

<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.  
—James 1:5-8 ESV

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...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of **wisdom** and of revelation in the knowledge of Him... —Eph. 1:17 ESV

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual **wisdom** and understanding... —Colossians 1:9 ESV

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Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as **wise**... —Ephesians 5:15 ESV

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is **wise** in this age, let him become a fool that he may become **wise**. —1 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

Walk in **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. —Colossians 4:5 ESV

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## What is wisdom?

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“Knowledge is the ability to take things apart, but wisdom is the ability to put things together.” —Unknown

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<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

—1 Corinthians 1:18, 20-21 ESV

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No other foundation can any lay...  
—I Corinthians 3:11

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Why ask for wisdom?

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“Every experience God gives us,  
every person He puts in our  
lives is the perfect preparation  
for the future that only He can  
see.” —Corrie Ten Boom

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“Wisdom enables us to turn  
trials into treasures.”

-.010.tiff

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

—Edward Mote, *The Solid Rock*

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How do I gain wisdom?

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## How do I gain wisdom? The Word of God

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<sup>5</sup>Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance... <sup>7</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.  
—Proverbs 1:5, 7 ESV

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. —Proverbs 2:6 ESV

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Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.  
—Proverbs 3:7 ESV

The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving. —Proverbs 14:8 ESV

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

-.016.tiff

<sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word. <sup>102</sup>I do not turn aside from Your rules, for You have taught me. <sup>103</sup>How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup>Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.  
—Psalm 119:97-104 ESV

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## How do I gain wisdom? The Counsel of Others

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- A stupid person makes mistakes and learns nothing.
- A smart person makes mistakes and learns from them.
- A wise person observes the mistakes of others and learns from their experience.

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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

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. —Proverbs 13:20 ESV

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.  
—Proverbs 15:22 ESV

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How do I gain wisdom?  
The Sting of Criticism

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<sup>5</sup>Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup>Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.  
—Proverbs 27:5-6 ESV

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How do I gain wisdom?  
The School of “Hard Knocks”

-.023.tiff

James 1:2-4

-.024.tiff

How do I gain wisdom?  
The Practice of Prayer

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James 1:5-6; 4:2-3

-.026.tiff

<sup>7</sup>Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?

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<sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!  
—Matthew 7:7-11 ESV

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And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

—Hebrews 11:6 ESV

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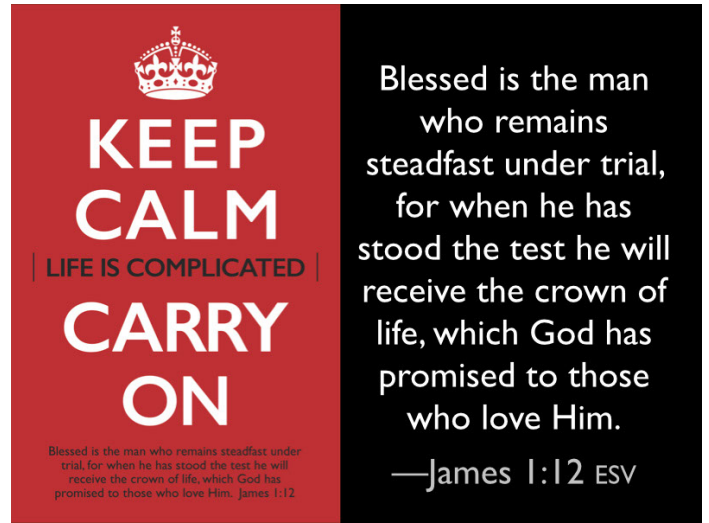
Matthew 14:22-33

“O you of little faith...” —Matt. 4:31

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