

God's Secret Wisdom

The Church of God International

Bible Study

February 7, 2015

Introduction

Today, we will continue our
Bible Study on the subject of
“Wisdom From Above”

Last month we
talked about
“Vioneering” –
the engineering
and fulfilling of
our spiritual goal.



Many of us have a personal career goal in life, but few among us have a spiritual goal. Most of us do not even know how and where to begin in setting one.



Jesus said, “seek first his
kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be
given to you as well”
(Matthew 6:33).

Therefore, our spiritual goal
should come first before our
personal career goals.



Jesus is telling us
that our life's goal and
our aims in life
should be focused on
the KINGDOM OF GOD.

**The Kingdom of God means a
kingdom COMPOSED OF
GODLIKE SPIRITUAL BEINGS.**

Romans 8:14-17

The Apostle Paul wrote:

(14) “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

(15) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:14-17

(16) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

(17) Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

There is a glory that awaits us all –
to become spiritual children of
God!



Our spiritual vision and goal in life is to
attain to the SONSHIP in the
Divine Family as purposed by our
Heavenly Father.



This is God's wish for all His children –
to become a member of His Divine Family –
to participate in the divine nature!



2 Peter 1:4

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Today, we will discuss Part 2 of the Series on the “Wisdom From Above”. We will talk about “God’s Secret Wisdom.” The discussion will be divided into 3 parts, namely:

- #1. What is wisdom?
- #2. Why is it a secret?
- #3. Whose secret is it?

What Is Wisdom?



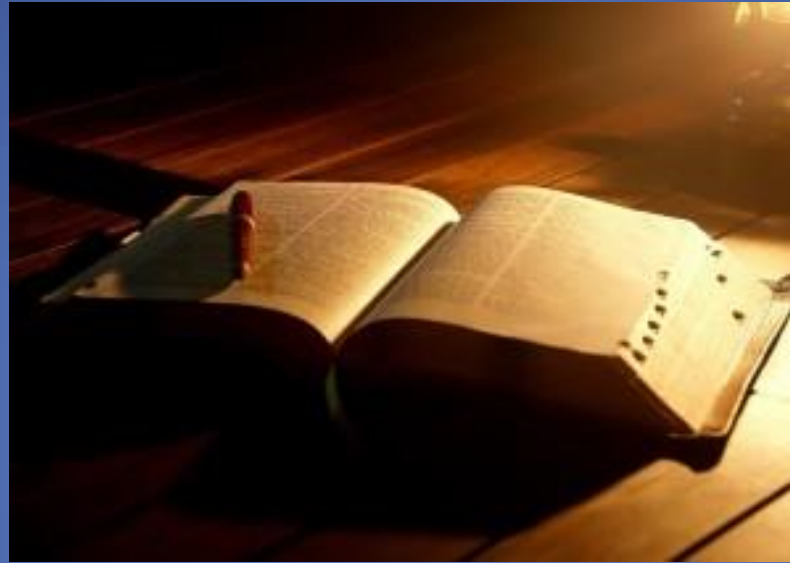
There is a distinction between
information, knowledge and
wisdom.



Information is mere data and facts.



The Bible contains numerous bits of information.

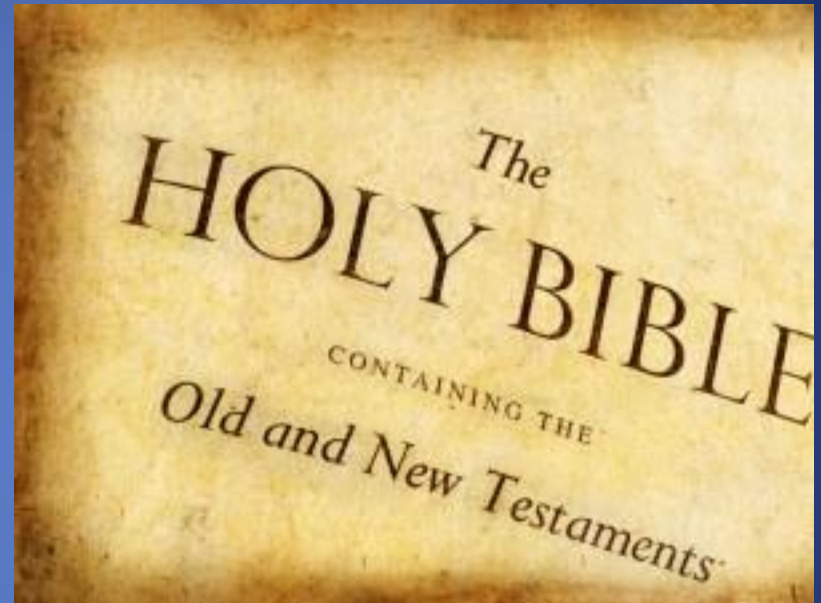


This wealth of information is available to all who reads the Bible, and many have read it.

