
 RIGHTEOUSNESS”**

Prov. 2:20

If we see the importance of discretion, then all that remains is to define it.

Here is Webster's definition: →
 The New Testament writings are full of admonition that fits this definition of discretion.
 Listen to Peter and Paul for example:

"A GOOD MAN...WILL GUIDE HIS AFFAIRS WITH DISCRETION, SURELY HE WILL NEVER BE SHAKEN."
 Psalm 112:5

DISCRETION

TO DISCERN PRUDENT IN CONDUCT, CAUTIOUS... GUARDED	HEEDFUL... TACTFUL... SOUND JUDGMENT Webster
--	--



"BE WELL-BALANCED-TEMPERATE, SOBER-MINDED; BE VIGILANT AND CAUTIOUS AT ALL TIMES..."
 1 Peter 5:8 Amp.

"LOOK CAREFULLY THEN HOW YOU WALK! LIVE PURPOSEFULLY AND WORTHILY AND ACCURATELY, NOT AS UNWISE AND WITLESS, BUT AS WISE-SENSIBLE, INTELLIGENT PEOPLE...DO NOT BE VAGUE AND THOUGHTLESS, AND FOOLISH..."
 Ephesians 5:15-17 Amp.



**PRUDENCE
DISCRETION**

**AFFECT OUR
WALK**

"THE PRUDENT MAN CONSIDERS WELL HIS STEPS."
 Proverbs 14:15

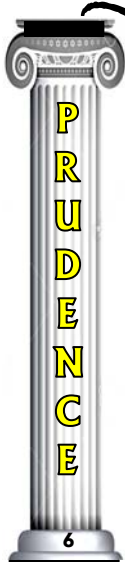
"KEEP SOUND WISDOM AND DISCRETION... THEN YOU WILL WALK SAFELY IN YOUR WAY, AND YOUR FOOT WILL NOT STUMBLE."
 Proverbs 3:21-23

Let us now consider the twin pillar of discretion, which is prudence. Notice that like discretion, prudence deals with our walk. In icy weather we must look carefully where we walk. It is true concerning our spiritual walk as well: →



"THE PRUDENT MAN LOOKS AND CONSIDERS WELL WHERE HE IS GOING."
 Proverbs 14:15 Amp.

Earlier we saw that the pillar of discretion was closely associated with other pillars of wisdom, namely, understanding and knowledge. This same pattern is repeated for discretion's twin, prudence.



“HE WHO RECEIVES REPROOF (INSTRUCTION) IS PRUDENT.”
Proverbs 15:5

“THE WISDOM OF THE PRUDENT IS TO UNDERSTAND HIS WAY.”
Proverbs 14:8

“THE HEART OF THE PRUDENT ACQUIRES KNOWLEDGE.”
Proverbs 18:15

“EVERY PRUDENT MAN ACTS WITH KNOWLEDGE.”
Proverbs 13:16

“A PRUDENT MAN CONCEALS KNOWLEDGE.”
Proverbs 12:23

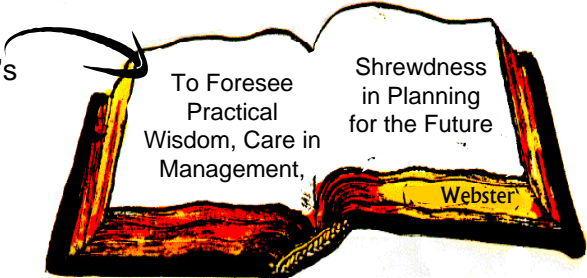
“THE PRUDENT ARE CROWNED WITH KNOWLEDGE.”
Proverbs 14:18

Note the repetitious association with knowledge. Here we find the main ingredient to becoming prudent. It is knowledge. Consider Proverbs 18:15:

“THE MIND OF THE PRUDENT IS EVER GETTING KNOWLEDGE AND THE EAR OF THE WISE IS EVER-SEEKING, IN ACQUIRING FOR AND CRAVING FOR KNOWLEDGE.”
Proverbs 18:15 Amp.

Let us now define this word prudence. In doing so we will begin to establish a difference between discretion and its twin, prudence.

Notice how Webster's definition aligns with the two passages below pertaining to prudence.



“A PRUDENT MAN FORESEES EVIL AND HIDES HIMSELF.”
Proverbs 27:12

“THE PRUDENT MAN CONSIDERS WELL WHERE HE IS GOING.”
Proverbs 14:15 Amp.

I was struck by Webster's comment that prudence is practical wisdom. I said to you earlier that prudence is manifested only by the presence of the other pillars active in our life.

