

Wisdom

Practical Principles to Prosper

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Wisdom: Practical Principles to Prosper by Andre D. Silvers

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Introduction

King Solomon was the wisest and wealthiest man of his generation. During the inauguration of his administration, God gave Solomon the rare opportunity to choose whatever he desired to assist him with establishing his kingdom. He chose wisdom!

What would motivate this powerful king to prefer wisdom over wealth, fame, victory over his enemies or whatever else one may desire? Within the pages of this booklet reveals the answer to this profound question.

The pursuit of wisdom must become a priority in your life because wisdom will prosper, protect, promote and empower you to excel on your job, in your home, at your church, in the market place and wherever else there is a need to exercise good judgment.

This booklet will define what wisdom is and show you how to develop it so that you become skillful and successful in your life endeavors. Furthermore, you will learn how to apply wisdom to discern deception, govern wisely and empower your life to achieve your goals.

Wisdom is a Window

Chapter 1

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Prov. 4:7 KJV

Whenever Biblical wisdom is discussed, there is one person who is recognized second only to Jesus—King David's son Solomon. The Bible states explicitly that King Solomon was the wisest and wealthiest king who ever lived. His wisdom and notoriety attracted powerful kings, queens, politicians, merchants and the elite of his day who traveled from all over the known world to bask in the glory of his great insight. Yearly, Jerusalem was flooded by visitors who were clamoring to get a rare glimpse of the sage as well as listen to him discuss in depth the relevant topics of his day (1 Kings 10:23-25).

Most notably, the powerful and affluent that came to Solomon did not come empty handed. Instead, they came with gifts, garments and gold! Solomon's wisdom activated a principle called, "Wealth Attracts Wealth." It was the wealth of Solomon's wisdom that attracted the wealth of others. We will discuss this principle in detail later in this book.

Through studying the life of Solomon, we discover that wealth came to him continually because of his wisdom. Many individuals today make the mistake of chasing after what the Bible

calls the "deceitfulness of riches." Solomon discovered a key that had riches chasing after him! This key is called "Wisdom!" Wisdom is the master key that unlocks the bolted doors of wealth, allowing you not only to have access, but also to manage and master this coveted capital.

An important question we must ask ourselves regarding wisdom is how did Solomon discover this rare jewel? Was it something that happened coincidentally or was he lucky? Did something mysteriously happen to him that is unexplainable? Is wisdom for the elite few or can anyone attain it? The Bible reveals clearly the circumstances that led to Solomon obtaining wisdom. It began when he was a child.

As a child, Solomon was instructed by King David on the virtues of possessing wisdom. David taught his son to value it because it would protect him, bring honor to him, and crown his life with grace and glory. King Solomon records this discussion in the book of Proverbs chapter four.

*"When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. **Get wisdom, get understanding**; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will **protect you**; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will **exalt you**; embrace her, and she will **honor you**. She will set a garland of*

*grace on your head and **present you with a crown of splendor.**" Prov. 4:3-9 NIV*

King David imparted wisdom into the life of his son while he was very young, by instructing him to pursue wisdom regardless of the price. The pursuit would be very costly; nonetheless, David reassured him that the quest would be worth it. We need more fathers like David, who will take the time to instruct and direct their children about prioritizing and pursuing the appropriate goals.

As Solomon grew and observed his father governing his kingdom, he witnessed firsthand the importance of having wisdom. When presented with the rare opportunity to receive whatever he desired from God, Solomon instinctively chose wisdom. Many people I know would have gone after the money or power. Instead, Solomon chose wisdom. His tutelage as a child trained him about wisdom's supreme value. Solomon understood that wisdom is essential for experiencing a successful life.

Although money is essential for living, Solomon made the prudent decision of choosing wisdom above financial wealth! I believe his choice was based upon having a front-row seat while observing his father governing a kingdom as well as receiving council concerning the importance of wisdom. As a result of this unique perspective, he discerned that having money without wisdom is dangerous.

King David inherited great responsibility and accountability because of his vast authority. Inherent within his duties were many problems to

solve. David had to make astute decisions regarding utilizing the resources that were at his disposal. The mishandling of the nation's wealth would not only impact his family but the entire nation. By possessing wisdom, David was armed with the ability to confront and solve many problems he would have to handle. As Solomon watched his father in action, he discovered the priceless value of wisdom.