But this
information is
useless to a lot of
people because
the information is
just mere data.



Without
understanding and
comprehension,
these bits of
information are just a
“nice to know”
routine, devoid of
meaning to the
reader.



Information is not useful until it is
processed comprehensively.

Knowledge is the conversion of
information into understanding.



Knowledge is to combine data with experience and context, and to give meaning to the bits of information.



Wisdom on the other hand, is the application of knowledge into the development of character and making wise choices.



**Wisdom comes by understanding,
elucidation and meditation.**



Wisdom should guide our action.

That is why the Psalmist said in
Psalms 111:10:

“The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom.”

Information provides the data.
It answers the question “what?”



Knowledge provides meaning,
and answers the question why
and how?



Wisdom provides understanding -
giving rise to choice. Information is
mere data.

Knowledge makes the data
meaningful.

Wisdom makes the application of knowledge useful and beneficial.



It is the right choice of action
that makes one wise!

With regards to the gospel,
Paul said; “it is foolishness to
the perishing, but to the saved
it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

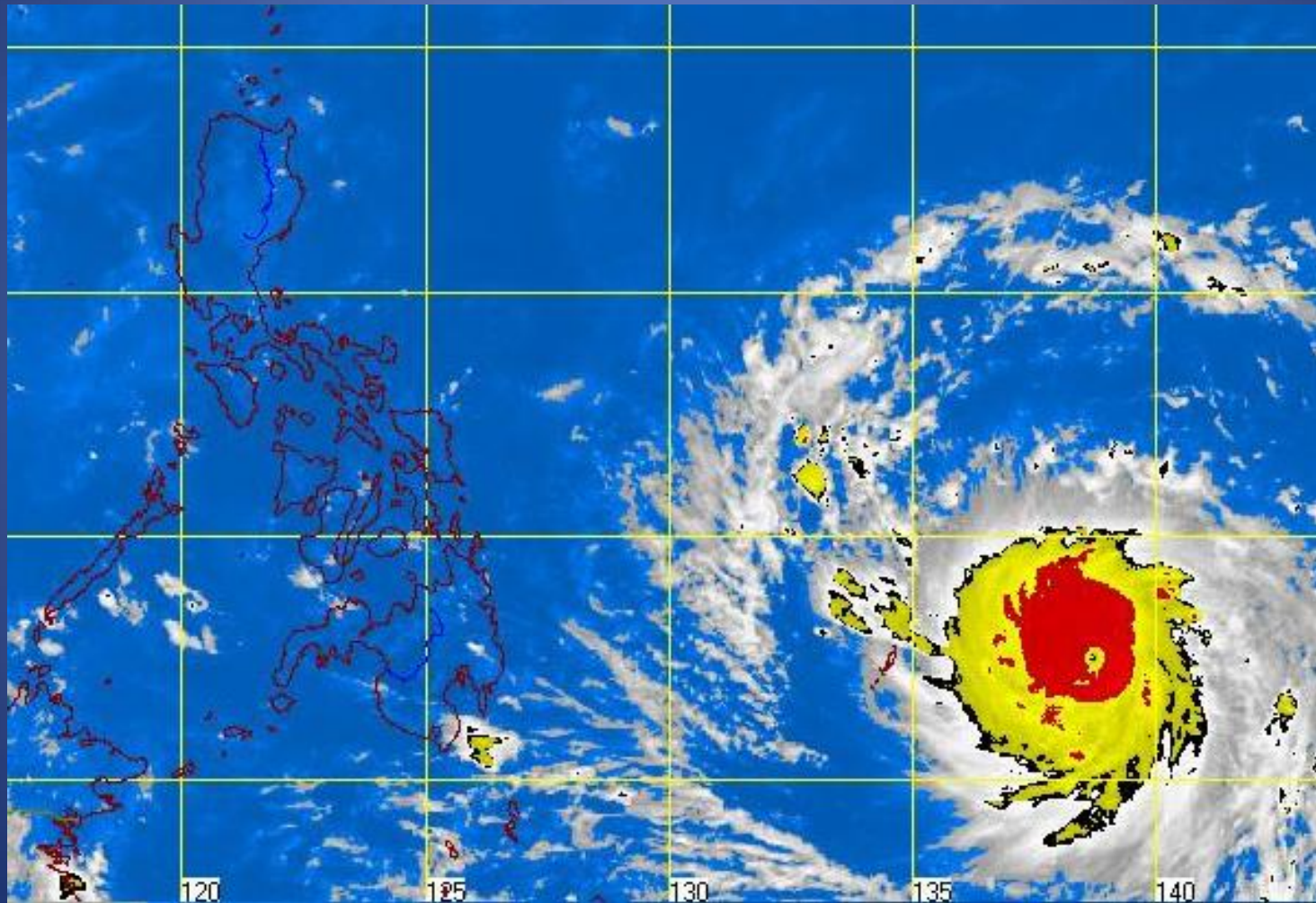
The foolish perceives the Bible as mere bits of information devoid of discernment, while the wise perceives it as a source of understanding that guides us to gain wisdom.