DISCRETION

**DISCERNS
THE LIFE WHICH NOW IS...**

TO DISCERN.. PRUDENT IN CONDUCT,
CAUTIOUS...GUARDED,
HEEDFUL...TACTFUL...SOUND JUDGMENT
Webster

PRUDENCE

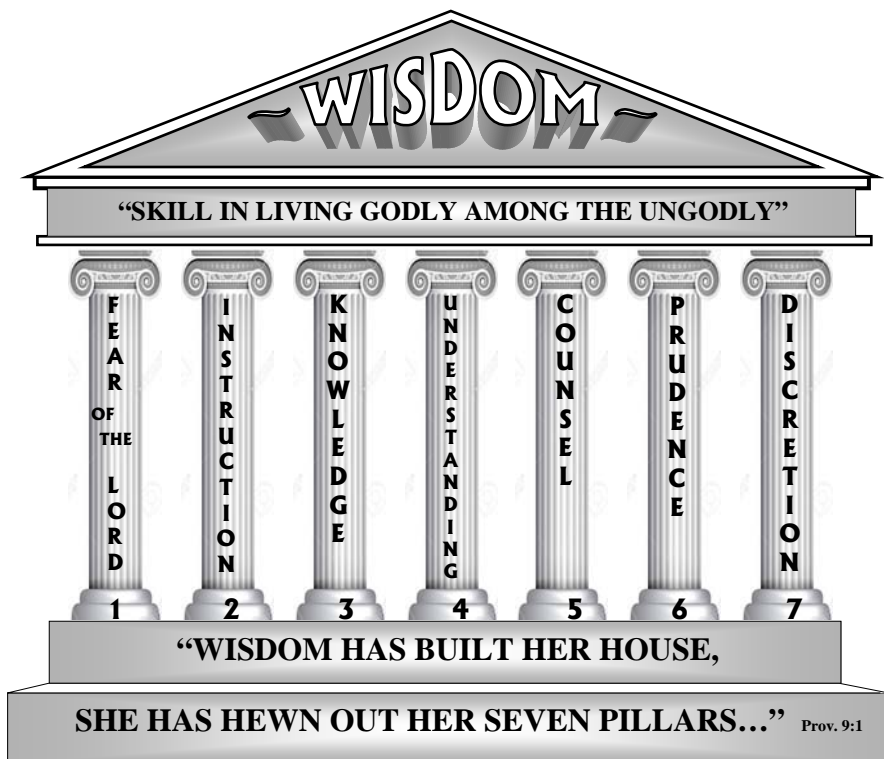
**FORESEES
THE LIFE WHICH IS TO COME...**

TO FORESEE
PRACTICAL WISDOM,
CARE IN MANAGEMENT,
SHREWDNESS IN PLANNING
FOR THE FUTURE
Webster

As close as these two are in definition, we can still make an important distinction. One speaks to discerning this present life while the other has the ability to foresee the life which is to come. We need both.

To be able to walk well in the physical realm requires two feet to balance the load. We need to walk with discretion and prudence in this life. We cannot have one without the other.





So we now know what is wisdom, but that does not mean we have obtained it. It will require diligence to acquire it. Consider what Proverbs says about diligence:

“...BUT DILIGENCE IS MAN’S PRECIOUS POSSESSION.”

Proverbs 12:27

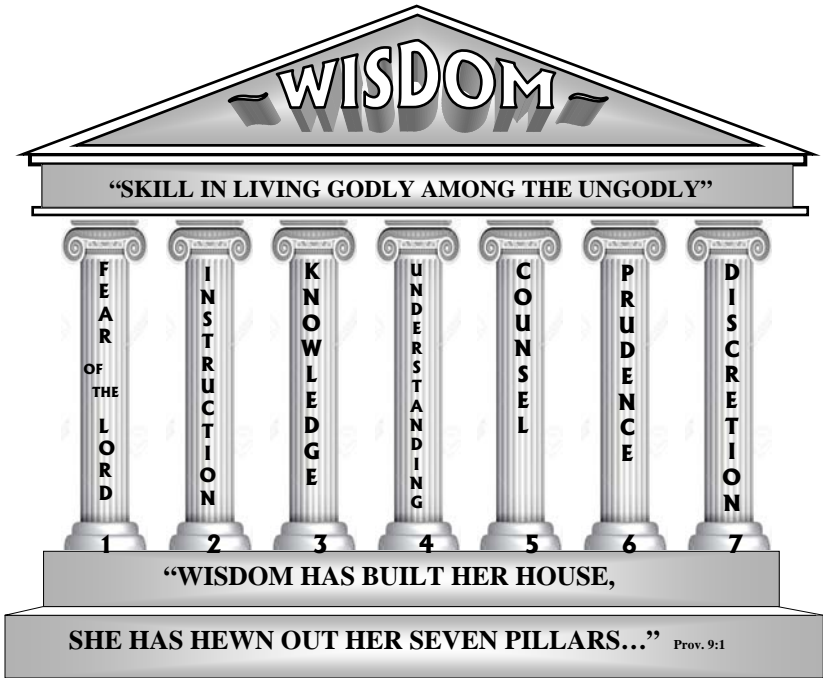
The apostle Peter, in speaking of obtaining an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom, singled out the need to add seven things to our faith with all diligence (see 2 Peter 1:5). We can say that the same diligence is necessary to add these seven pillars of wisdom to our lives as well.