Discerning Differences

After completing the construction of the temple, the Bible records that God appeared to King Solomon in a dream and asked him to choose whatever he desired. His training as a youth under his father David prepared him for this rare opportunity. He chose wisdom! King Solomon's request for wisdom pleased God so much, he received more than he anticipated. The scriptures say,

*"That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!" Solomon replied, "You showed faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued your faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne. "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a **little child** who doesn't know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted!*

*Give me an understanding heart so that I can **govern** your people **well** and know the **difference** between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to **govern** this great people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life." **Kings 3:7-14 NLT***

Solomon had the enormous task of governing a nation and its vast resources in place of his father. With the construction of the temple completed, this marked a great time of spiritual revival for the people of God. The temple would serve as the worship center in the heart of Israel. If the nation worshiped God the way He intended them to do, they would prosper because He would protect them. However, if idolatry reigned, the Lord would remove His hand of protection and allow the nation to suffer judgment (1 Kings 9:6-9). Solomon's desire for wisdom would assist him with the arduous task of governing this great nation whose primary mission was to worship and honor God the way He intended.

There are several jewels we discover when excavating the above passage of scripture. First, we discern Solomon's **humility**. His recognition of "*being a little child*" was not based upon age; instead, it was a result of his inexperience with handling the monumental task of managing a government. With this massive undertaking, He wisely recognized his need for God!

This recognition marked not only his humility, but the genesis of his greatness. By asking for wisdom, Solomon was acknowledging that if God did not endow him, he was doomed to fail. The task of governing this large group of people was overwhelming for a young man with little experience. The wisest thing King Solomon did was to ask God for help! I have personally experienced countless times God has come through for me because I simply asked Him for help. Humility is the first powerful jewel that is needed to be elevated and honored in the sight of God!

*"So **humble** yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he **will lift** you up in **honor**."*

1 Peter 5:6-7 NLT

The second jewel Solomon asked God for assistance with was the ability to do his assignment **well**. Solomon was not content with mediocrity; instead, he wanted to fulfill his mission with excellence. When Solomon asked God for an "understanding heart to govern his people well," he

was insinuating that he wanted to do his task skillfully.

Skill is the ability to do something "well." Therefore, when he asked God for wisdom to govern "well," he desired to do his assignment in the spirit of excellence. Note, he did not ask God to do the task for him; rather, he asked God for the power and skill to do it himself. Wisdom is the "power tool" that enables us to be skillful at fulfilling our God-ordained purpose. The Bible says,

*"Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth! He has given King David a wise son, gifted with **skill** and understanding, who will build a Temple for the Lord and a royal palace for himself."*

2 Chron. 2:12 NLT

The third jewel excavated from the request of Solomon is the insight to ask God for the ability to know the **difference** between right and wrong. This was a critical request. The moment Solomon asked God to know the difference between right and wrong, he was asking God for wisdom.

Solomon was not content with having power and skill to do the work, but he also wanted discernment to guide and complete the work. With wisdom comes discernment. The power of discernment would enable him to see and understand with his spiritual eyes what his anatomical eyes could not detect. Discernment is a powerful gift from God! It empowers you to see with your spirit, with wisdom and with your experience.

*"Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those with **discernment** listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall."*

Hos 14:9 NLT

Having the power to discern right from wrong enables the person who possesses wisdom to see evil when it is disguised as good. **Discernment empowers you to perceive deception!**

As King of a prosperous nation, Solomon would have many deceivers infiltrating his court, whose ultimate goal would be to steal from him rather than serve him. By utilizing wisdom in the form of discernment, he would be empowered to see through their deception.

Skillful deceivers are master manipulators who work their magic to make their illusions appear real. They thrive on using their tricks to prey on the naïve. Wisdom empowers you to see through the schemes of the deceitful. I cannot count the number of people who have approached me with a smile on their face only to reveal later their smile was a façade for their trickery. Through the life of Solomon, we will discover how to utilize wisdom to watch and weed out the wolves that show up in sheep's clothing.

As children of "Light," we must learn how to navigate in a dark world. Being able to discern what is really going on around us is essential for making good choices. When we are deceived, it is usually

the result of not discerning when falsehood appears as truth. We must be on guard to detect a lie when it is dressed up as the truth.