Let us take an example from Typhoon Yolanda. PAGASA issued a weather bulletin warning the coming of a super typhoon signal with wind speeds of up to 315kph, strongest to ever make landfall. It also warned of a pending storm surge.



This is purely information - mere data.



Knowledge, by experience, tells us that a typhoon of this magnitude has a destructive force that can damage property, cut utility lines, destroy infrastructure like roads, bridges and dams, and bring swelling floods.



Wisdom tells us to evacuate to high places, secure our homes and make provisions for utilities and food.



But, people know nothing about what a storm surge is. We have never heard of a storm surge. No one expected a 5-meter, 2-storey-high tsunami-like wave to engulf the entire community.



We never had that experience before; therefore, we had no knowledge of what a storm surge is.



Consequently, no one acted wisely to seek safety.



This perfectly illustrates the relationship between information, knowledge and wisdom.

1 Kings 3:16-28

The Bible records a story of a man with great wisdom.

(16) Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

(17) One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me.

1 Kings 3:16-28

(18)The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

(19) “During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him.

1 Kings 3:16-28

(20) So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast.

(21) The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

1 Kings 3:16-28

(22) The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.” But the first one insisted, “No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.” And so they argued before the king.

(23) The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’”

1 Kings 3:16-28

(24) Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king.

(25) He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

1 Kings 3:16-28

(26) The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!” But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!”

1 Kings 3:16-28

(27) Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.”

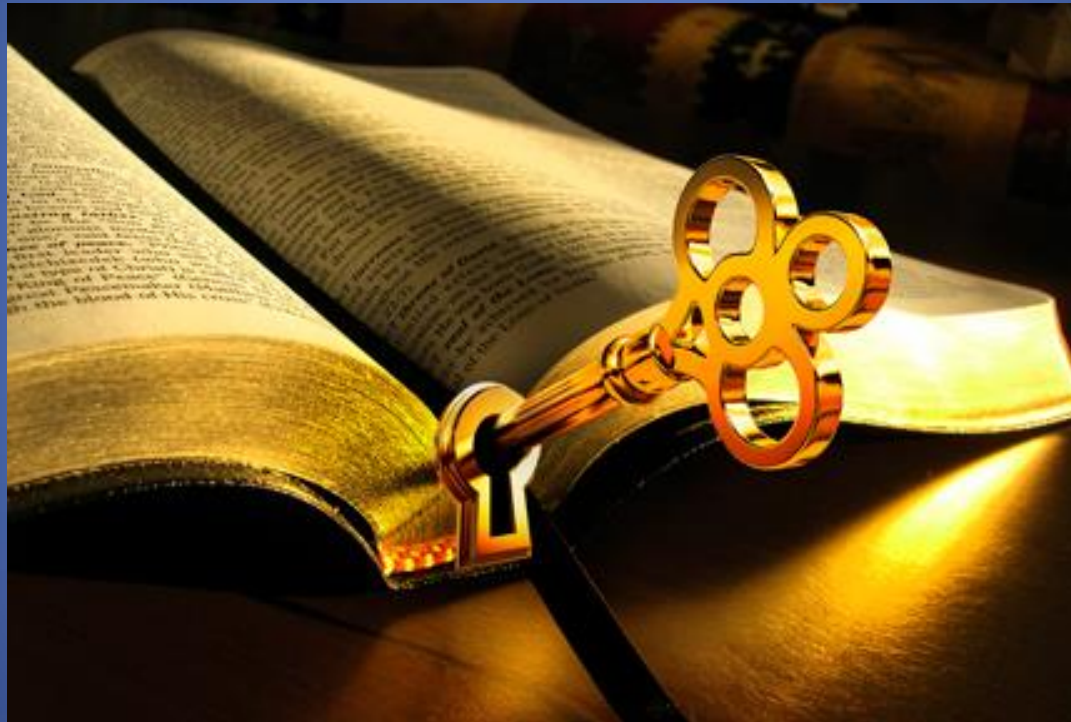
(28) When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

I Kings 10:23-24

(23) “King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.

