

"Discretion, Discretion, Discretion"



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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.

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...

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...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



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



Discretion The power to perceive or ability to make responsible decisions.



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



"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."

'And 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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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.

8 And 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."

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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Discretion
The power to perceive or ability
to make responsible decisions.



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



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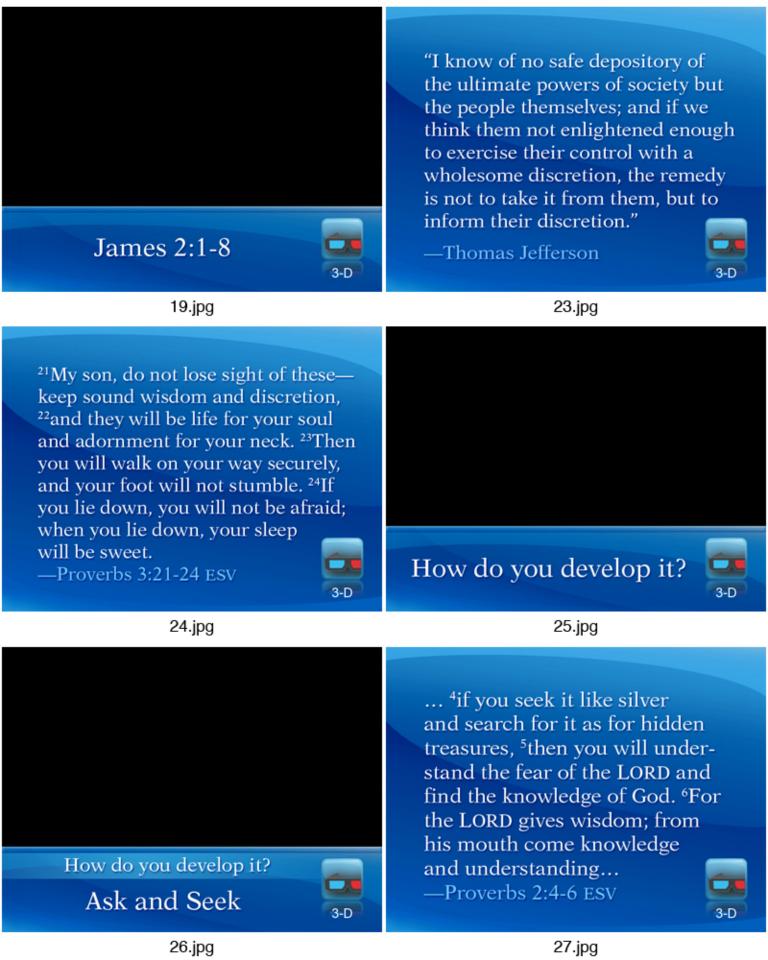
1 Kings 3:16-28



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



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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



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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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

How do you develop it?





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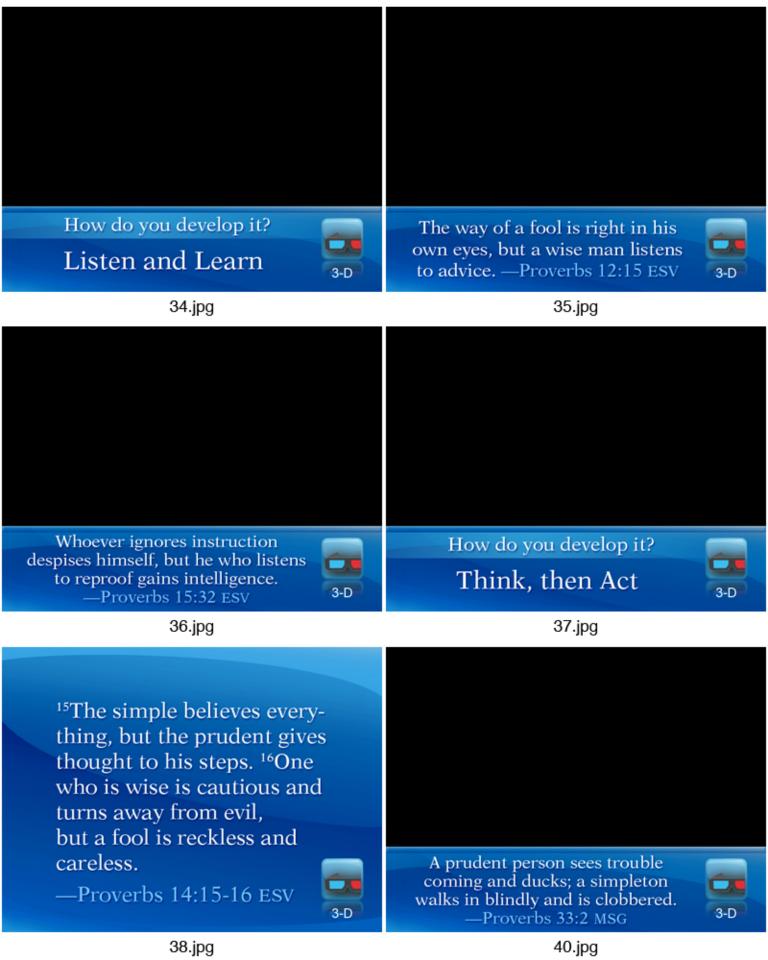
⁹⁷Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. 99I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. 100I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

-Psalm 119:97-100 ESV

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

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