This ends our brief look at the house that wisdom built. Consider one final word of exhortation from Solomon:



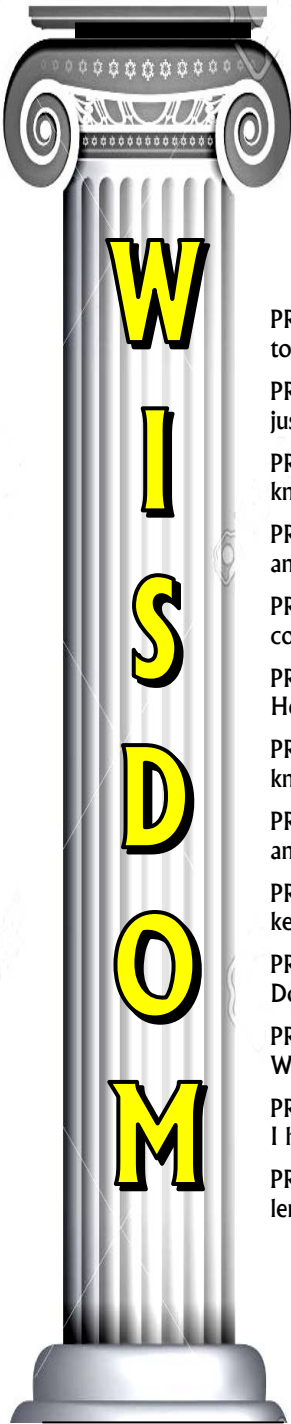
**“BECAUSE OF LAZINESS
THE BUILDING DECAYS,
AND THROUGH IDLENESS OF HANDS
THE HOUSE LEAKS.”**

Ecc. 10:18



The remaining pages in this book contain a topical listing of the scriptures that pertain to the house that wisdom builds. I printed these for you as a means to systematically review what it takes to be considered by God as being among the wise.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM:



PROVERBS 1:2 “To know **WISDOM** and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding....”

PROVERBS 1:3 “...to receive the instruction of **WISDOM**, justice, judgment, and equity...”

PROVERBS 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise **WISDOM** and instruction.”

PROVERBS 2:2 “...so that you incline your ear to **WISDOM**, and apply your heart to understanding...”

PROVERBS 2:6 “For the Lord gives **WISDOM**; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding...”

PROVERBS 2:7 “He stores up sound **WISDOM** for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly...”

PROVERBS 2:10 “When **WISDOM** enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul...”

PROVERBS 3:13 “Happy is the man who finds **WISDOM**, and the man who gains understanding...”

PROVERBS 3:21 “My son, let them not depart from your eyes—keep sound **WISDOM** and discretion...”

PROVERBS 4:5 “Get **WISDOM!** Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.”

PROVERBS 4:7 “**WISDOM** is the principal thing; therefore get **WISDOM**. And in all your getting, get understanding.”

PROVERBS 4:11 “I have taught you in the way of **WISDOM**; I have led you in right paths.”

PROVERBS 5:1 “My son, pay attention to my **WISDOM**; lend your ear to my understanding...”

THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM: (continued)



W I S D O M

PROVERBS 7:4 “Say to **WISDOM**, ‘You are my sister”, and call understanding your nearest kin...”

PROVERBS 8:1 “Does not **WISDOM** cry out, and understanding lift up her voice?”

PROVERBS 8:11 “For **WISDOM** is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”

PROVERBS 8:12 “I, **WISDOM**, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion.”

PROVERBS 8:14 “Counsel is mine, and sound **WISDOM**; I am understanding, I have strength.”

PROVERBS 9:1 “**WISDOM** has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars...”

PROVERBS 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of **WISDOM**, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

PROVERBS 10:13 “**WISDOM** is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.”

PROVERBS 10:21 “The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of **WISDOM**.”

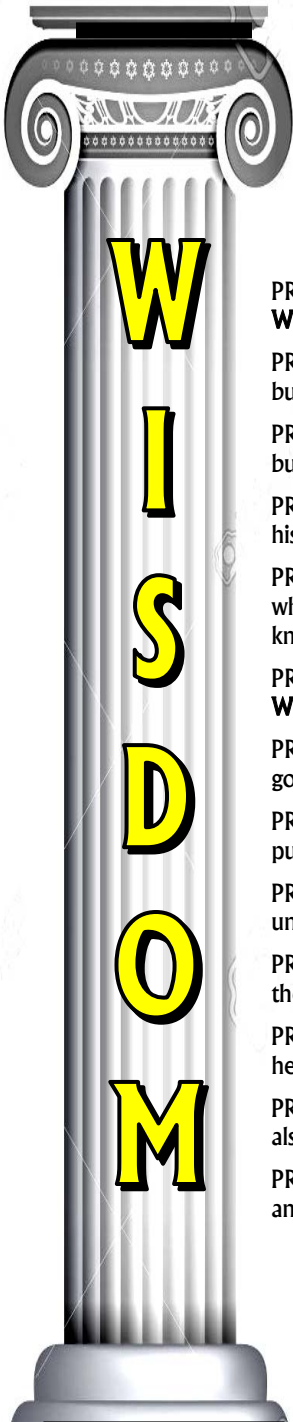
PROVERBS 10:23 “To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has **WISDOM**.”

PROVERBS 10:31 “The mouth of the righteous brings forth **WISDOM**, but the perverse tongue will be cut out.”

PROVERBS 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is **WISDOM**.”

PROVERBS 11:12 “He who is devoid of **WISDOM** despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM: (continued)



PROVERBS 12:8 "A man will be commended according to his **WISDOM**, but he who is of a perverse heart will be despised."

