



Wisdom From God Meaghan May

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. — Proverbs 3:13-15

Good advice is never on short supply. While scrolling social media or meandering through a bookstore, I am overwhelmed by three-step formulas for self-improvement. And honestly, I am enticed by simple solutions for making priorities while alleviating pressures. Who can say no to a simple shortcut for reducing life's challenges?

But the "Good news" of the Bible is distinct from the good advice of the world. The outcomes are drastically different. Learning to think biblically helps you navigate a world immersed in short-sighted pleasures and shallow solutions. While God's ways work at a practical level, what Christian women need even more are hearts shaped by the good news of redemption. The goal of wisdom is not to reap its benefits, but to be drawn to its source. Apart from God, there is no reliable wisdom.

Christian women may be confronted by challenging circumstances that differ from the original audience of Scripture, but we still need timeless wisdom. Biblical wisdom comes from "the fear of the Lord." Women who fear the Lord recognize God as Creator, Sustainer, and Sovereign. In His proper place and seen in the right proportion, we are equipped to navigate life with wisdom.

True knowledge of God is found studying the Word of God. Proverbs is one of the books of Wisdom literature in the Bible. A proverb is an observation about how life works that conveys truth to realign us with God's purposes in the world. Wisdom is more than making right choices. When you read the first four verses of this book, you find other synonyms conveying the meaning of wisdom: instruction, insight, and prudence (Proverbs 1:1-4).

Instruction is knowledge imparted through training. One who is instructed is teachable, consistent, and resourceful. To be instructed is to function in relationship with another and not autonomously. *Insight* involves discernment. Wise women display a "depth of insight"¹ that perceives what others may not. They distinguish between choices that are good, better, and best, or bad, worse and worst, instead of all good or all bad.

And finally, one who is *prudent* "lives strategically."² Wise people depend upon the Lord to direct their steps. When they consider the path ahead, they also identify obstacles that might impede progress. But remember the life of Jesus. His contemporaries would have considered Him a failure even though He accomplished all that the Father intended for Him. The one who is prudent does not measure success by worldly advancement as much as by living faithfully.

Although the Bible will not tell you which school to attend, career to choose, or who to marry, it will enable you to know the Lord more deeply. Wise is what we become in relationship with God. Perhaps, if He had provided a system of rules for every circumstance we would face, we would have relied upon it instead? Your understanding will not develop overnight, but you are not alone as you grow in wisdom. Jesus became for us "wisdom from God"³ and the one who pursued you is "with you always."⁴

Let's Chat

- Do you know Christ? See 2 Peter 3:18. How is He inviting you to grow in reliance upon Him as you face unknowns ahead? What does Psalm 14:1a say in contrast?
- James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him." In what area of life do you need to grow in wisdom? How has God used other difficulties in your life to make you wiser?
- Where is God helping you to see distinctions between things that you may not have seen before? Where would you like the Lord to give you insight? What might it look like for you to depend upon Him for that understanding?

Take-Away Truth

Wisdom is a person, and wise is what we become in on-going relationship with Him.

Find more conversation starters: <https://women.pcacdm.org/made-for-more>



¹ Philippians 1:9

² Pastor Timothy Keller, *God's Wisdom for Navigating Life: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs*, p4.

³ 1 Corinthians 1:30

⁴ Matthew 28:20