(24) The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart”.

Why Is Divine Wisdom A Secret?



King Solomon asked
God for discernment
in administering
justice. God granted
his request and
endowed him with
great wisdom. The
account is recorded
in 1 Kings 3:3-14.



I Kings 3:3-14

(3) Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

(4) The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

(5) At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

I Kings 3:3-14

(6) Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

(7) "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

(8) Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.

I Kings 3:3-14

(9) So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

(10) The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

(11) So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,

I Kings 3:3-14

(12) I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

(13) Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

(14) And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."

God granted Solomon discernment
to administer justice - in short,
worldly wisdom.



The caveat is for God to bless him with the long life that he needs to develop spiritual discernment.



Nehemiah wrote in 13:26,

“Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women.”

Solomon was
wise in affairs
of the world,
but he was not
wise towards
God.



There are many people who boast about their knowledge, education, and degrees, but they make disasters of their lives because they lack spiritual discernment and understanding.



The Bible makes a distinction between two very different kinds of wisdom:
worldly wisdom and godly wisdom.



1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(18) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

(19) For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

(20) Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(21) For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

(22) Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

(23) but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(24) but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

(25) For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

(26) Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(27) But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

(28) He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

(29) so that no one may boast before him.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(30) It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

(31) Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Worldly wisdom is the use of information and knowledge based on human understanding and reasoning.



Such material, physical and temporal discernment, no matter how lofty they may be, is foolishness to the Lord.



I Corinthians 2: 1-16

- (1)“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.
- (2)For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
- (3)I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

(4) and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

(5) so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

- (6) Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;
- (7) but we speak **God's wisdom** in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which **God predestined before the ages to our glory;**

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

(8) the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

(9) but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

(10) For to us God **revealed them through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”

(11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

(12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

(13) which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

(14) But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

(15) But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

(16) For **WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM?** But we have the mind of Christ.

Godly wisdom is a secret, a mystery.



It is a wisdom that God has predestined even before the beginning of time and creation.

This wisdom has been hidden from
the foolish – people who are
worldly.



Ephesians 1:3-10

(3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

(4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In love

(5) he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Ephesians 1:3-10

(6) to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

(7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

(8) that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:3-10

(9) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

(10) to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

This wisdom has not entered the hearts of man because man is not able to perceive it.



Godly wisdom is the capacity to see things from the divine perspective – from the viewpoint of the Heavenly Father and respond according to spiritual principles.



This secret wisdom of God is only revealed to God's people through the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Divine Wisdom is
God's secret!



It is a secret because not many people
know about.



Many think it is total rubbish and complete
foolishness that we will become spiritual
children of God.

Whose Secret Is It?



This divine understanding is the wisdom
that comes from God and is only
revealed through and by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Whose Secret Is It?

The secret wisdom of God is unlocked by the revelation of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, ordinary worldly people cannot comprehend it.



This is why God's wisdom is a secret. To unlock the secret you need the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we tell people that our destiny is to become a literal son and daughter of God, to partake of the divine nature, to become an heir of God and co-heirs with Christ, no one seriously believes us.

Let us read again 1 John 3:1-3.

1 John 3:1-3

(1) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

(2) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

(3) Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Do not believe us, believe the Bible!



If you believe this – you are being guided by that spark of divine wisdom.

How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

It takes time and effort to be truly wise. In order to acquire Godly wisdom, here are a few tips to help you along the way:



How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

1. Seek it.

By nature, we are drawn to the wisdom of the world that is almost contrary to divine wisdom.



The world offers too many enticements. The desire and pursuit of wealth, power, fame, prestige and beauty are primary deterrents to seek the wisdom of God.



To acquire Godly wisdom, you
must have the courage and
determination to seek it.

Proverbs Chapter 2



Proverbs 2:1-22

- (1) My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
- (2) turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,
- (3) and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
- (4) and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

Proverbs 2:1-22

(5) then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

(6) For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

(7) He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

Proverbs 2:1-22

(8) for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

(9) Then you will understand what is right and

just and fair—every good path

(10) For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

(11) Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2:1-22

(12) Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

(13) who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,

(14) who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,

(15) whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

Proverbs 2:1-22

(16) It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words,

(17) who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.

(18) For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.

(19) None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.

Proverbs 2:1-22

(20) Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.

(21) For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;

(22) but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

2. Meditate on the Word of God

The Holy Bible is God's words in print. The Bible contains a lot of information. It is not just a book of data and facts.