I am reminded of a story a friend of mine shared with our church regarding a "lie" that was dressed up as the truth. He said, "Truth and Lie were walking by a riverbank and decided to take a swim. After swimming a while, Lie got out, put Truth's clothes on and left. When Truth got out of the water and began to look for his clothes, he realized that Lie had taken his clothes. After looking at Lie's clothes for a minute, he decided to walk home naked. While walking home people began to stare at Truth until someone asked him "Truth, why are you naked?" Truth responded, "Because Lie put my clothes on after we went swimming, and left me with his clothes." The person asked, "Well Truth, why didn't you put Lie's clothes on?" Truth responded **"I would rather be the naked Truth than to be a dressed-up Lie!"**

Wisdom Applied

Wisdom is the mother of discernment. She is pregnant with discernment, prudence, understanding, knowledge and skill. By wisdom, we are able to detect the dressed-up lies that appear as truth.

Wisdom is a window that penetrates the barriers of deception, thereby allowing us to see the truth. There is a classic story in the Bible that illustrates the power of discernment that was used to penetrate a wall of deception and expose it for what it was—a **LIE!**

One day, two prostitutes came to King Solomon to solve a domestic dispute. It is interesting to note that this is the first story mentioned in the narrative of King Solomon's life after God granted him his request for wisdom. The Bible says,

"Some time later, two prostitutes came to the king to have an argument settled. "Please, my lord," one of them began, "this woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to a baby while she was with me in the house..."

1 Kings 3:16-17 NLT

The dispute was about two mothers who each had a child. After one of the children died, the mother of the dead child switched her lifeless child for the living child while the other mother was sleeping. When the mother awoke and realized her child was substituted, she approached the other mother about the suspected deception. The accused mother denied and defended her innocence regarding the charges until the domestic dispute had to be heard as a civil matter at the court of King Solomon.

The two women began to present their case, both vigorously claiming to be the parent of the living child. When King Solomon heard the dispute, He spoke up and said,

"All right, bring me a sword." So a sword was brought to the king. Then he said, "Cut the living child in two, and give half to one woman and half to

the other!" Then the woman who was the real mother of the living child, and who loved him very much, cried out, "Oh no, my lord! Give her the child—please do not kill him!" But the other woman said, "All right, he will be neither yours nor mine; divide him between us!" Then the king said, "Do not kill the child, but give him to the woman who wants him to live, for she is his mother!" **1 Kings 24-27**
NLT

Although it must have been very painful, the Bible highlights that the real mother was prepared to live **without** having her living child rather than to settle with having half of a dead one! However, the deceiving mother was so bitter, she was willing to settle for half of a dead child so neither mother could embrace the living one.

Bitterness is deadly! The toxic poison of bitterness is so venomous, it blinded one mother to be willing to take the life of an innocent child rather than to seek God to be healed from the pain of losing one. Though the dead child's mother was experiencing a great challenge, God's benevolence could have healed her from such an immense loss.

God has the power to raise the dead, so He certainly could have restored the joy of the woman in anguish and blessed her life with the birth of another baby. Instead, she resorted to deception out of desperation. Her great pain triggered her desperation to morph into deception.

We must be aware of those living all around who have become desperate through misfortune. Something catastrophic might have distressed them

to the point of desperation. However, there are other people living around us who are deceptive by nature. They thrive on being able to trick innocent and gullible people out of their possessions. We need the wisdom of God to guard, guide and govern us to deal with the desperate or deceptive individuals who cross our path daily.

Thank God for the wisdom of King Solomon! He looked through the barriers of bitterness and deception to discern who the true mother was. Wisdom revealed that the genuine love of the real mother would sacrifice her own life rather than see her innocent child dead. Through the skill of wisdom, King Solomon could discern the nature of a true mother, and reveal the nature of the false one. **Wisdom is a window that allows you to see through barriers!**

Wisdom is a Window

Webster's Dictionary defines a window as "an opening, especially in the wall of a building for admission of light and air." There are two important functions for a window. First, a window is a tool that enables you to see through a wall. Second, a window is a tool that allows light or air to enter a room.

The first purpose of a window is to enable you to see through barriers. Walls without windows obstruct your vision and prevent you from seeing inside or out. Secondly, a window enables something such as light or air to pass through it. This function allows a building to benefit from

sunlight by illuminating a room or allowing air to enter in and refresh it.