PROVERBS 13:10 "By pride comes only contention, but with the well-advised is **WISDOM**."

PROVERBS 14:6 "A scoffer seeks **WISDOM** and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands."

PROVERBS 14:8 "The **WISDOM** of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit."

PROVERBS 14:33 "**WISDOM** rests quietly in the heart of him who has understanding, but what is in the heart of fools is made known."

PROVERBS 15:33 "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of **WISDOM**, and before honor is humility."

PROVERBS 16:16 "How much better it is to get **WISDOM** than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."

PROVERBS 17:16 "Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of **WISDOM**, since he has no heart for it?"

PROVERBS 17:24 "**WISDOM** is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth."

PROVERBS 18:4 "The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of **WISDOM** is a flowing brook."

PROVERBS 19:8 "He who gets **WISDOM** loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good."

PROVERBS 23:23 "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also **WISDOM** and instruction and understanding."

PROVERBS 24:3 "Through **WISDOM** a house is built, and by understanding it is established..."

THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM: (continued)



W I S D O M

PROVERBS 24:7 “**WISDOM** is too lofty for a fool; he does not open his mouth in the gate.”

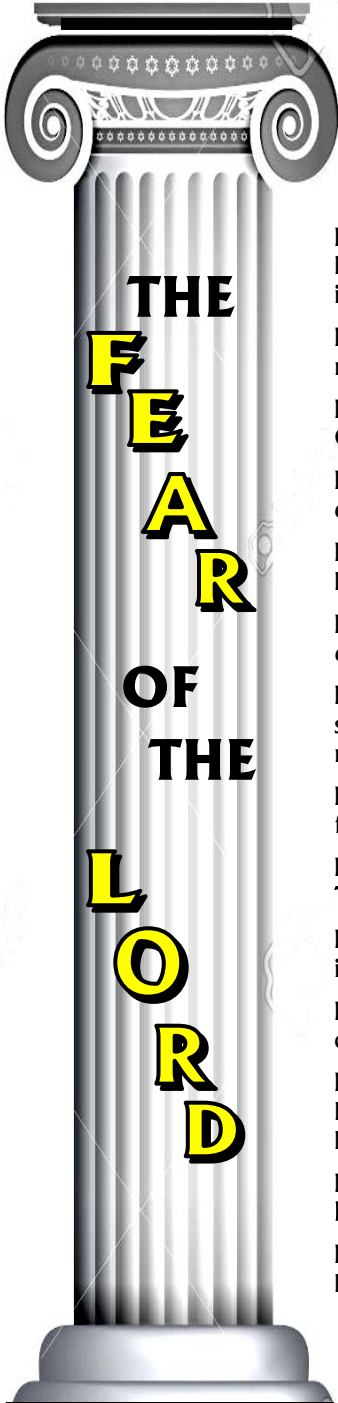
PROVERBS 24:14 “...so shall the knowledge of **WISDOM** be to your soul; if you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off.”

PROVERBS 29:3 “Whoever loves **WISDOM** makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.”

PROVERBS 29:15 “The rod and reproof give **WISDOM**, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

PROVERBS 31:26 “She opens her mouth with **WISDOM**, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.”

THE PILLAR OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD:



PROVERBS 1:7 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

PROVERBS 1:29 "Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the **FEAR OF THE LORD**..."

PROVERBS 2:5 "...then you will understand the **FEAR OF THE LORD**, and find the knowledge of God."

PROVERBS 8:13 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** is to hate evil..."

PROVERBS 9:10 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** is the beginning of wisdom..."

PROVERBS 10:27 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened."

PROVERBS 14:26 "In the **FEAR OF THE LORD** there is strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge."

PROVERBS 14:27 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** is a fountain of life, to avoid the snares of death."

PROVERBS 15:16 "Better is a little with the **FEAR OF THE LORD**, than great treasure with trouble."

PROVERBS 15:33 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** is the instruction of wisdom..."

PROVERBS 16:6 "...and by the **FEAR OF THE LORD** one departs from evil."

PROVERBS 19:23 "The **FEAR OF THE LORD** leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil."

PROVERBS 22:4 "By humility and the **FEAR OF THE LORD** are riches and honor and life."

PROVERBS 23:17 "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but in the **FEAR OF THE LORD** continue all day long."

THE PILLAR OF INSTRUCTION:



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PROVERBS 1:2 “To know wisdom and **INSTRUCTION**, to perceive the words of understanding...”

PROVERBS 1:3 “...to receive the **INSTRUCTION** of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity...”

PROVERBS 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and **INSTRUCTION**.”

PROVERBS 1:8 “My son, hear the **INSTRUCTION** of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother...”

PROVERBS 4:1 “Hear, my children, the **INSTRUCTION** of a father, and give attention to know understanding...”

PROVERBS 4:13 “Take firm hold of **INSTRUCTION**, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life.”

PROVERBS 5:12 “...and say: ‘How I have hated **INSTRUCTION**, and my heart despised reproof!’ ”

PROVERBS 5:23 “He shall die for lack of **INSTRUCTION**, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”

PROVERBS 6:23 “For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light; reproofs of **INSTRUCTION** are the way of life...”