It is God's written wisdom - revealing His truths, plans, ways and purpose for our understanding and discernment. It is a book to make us wise towards God – revealing secret wisdom of God.



The Bible contains the laws and precepts of God. Keeping them makes one wise. Therefore, read the Bible often and meditate on its precepts. Psalm 1:1-3.



Psalms 1:1-3

(1) Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

(2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

(3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

3. Be Baptized

The Scripture says that divine wisdom is revealed through the Holy Spirit.



Therefore, it becomes imperative
for everyone to have the Spirit of
God dwelling in him.

Let us read what Jesus said in John
14:15-27.

John 14:15-27

(15) "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

(16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

(17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:15-27

(18) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

(19) Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

(20) On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

John 14:15-27

(21) Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

(22) Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

John 14:15-27

(23) Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

(24) He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

(25) "All this I have spoken while still with you.

John 14:15-27

(26) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

(27) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

But how do we receive the Holy Spirit?
Peter gives us the answer in Acts 2:38.

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized,
every one of you, in the name of Jesus
Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
And you will receive the gift of the Holy
Spirit.’”

Therefore, if you want to have divine understanding in knowing God's secret wisdom, you need to be baptized in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Truth and of a sound mind.

How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

4. Pray for Wisdom

If you truly seek for divine wisdom and understanding after baptism, pray for it. When you pray, do it in faith and ask for the right purpose.



How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

Then, allow the Holy Spirit to work in you. You must have the humble spirit to learn and to be taught by the word of God.

(James 1:5-8)



James 1:5-8

(5) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

(6) But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

(7) That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

(8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

5. Fear the Lord

In the universities, we dread the terror professor. But, in reality they are the better professor and we learn from them. The same is true in acquiring godly wisdom.



The Scripture says in
Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy
One is understanding.”

Psalm 111:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of wisdom; all who follow his
precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.”

Job 28

Let us consider Job 28.

- (1) "There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined.
- (2) Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore.
- (3) Man puts an end to the darkness; he searches the farthest recesses for ore in the blackest darkness.
- (4) Far from where people dwell he cuts a shaft, in places forgotten by the foot of man; far from men he dangles and sways.

Job 28

(5) The earth, from which food comes,
is transformed below as by fire;

(6) sapphires come from its rocks, and
its dust contains nuggets of gold.

(7) No bird of prey knows that hidden
path, no falcon's eye has seen it.

Job 28

(8) Proud beasts do not set foot on it, and no lion prowls there.

(9) Man's hand assaults the flinty rock and lays bare the roots of the mountains.

(10) He tunnels through the rock; his eyes see all its treasures.

Job 28

(11) He searches the sources of the rivers and brings hidden things to light.

(12) "But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?

(13) Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living.

(14) The deep says, 'It is not in me'; the sea says, 'It is not with me.'

Job 28

- (15) It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed in silver.
- (16) It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or sapphires.
- (17) Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold.
- (18) Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention; the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.

Job 28

- (19) The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it; it cannot be bought with pure gold.
- (20) "Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell?
- (21) It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air.
- (22) Destruction and Death say, "Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.'

Job 28

- (23) God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells,
- (24) for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
- (25) When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters,

Job 28

(26) when he made a decree for the rain
and a path for the thunderstorm,

(27) then he looked at wisdom and
appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.

(28) And he said to man, "The fear of the
Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is
understanding."

The “fear of the Lord” means reverence, awe and utmost respect. Without reverence and fear of the Lord, we will not take God’s word seriously and learn from it.



How Do You Acquire Godly Wisdom?

6. Associate with the Wise

We have a saying: birds of the same feather flock together.



If you desire to be wise,
associate with the wise! If
you associate with fools
and sinners, you
eventually end up like one
of them. If you want the
true and godly wisdom,
then by all means be
associated with them.



Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

Proverbs 27:17

“As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his
friend.”

You need to associate with the wise, people who
have the truth and the wisdom of God.

Summation

Godly wisdom is a secret, and this secret is revealed to the church through the workings of the Holy Spirit.



Ephesians 3:9-12

(9) “...to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

(10) His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

Ephesians 3:9-12

(11) according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(12) In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

God's secret wisdom has been revealed to us. These bits of information contained in the Holy Bible is our source of spiritual knowledge.



By these, God reveals His secret wisdom to shape our destiny since the beginning of time. Those who are wise will understand that God is making us His sons and daughters.



Summation

Seek the
“True and Godly Wisdom!”

May God guide you to
fulfill your true purpose,
and achieve your awesome destiny!

See You Again Next Bible Study!

The Mind of Christ

The Driving Force in a Christian's Life

March 7, 2015, Saturday, 10 A.M.