Wisdom can be compared to a window on a wall. Wisdom is a window that allows you to see through the “human walls” that attempt to obstruct your view or get in your way. **Wisdom allows you to see through and overcome barriers by utilizing the Word and Spirit of God to illuminate and empower your life!**

Wisdom is a window that enables you to see through the barriers of deception and lies. Wisdom is a window that allows the refreshing presence of the Spirit of God to renew and reinvigorate your life. Pursuing Wisdom must become a priority in your life. With Her by your side, She will protect, preserve, promote and empower your life (Prov. 4:5-9). Wisdom is a window!

Defining Wisdom

Chapter 2

*"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence...counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; **I am understanding**, I have strength." **Prov. 8:12-14 NKJV***

Understanding Differences

In the 8th chapter of the Book of Proverbs, wisdom is personified! Wisdom declares boldly who She is; **"I AM UNDERSTANDING!"** Although Wisdom has several definitions, this definition is the foundation on which all others rest. Wisdom's fundamental purpose is to empower you to understand; specifically, to understand differences. Whether the differences are between right and wrong, good and evil, true and false, hot and cold, black and white, or success and failure, Wisdom's chief responsibility is to teach you how to understand and discern differences.

Whatever purpose you have been designed by God to fulfill, you will need wisdom to help you fulfill it. Wisdom will shine a spotlight on your circumstances so that you discern what is before you.

A broader definition of Wisdom is the application of knowledge and understanding for skillful and successful living. Utilizing Wisdom to become proficient will guard, guide and govern our lives for the glory of God. Great purpose requires great Wisdom! I believe this is why King Solomon asked for Wisdom rather than money when given an opportunity to choose between the two. Solomon

was thoroughly convinced God's Wisdom would insure his success as he skillfully applied her in his undertakings.

The Anatomy of Wisdom

The Encarta World English Dictionary defines anatomy as "The study of the structure of the body: the branch of science that studies the physical structure of animals, plants, and other organisms." Wisdom has an anatomical structure. Proverb 8:12-21 reveal the components that make up the framework of the anatomy of Wisdom.

"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. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries." **Prov. 8:12-21 NKJV**

When we deconstruct the verses found in Proverb 8:12-21, and reconstruct them to erect a new and organized structure; Wisdom reveals seven unique features. Wisdom reveals: who She is, what

She has, what She hates, what She loves, who She dwells with, what She discovers, and what She does.

- 1) **She is:** Understanding
- 2) **She has:** Counsel, Strength, Riches, Honor, Righteousness and Wealth
- 3) **She hates:** Pride, arrogance, evil, the evil way (corruption), and a perverse mouth
- 4) **She loves:** Them that love her (Diligent seekers find her)
- 5) **She dwells with:** Prudence (good judgment)
- 6) **She discovers:** knowledge and discretion (discernment)
- 7) **By Her:** Rulers rule; Leaders lead; Lawmakers legislate; Governors govern

Types of Wisdom

Chapter 3

Biblical Wisdom

The Bible describes five types of wisdom:

- 1) Wisdom of God
- 2) Written Wisdom
- 3) Spiritual Wisdom
- 4) Gift of Wisdom
- 5) Practical Wisdom

1) Wisdom of God

The Wisdom of God is Jesus Christ. He is wisdom personified. Jesus is the supreme expression of the revelation of the Wisdom of God. This Wisdom is active, alive and is the manifestation of a powerful person!

*"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the **wisdom of God.**" 1 Cor. 1:24 KJV*

How do we access this type of wisdom? We receive the Wisdom of God as a result of salvation. When we ask Jesus to come into our heart as Lord and Savior, He furnishes us with His Spirit and Mind (John 10:22; 1 Cor. 2:16).

Through the empowering presence of the Spirit of Lord and the utilization of His Mind, we are able to act on His behalf as representatives or ambassadors of the Kingdom of God (2 Cor. 5:20). By way of His wisdom, we overcome the Devil, his

dark deeds as well as his deceptive practices that are spawned from his demonic kingdom.

As children of light, we have been commissioned by God to "let our light shine" so that God is glorified (Matt 5:16). When we release our light in the midst of a dark world through our words, witness and walk, those who walk in darkness will experience his marvelous light and become attracted to Christ. This Wisdom is the most significant of the five types of wisdom because it leads to eternal life.