PROVERBS 8:10 “Receive my **INSTRUCTION**, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold...”

PROVERBS 8:33 “Hear **INSTRUCTION** and be wise, and do not disdain it...”

PROVERBS 9:9 “Give **INSTRUCTION** to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning...”

PROVERBS 10:17 “He who keeps **INSTRUCTION** is in the way of life, but he who refuses reproof goes astray.”

PROVERBS 12:1 “Whoever loves **INSTRUCTION** loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

PROVERBS 13:1 “A wise son heeds his father’s **INSTRUCTION**, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”

PROVERBS 13:18 “Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction (**INSTRUCTION**) but he who regards reproof will be honored.”

THE PILLAR OF INSTRUCTION:

(continued)



PROVERBS 15:5 "A fool despises his father's **INSTRUCTION**, but he who receives reproof is prudent."

PROVERBS 15:32 "He who disdains **INSTRUCTION** despises his own soul, but he who heeds reproof gets understanding."

PROVERBS 15:33 "The fear of the Lord is the **INSTRUCTION** of wisdom, and before honor is humility."

PROVERBS 16:22 "Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it, but the correction (**INSTRUCTION**) of fools is folly."

PROVERBS 19:20 "Listen to counsel and receive **INSTRUCTION**, that you may be wise in your latter days."

PROVERBS 19:27 "Cease listening to **INSTRUCTION**, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."

PROVERBS 23:12 "Apply your heart to **INSTRUCTION**, and your ears to words of knowledge."

PROVERBS 23:23 "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and **INSTRUCTION** and understanding."

PROVERBS 24:32 "When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received **INSTRUCTION.**"

THE PILLAR OF KNOWLEDGE:



KNOWLEDGE

PROVERBS 1:4 "...to give prudence to the simple, to the young man **KNOWLEDGE** and discretion...."

PROVERBS 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of **KNOWLEDGE**, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

PROVERBS 1:22 "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 1:29 "Because they hated **KNOWLEDGE** and did not choose the fear of the Lord..."

PROVERBS 2:5 "...then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the **KNOWLEDGE** of God."

PROVERBS 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come **KNOWLEDGE** and understanding."

PROVERBS 2:10 "when wisdom enters your heart, and **KNOWLEDGE** is pleasant to your soul..."

PROVERBS 5:2 "...that you may preserve discretion, and that your lips may keep **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 8:9 "They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 8:10 "Receive my instruction, and not silver, and **KNOWLEDGE** rather than choice gold..."

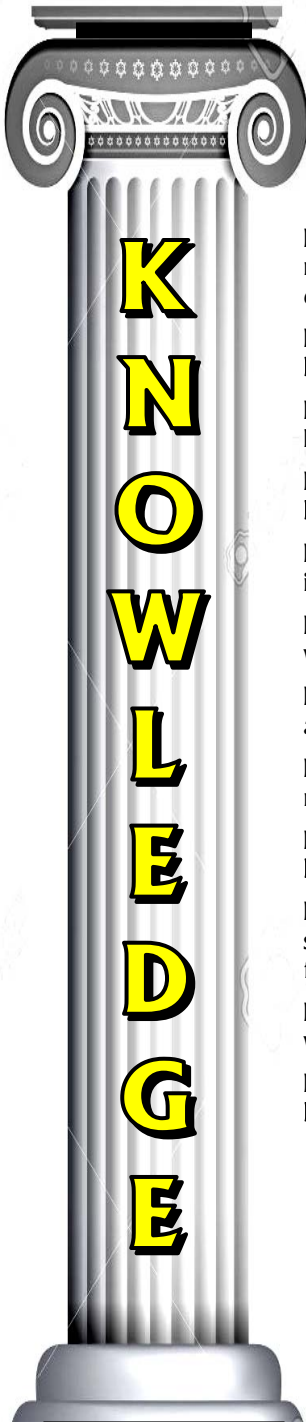
PROVERBS 8:12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out **KNOWLEDGE** and discretion."

PROVERBS 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the **KNOWLEDGE** of the Holy One is understanding."

PROVERBS 10:14 "Wise people store up **KNOWLEDGE**, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction."

THE PILLAR OF KNOWLEDGE:

(continued)



PROVERBS 11:9 "The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through **KNOWLEDGE** the righteous will be delivered."

PROVERBS 12:1 "Whoever loves instruction loves **KNOWLEDGE**, but he who hates reproof is stupid."

PROVERBS 12:23 "A prudent man conceals **KNOWLEDGE**, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness."

PROVERBS 13:16 "Every prudent man acts with **KNOWLEDGE**, but a fool lays open his folly."

PROVERBS 14:6 "A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but **KNOWLEDGE** is easy to him who understands."

PROVERBS 14:7 "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 14:18 "The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 15:2 "The tongue of the wise uses **KNOWLEDGE** rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."

PROVERBS 15:7 "The lips of the wise disperse **KNOWLEDGE**, but the heart of the fool does not do so."

PROVERBS 15:14 "The heart of him who has understanding seeks **KNOWLEDGE**, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."

PROVERBS 17:27 "He who has **KNOWLEDGE** spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit."

