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"Discretion, Discretion, Discretion"



02.jpg

¹My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, ²making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; ³yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.



03.jpg

⁶For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, ⁸guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. ⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path...



04.jpg

...¹⁰for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ¹¹discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you... ²⁰So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.

— Proverbs 2:1-11, 20 ESV



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How do you define it?



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“Discretion is prudence, foresight and knowledge that enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution, judgment, primarily regarding one’s own conduct.”

—American Dictionary of the English Language, Noah Webster, 1828



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Discretion

The power to perceive or ability to make responsible decisions.



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08.jpg

Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman without discretion. —Proverbs 11:22 ESV



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09.jpg

“Notable talents are not necessarily connected with discretion.” —Junius



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³Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places...
⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”



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⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.”



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12.jpg

⁷“And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in.
⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.”



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13.jpg

⁹“Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

—1 Kings 3:3, 5-10 ESV



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14.jpg

Discretion

The power to perceive or ability to make responsible decisions.



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Discernment

The power to see what is not evident to the average mind.



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16.jpg

1 Kings 3:16-28



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17.jpg

Discrimination

The power to distinguish and select what is true or appropriate or excellent.



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18.jpg

James 2:1-8



3-D

19.jpg

“I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion.”

—Thomas Jefferson



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23.jpg

²¹My son, do not lose sight of these—
keep sound wisdom and discretion,
²²and they will be life for your soul
and adornment for your neck. ²³Then
you will walk on your way securely,
and your foot will not stumble. ²⁴If
you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep
will be sweet.

—Proverbs 3:21-24 ESV



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24.jpg

How do you develop it?



3-D

25.jpg

How do you develop it?

Ask and Seek



3-D

26.jpg

... ⁴if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden
treasures, ⁵then you will under-
stand the fear of the LORD and
find the knowledge of God. ⁶For
the LORD gives wisdom; from
his mouth come knowledge
and understanding...

—Proverbs 2:4-6 ESV



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27.jpg

If any of you lacks wisdom,
let him ask God, who gives
generously to all without
reproach, and it will be given
him.

—James 1:5 ESV



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28.jpg

¹²Now we have received not the spirit
of the world, but the Spirit who is
from God, that we might understand
the things freely given us by God.

¹³And we impart this in words not
taught by human wisdom but taught
by the Spirit, interpreting
spiritual truths to those who
are spiritual.



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29.jpg

¹⁴The natural person does not accept
the things of the Spirit of God, for
they are folly to him, and he is not
able to understand them because
they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The
spiritual person judges all things, but
is himself to be judged by no one.

¹⁶“For who has understood the mind
of the Lord so as to instruct him?”
But we have the mind of Christ.

—1 Corinthians 2:12-16 ESV



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How do you develop it?

Study and Know



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31.jpg

The unfolding of your words gives
light; it imparts understanding to
the simple. —Proverbs 119:130 ESV



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32.jpg

⁹⁷Oh how I love your law! It is my
meditation all the day. ⁹⁸Your
commandment makes me wiser
than my enemies, for it is ever with
me. ⁹⁹I have more understanding
than all my teachers, for your
testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰I understand more than the
aged, for I keep your precepts.
—Psalm 119:97-100 ESV



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How do you develop it?
Listen and Learn



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The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. —Proverbs 12:15 ESV



35.jpg

Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. —Proverbs 15:32 ESV



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How do you develop it?
Think, then Act



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¹⁵The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. ¹⁶One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

—Proverbs 14:15-16 ESV



38.jpg

A prudent person sees trouble coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered. —Proverbs 33:2 MSG



40.jpg

“Don’t just do something—
stand there!” —Don Seymour



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41.jpg

...discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you...
—Proverbs 2:11 ESV



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