Our relationship with the Wisdom of God is developed through spending intimate time with Jesus in worship and prayer. As we cultivate this quality time with Christ, we will grow in discerning his voice that is founded upon His Word (Bible). Our time and intimacy will develop a love language whereby we will distinguish Jesus's voice above all others. When this occurs, He will be able to lead us wherever He desires through His inner voice that resides within us. As the Lord leads us by His voice, we become His spokesmen and women who speak on His behalf (Jer. 15:19). All believers possess the Wisdom of God.

*The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep **recognize his voice** and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they **know his voice**. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."*
John 10:3-5 NLT

2) Written Wisdom

After Moses prepared the Israelites for possession of the Promised Land, he made it clear the written word was their wisdom and understanding. He said,

*"Behold, I have taught you **statutes and judgments**, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your **wisdom** and your **understanding** in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." **Deut. 4:5-6 KJV***

As we study the Word of God, the Holy Spirit begins to illuminate scripture so that revelation knowledge is released to the born-again believer who is reading or listening to scripture. This revelation knowledge imparts great spiritual wisdom, insight and understanding regarding Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God, the Church, Scripture and God's purpose for our lives. This revelation knowledge is not human-inspired, but God-inspired.

3) Spiritual Wisdom

Spiritual wisdom is a byproduct or fruit that comes from the Wisdom of God (Jesus Christ). One primary characteristic of Spiritual Wisdom is training God's people to discern the difference between good and evil. Without this relevant insight, we are easily deceived by "wolves in sheep's clothing."

The Wisdom of God gives us access to eternal life. However, Spiritual Wisdom is the result of possessing eternal life. This type of wisdom is used to assist us with growing in the knowledge of God through the scripture. Spiritual wisdom is birthed by the Spirit of God, and is developed through studying the written wisdom of God's Word and being led by the Holy Spirit. All believers can possess this wisdom.

The fuel for spiritual wisdom is the written wisdom that originates from the Word of God. God's Word (Bible) gives us spiritual insight into the mind of God. Through the combination of God's written wisdom and spiritual wisdom, we experience supernatural wisdom and understanding that empower us to grow in the knowledge of God.

*"But the wisdom that is **from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."*

James 3:17-18 NKJV

*"I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you **spiritual wisdom** and **insight** so that you might **grow in your knowledge of God.**"*

Eph. 1:16-18 NLT

4) The Word of Wisdom

The Word of Wisdom is "a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine

purpose and plan in the mind and will of God.”¹ Simply stated, the Word of Wisdom is a **spiritual gift** that reveals God’s plans and purposes. God alone decides who gets this gift of Wisdom.

*"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal (so that we can help each other). For to one is given by the Spirit **the word of wisdom**; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;" 1 Cor. 12:7-8 KJV*

*"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally **as he will**." 1 Cor. 12:11 KJV*

5) Practical Wisdom

Our final description of Biblical wisdom is called Practical Wisdom. Practical Wisdom teaches and trains us how to deal wisely in the affairs of our world and surroundings. This type of wisdom is used for practicing prudence or good judgment. The source of this wisdom is cognitive or mental, and is developed by our experience and practice. Anyone can possess this wisdom through education and training.

One of the most important features of Practical Wisdom is utilizing it to acquire a skill. The Encarta World English Dictionary defines skill as:

1. Ability to do something well: the ability to do something well, usually gained through training or experience.

2. Something requiring training to do well: something that requires training and experience to do well, e.g. an art or trade.

Practical Wisdom endows us to apply life skills for effective and efficient living. Practical Wisdom is skill applied! Practical Wisdom is skill in action! The application of practical wisdom will empower you to utilize knowledge and understanding skillfully and strategically so that your life is purposeful and proficient.

In conclusion, Wisdom is the application of knowledge and understanding for skillful and successful living. Utilizing wisdom skillfully and strategically empowers and equips us to discern divine and demonic activity. Wisdom is a window that will enable you to see through barriers and overcome them. Most important, Wisdom is Jesus Christ personified!

How to Develop Skill

Chapter 4

Observe people who are good at their work — skilled workers are always in demand and admired; they don't take a back seat to anyone.

Prov. 22:29 MSG

Wisdom is skill in action! Wisdom is the application of skill to accomplish your goal. Skillful people are sought after and are in great demand. The person who is wealthy in wisdom and skill will attract the wealth of those who have resources.