PROVERBS 18:15 "The heart of the prudent acquires **KNOWLEDGE**, and the ear of the wise seeks **KNOWLEDGE**."

THE PILLAR OF KNOWLEDGE:

(continued)



KNOWLEDGE

PROVERBS 19:2 "Also it is not good for a soul to be without **KNOWLEDGE** and he sins who hastens with his feet."

PROVERBS 19:25 "Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; reprove one who has understanding, and he will discern **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 19:27 "Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 20:15 "There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of **KNOWLEDGE** are a precious jewel."

PROVERBS 21:11 "When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; but when the wise is instructed, he receives **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 22:12 "The eyes of the Lord preserve **KNOWLEDGE**, but He overthrows the words of the faithless."

PROVERBS 22:17 "Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 22:20 "Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and **KNOWLEDGE**..."

PROVERBS 23:12 "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of **KNOWLEDGE**."

PROVERBS 24:4 "...by **KNOWLEDGE** the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

PROVERBS 24:5 "A wise man is strong, yes, a man of **KNOWLEDGE** increases strength..."

PROVERBS 24:14 "...so shall the **KNOWLEDGE** of wisdom be to your soul; if you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off."

PROVERBS 28:2 "Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; but by a man of understanding and **KNOWLEDGE** right will be prolonged."

THE PILLAR OF UNDERSTANDING:



PROVERBS 1:2 “To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 1:5 “...a man of **UNDERSTANDING** will attain wise counsel...”

PROVERBS 2:2 “...incline your ear to wisdom, and to apply your heart to **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 2:6 “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 2:11 “...discretion will preserve you; **UNDERSTANDING** will keep you...”

PROVERBS 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 3:13 “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 4:1 “Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 4:5 “Get wisdom! Get **UNDERSTANDING!** Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.”

PROVERBS 4:7 “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get **UNDERSTANDING.**”

PROVERBS 5:1 “My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my **UNDERSTANDING...**”

PROVERBS 6:32 “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks **UNDERSTANDING**; he who does so destroys his own soul.”

PROVERBS 7:4 “Say to wisdom, ‘You are my sister’, and call **UNDERSTANDING** your nearest kin...”

THE PILLAR OF UNDERSTANDING: (continued)



UNDERSTANDING

PROVERBS 8:1 “Does not wisdom cry out, and **UNDERSTANDING** lift up her voice?”

PROVERBS 8:5 “O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an **UNDERSTANDING** heart.”

PROVERBS 9:6 “Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of **UNDERSTANDING**.”

PROVERBS 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is **UNDERSTANDING**.”

PROVERBS 10:13 “Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has **UNDERSTANDING**, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of **UNDERSTANDING**.”

PROVERBS 10:23: “To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of **UNDERSTANDING** has wisdom.”

PROVERBS 11:12 “He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of **UNDERSTANDING** hold his peace.”

PROVERBS 12:11 “He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follow frivolity is devoid of **UNDERSTANDING**.”

PROVERBS 13:15 “Good **UNDERSTANDING** gains favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.”

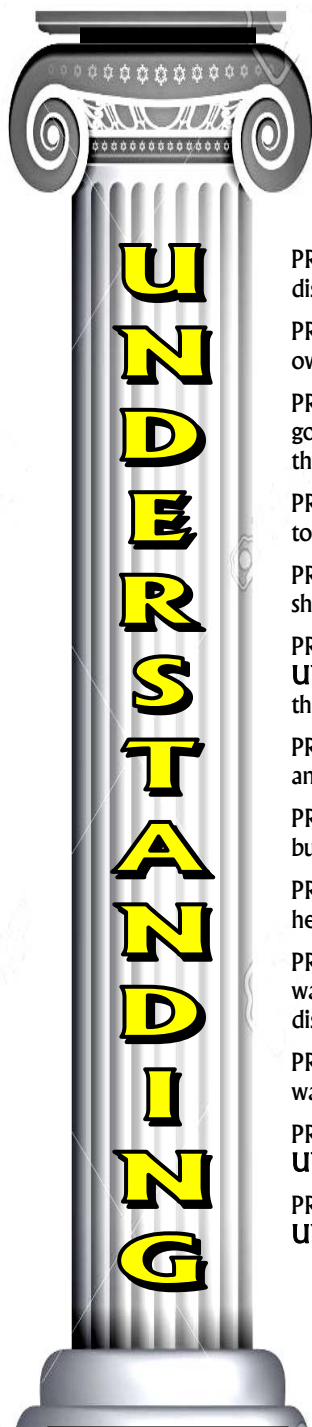
PROVERBS 14:29 “He who is slow to wrath has great **UNDERSTANDING**, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.”

PROVERBS 14:33 “Wisdom rests quietly in the heart of him who has **UNDERSTANDING** but what is in the heart of fools is made known.”

PROVERBS 15:14 “The heart of him who has **UNDERSTANDING** seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.”

THE PILLAR OF UNDERSTANDING:

(continued)



PROVERBS 15:21 "Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, but a man of **UNDERSTANDING** walks upright."

PROVERBS 15:32 "He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds reproof gets **UNDERSTANDING**."

PROVERBS 16:16 "How much better it is to get wisdom than gold? And to get **UNDERSTANDING** is to be chosen rather than silver."

PROVERBS 16:22 "**UNDERSTANDING** is a wellspring of life to him who has it, but the correction of fools is folly."

PROVERBS 17:18 "A man devoid of **UNDERSTANDING** shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend."

PROVERBS 17:24 "Wisdom is in the sight of him who has **UNDERSTANDING** but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth."

PROVERBS 17:27 "He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of **UNDERSTANDING** is of a calm spirit."

PROVERBS 18:2 "A fool has no delight in **UNDERSTANDING** but in expressing his own heart."

PROVERBS 19:8 "He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps **UNDERSTANDING** will find good."

PROVERBS 19:25 "Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; reprove one who has **UNDERSTANDING** and he will discern knowledge."

PROVERBS 20:5 "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of **UNDERSTANDING** will draw it out."

PROVERBS 21:16 "A man who wanders from the way of **UNDERSTANDING** will rest in the congregation of the dead."

PROVERBS 21:30 "There is no wisdom or **UNDERSTANDING** or counsel against the Lord."

THE PILLAR OF UNDERSTANDING: (continued)



PROVERBS 23:23 “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and **UNDERSTANDING**.”

PROVERBS 24:3 “Through wisdom a house is built, and by **UNDERSTANDING** it is established....”

PROVERBS 28:2 “Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; but by a man of **UNDERSTANDING** and knowledge right will be prolonged.”

PROVERBS 28:11 “The rich man is wise in his own eyes, but the poor who has **UNDERSTANDING** searches him out.”

PROVERBS 28:16 “A ruler who lacks **UNDERSTANDING** is a great oppressor, but he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.”

THE PILLAR OF COUNSEL:



PROVERBS 1:25 "...Because you disdained all my **COUNSEL** and would have none of my reproof..."

PROVERBS 1:30 "...They would have none of my **COUNSEL** and despised all my reproof..."

PROVERBS 8:14 "**COUNSEL** is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding, I have strength."

PROVERBS 11:14 "Where there is no **COUNSEL** the people fall; but in the multitude of **COUNSELORS** there is safety."

PROVERBS 12:15 "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds **COUNSEL** is wise."

PROVERBS 15:22 "Without **COUNSEL** plans go awry, but in the multitude of **COUNSELORS** they are established."

PROVERBS 19:20 "Listen to **COUNSEL** and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days."

PROVERBS 19:21 "There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's **COUNSEL** will stand."

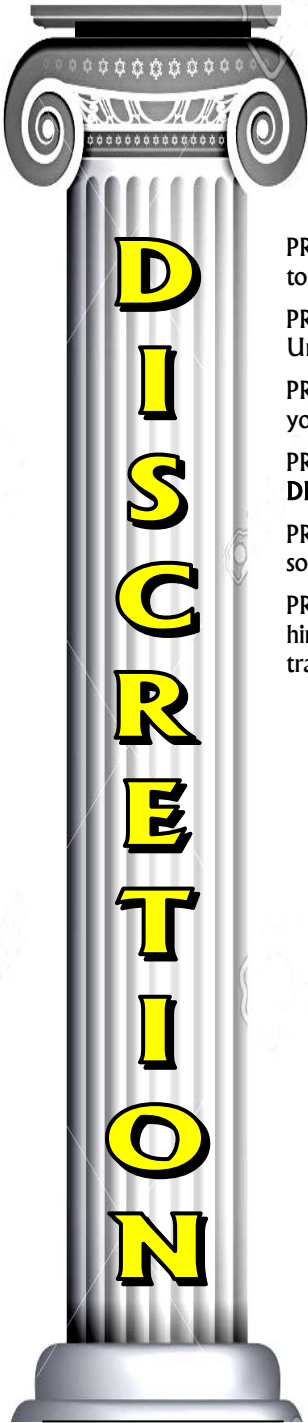
PROVERBS 20:5 "**COUNSEL** in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out."

PROVERBS 20:18 "Every purpose is established by **COUNSEL**; by wise **COUNSEL** wage war."

PROVERBS 24:6 "For by wise **COUNSEL** you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of **COUNSELORS** there is safety."

PROVERBS 27:9 "Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend does so by hearty **COUNSEL**."

THE PILLAR OF DISCRETION:



PROVERBS 1:4 "...to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and **DISCRETION**..."

PROVERBS 2:11 "**DISCRETION** will preserve you; Understanding will keep you..."

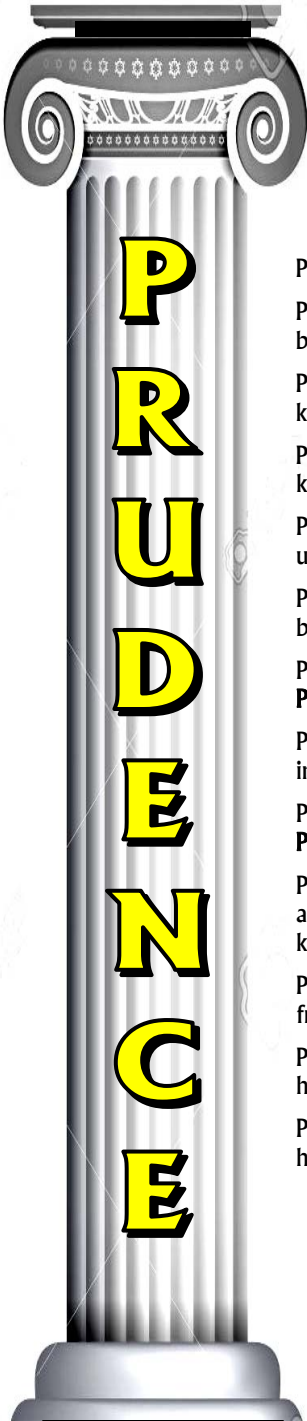
PROVERBS 3:21 "My son, let them not depart from your eyes—keep sound wisdom and **DISCRETION**..."