Solomon used skillful people to construct the temple. It did not matter how nice, loving or attractive a person was, if they did not have the wisdom and skill to do the task, they would not have received employment and the wealth that was associated with constructing the temple.

The Strong's Concordance uses the same Hebrew word "Chaakmaah" for **Wisdom** located in Proverb 4:7, and **skillful** located in 1 Chronicles 28:21.

Wisdom (chaakmaah #2451) is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. **Prov. 4:7 KJV**

*"Behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing **skillful** (chaakmaah #2451) man, for any manner of*

service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment."

1 Chron. 28:21 KJV

Developing Skill

Developing skill in the areas of our God ordained purpose and passion is very important if we are going to live a productive life. In order to develop a skill, there are seven components that are crucial and must be implemented. They are: Time, Teachers, Training, Testing, Tools, Techniques and Tenacity.

Time

We must be willing to carve out time for planning and practice. Whenever we practice anything correctly, we become better at whatever we are practicing. Without proper planning and time to practice, we delay a critical aspect of learning. There is a blessing for individuals who do not just talk, but take the time to put into practice what they have learned. Jesus said, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice (Luke 11:28 NLT).

Teachers

To become skillful, we must have models that can successfully demonstrate how to acquire learning and properly execute a task with skill. These models must have knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught and must be capable of transferring this knowledge to their students. King Solomon shares with us in

the book of Proverbs his father David was his teacher who mentored him concerning effective living. Solomon said, "My father taught me, 'Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live (Prov. 4:4 NLT).'"

Training

During the process of training to acquire a skill, we must have time to practice and repeat the skill in both low and high level stress environments. Having time to train in both settings under the supervision of a knowledgeable tutor will aid in the preparation process to apply what we have learned.

Having simulated experiences gives us the opportunity to perfect our skills in a constructive learning environment. During our time of training to acquire a skill, we must be willing to diligently put in the hard work in to become skillful at our undertaking.

The Apostle Paul compared those who continue to use milk when they should be eating meat as immature. People, who remain on a diet of the "milk" of God's Word rather than the "meat" of God's Word, are limited to a basic level of living instead of productive living that is a result of being skillful. Paul said, "Solid food is for those who are mature, who **through training** have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong (Heb. 5:14 NLT).

Testing

We will never know what we have learned until we have put our learning through testing. I like

to say, "Whatever is in you comes out of you when pressure is put on you." The champion in you will only come out of you when pressure is applied to you. Testing is the surest way to put pressure on you in order to certify that you are ready for promotion.

God will test you, and the Devil will tempt you! God will test you to develop your character and certify you for promotion. The Devil will tempt you for your demotion, destruction and demise! Never let the testing discourage you. In the midst of every test, be mindful that our God knows what He is doing. Moses said to the Israelites, "Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands (Deut. 8:2 NLT)."

Tools

Tools are the instruments, equipment and technology that we use in order become proficient and efficient in our undertaking. Tools empower us to build and make improvements toward our goals and objectives.

As we advance in life, machines, tools and technology equip us to do more work faster and with better results. Tools are not only helpful with promoting our life but protecting it as well. King Uzziah used technology to protect his people from invasion by utilizing advanced weapons to guard his city. The Bible says, "Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and

slingstones for the entire army. In Jerusalem he made machines designed by skillful men for use on the towers and on the corner defenses to shoot arrows and hurl large stones. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful (2 Chron. 26:14-15 NIV)."

Technique

Practicing the proper technique is essential to becoming skillful. There is a correct method of applying a skill to get the best results and to perform at our optimal level. We acquire proper technique by looking, listening, and practicing the skills demonstrated by the skillful teacher or model. When this occurs, we are able to comprehend and execute our skills properly. Regarding models, the Bible says, "Friend, don't go along with evil. Model the good. The person who does good does God's work. The person who does evil falsifies God, doesn't know the first thing about God (3 John 11 MSG)."

Tenacity

Lastly, developing skill requires tenacity. We who are committed, persistent and determined to develop our skill, will fortify our lives with the necessary inner strength and character that are needed to achieve our goals by being tenacious. When we develop a tenacious attitude, we position ourselves to increase our resolve to stand our ground and battle for our rights to succeed. The scripture declares, "Committed and persistent work

pays off; get-rich-quick schemes are ripoffs (Prov. 28:20 MSG)."