PROVERBS 5:2 "...that you may preserve **DISCRETION** and that your lips may keep knowledge."

PROVERBS 11:22 "As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks **DISCRETION**."

PROVERBS 19:11 "The **DISCRETION** of a man makes him slow to anger, and it is to his glory to overlook a transgression."

THE PILLAR OF PRUDENCE:



PROVERBS 8:12 "I wisdom, dwell with **PRUDENCE**..."

PROVERBS 12:16 "A fool's wrath is known at once, but a **PRUDENT** man covers shame."

PROVERBS 12:23 "A **PRUDENT** man conceals knowledge, but he heart of fools proclaims foolishness."

PROVERBS 13:16 "Every **PRUDENT** man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly."

PROVERBS 14:8 "The wisdom of the **PRUDENT** is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit."

PROVERBS 14:15 "The simple believes every word, but the **PRUDENT** man considers well his steps."

PROVERBS 14:18 "The simple inherit folly, but the **PRUDENT** are crowned with knowledge."

PROVERBS 15:5 "A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives reproof is **PRUDENT**."

PROVERBS 16:21 "The wise heart will be called **PRUDENT** and sweetness of the lips increases learning."

PROVERBS 18:15 "The heart of the **PRUDENT** acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

PROVERBS 19:14 "Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a **PRUDENT** wife is from the Lord."

PROVERBS 22:3 "A **PRUDENT** man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished."

PROVERBS 27:12 "A **PRUDENT** man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished."

WISDOM

“SKILL IN LIVING GODLY AMONG THE UNGODLY”

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LORD

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“WISDOM HAS BUILT HER HOUSE,

SHE HAS HEWN OUT HER SEVEN PILLARS...” Prov. 9:1

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



“THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE TABERNACLE”
was founded in Pastor Shupe’s home in 1980 after serving as a
lay teacher in the Assemblies of God for several years.

The church now resides in this building at
5690 Yukon Street,
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Deeply impressed by the
illustrated teachings of the
late Clarence Larkin, and
convinced that “a picture is
worth a thousand words”,
Pastor Shupe has combined
his artistic talents with his
God-given gift of revelational
teaching.

The illustrations in his books
and DVD’s represent some
of the visual aids he
prepares for the
feeding of his flock.



Pastor Randy

Lucette

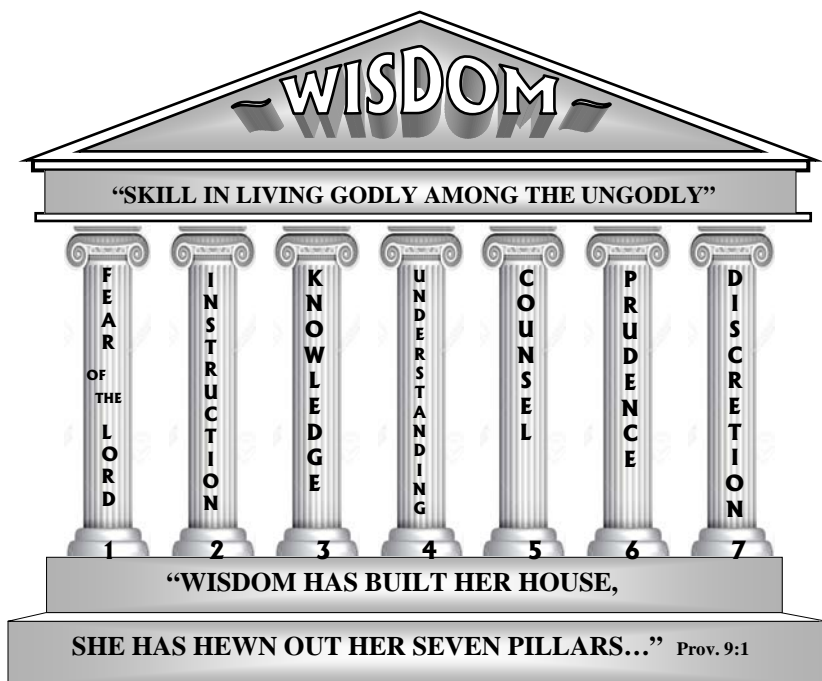
You may reach him by phone at 303-423-1325, or write to the address
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This is a book about wisdom.
Proverbs states that wisdom
is the principal thing (Prov. 4:7).
God's people are to get wisdom!

The book of Proverbs spells out
clearly how wisdom can be obtained.

Pastor Randy Shupe



the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, the **LIFE**
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