Let us be mindful that we can become skillful and successful at good things or bad things. The Bible reveals in the book of Joshua that we can have "good success" (Joshua 1:8). It stands to reason if we can have good success, we can have bad success. Good success is success defined by God. It is a success that He endorses and co-signs.

We can also become "experts in evil." This is the Devil's domain! He thrives on empowering wicked people to prosper in their wickedness. The Apostle Peter shined a floodlight on the false prophets who became experts in greed! The Bible says,

*"With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are **experts in greed** - an accursed brood!" 2 Peter 2:14 NIV*

Since we have the power to use our skills for good or evil, let us choose daily to be proficient at godliness so that God can endorse our actions, bless our lives and prosper us with His Wisdom!

How to Develop Wisdom

Chapter 5

How to Develop Wisdom

There are seven basic steps that we can take to increase wisdom. They are: ask God for it, increase humility, study God's Word, train in God's Word, seek wise counsel, pray, and release the mind of Christ.

1) Ask God for It

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

James 1:5 NLT

2) Increase Humility

"Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor." **Prov. 15:33 NLT**

3) Studying God's Word for Wisdom and Understanding

*"These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. Their purpose is **to teach people wisdom** and discipline, **to help them understand** the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair."* **Prov. 1:1-3 NLT**

We must study God's Word! While studying, we **read** God's Word, **write** down what we read, **reflect** on what we have read and written down, and **rehearse** (practice) what we have read, written and reflected on. The Bible commands us to,

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Tim. 2:15 KJV**

A great place to start in order to gain wisdom is to read a chapter of Proverbs every day. There are 31 chapters, read one chapter every day (i.e., on 10th day of the month, read the 10th chapter). This will ensure a healthy and consistent diet of consuming wisdom that is in God's Word.

I also recommend that you read a version such as: New International Version (NIV); New Living Translation (NLT); or Message Version (MSG). You will not only enjoy the colorful way these versions express the same idea in different words, but you will also better comprehend what is being said in comparison to the Old English Version (King James Version). Study daily!

4) Train in God's Word to Develop and Increase Discernment

*"There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again **the basic things about God's***

word. *You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who **through training** have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong."*
Heb. 5:11-14 NLT

5) Seek and Ask Wise Counsel

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." **Prov. 12:15 KJV**

It is very important that you seek wise counsel from mature Christians. A mature, experienced and successful mentor will help you miss the pitfalls that all humans face. No one has time to experience everything. We must observe and learn some lessons from a distance through experiences and advice of others.

6) Pray! Pray! Pray!

We must communicate with God throughout our day. This can occur by conversation or meditation. Putting God in first place by talking to Him, thinking about Him and seeking His guidance will empower your day with His presence. Prayer increases our sensitivity to hear what God is saying and to see what God is doing around us. Prayer also increases our intimacy with God by spending time with him. Ed Luis Cole wrote, "Prayer produces

intimacy. You become intimate with the one to whom you pray, the one for whom you pray, and the one with whom you pray." ²

Through prayer, we discover God's will, ways and wisdom. God wants to prosper us, protect us and give us hope for the future! Prayer is the vehicle that brings God's future plan into our present day.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**" Jer. 29:11-14 NIV*

7) Release the Mind of Christ

Finally, we increase wisdom by discovering and releasing the wisdom that is integrated within the Mind of Christ. God has deposited within the child of God perfect wisdom. This perfect wisdom is called the Mind of Christ.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."
1 Cor. 2:16 KJV

"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." **1 Cor. 1:24 KJV**

The Mind of Christ has perfect wisdom, knows all things, and can transform our lives when we submit to God's will, read God's Word and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. When we read God's Word, we learn about God's will. This enables us to see ourselves based upon what God has created us to be. As we continue to read God's Word, we discover the valuable treasures He has deposited within us as a result of Jesus Christ living on the inside of us. By way of reading, reflecting and rehearsing the written wisdom of God, we release the Mind of Christ!

If you are willing to pursue wisdom as your top priority, wisdom will not only become a window that endows you to see through the barriers that hinder your progress, wisdom will empower you with the necessary tools needed to overcome the obstacles that stand in your way.

END NOTES

¹ Kenneth E. Hagin, *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*, Faith Library Publications, Tulsa, Oklahoma 1991

² Edwin Louis Cole, *Maximized Manhood- A Guide to Family Survival*, Whitaker House, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania © 1982

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