



## Exploring the Character of God

### Lesson 5: God Is Wise

*Proverbs 2:1-6 & 3:5-7*

**Wise**—having the power of discerning and judging properly as to what is true or right; possessing discernment, judgment, or discretion.

**Scripture Text:** *Proverbs 2:1-6 & 3:5-7*

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, <sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— <sup>3</sup> indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, <sup>4</sup> and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

1. Is there a difference between **wisdom** and **knowledge**?

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2. Where in our culture do people look for wisdom?

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3. How do we recognize wisdom?

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**Scripture Text: Proverbs 3:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

**Wait on the Lord's perfect timing. Rely on God's wisdom rather than human understanding.**

4. How do you navigate the tension between trusting God's wisdom and trusting your own competence?

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5. How can a person intentionally cultivate humility?

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## **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Wisdom is the product of a real and intimate relationship with God, which means growing in wisdom is a process. Like any relationship, the more you walk with God and grow in your relationship with Him, the more you will discover His wisdom. So, the promise of God's guidance in verse 6 should not be understood as a passive trust in God; it's the by-product of thinking about Him "in all your ways."

The way to wisdom is in trusting the Lord to give the guidance needed. So, what does "trusting the Lord" look like?

- ▶ **Wait on God and His perfect timing.** Trusting God means walking in step with the Holy Spirit and patiently living on His timetable. God knows everything and is in complete control, so you can surrender the details of every situation to Him.
- ▶ **Rely on God's wisdom rather than human understanding.** Relying on God shouldn't be a passive activity. Take the time to deliberately study and meditate on God's Word in order to gain His perspective on your life.

Trust and obedience to God will result in receiving divine wisdom. The promise that God will direct your paths (v. 6) is based on the premise that you trust Him with all your heart (v. 5). Your trust is reflected in your obedience.

"Trust" (verse 5) carries the idea of prostrating yourself. It's an inward motivation to subject yourself to God and be vulnerable before Him. This is pictured in the physical act of not only kneeling in submission, but even lying face down. When you submit yourself to God in that way, you are in a position to fully hear His wisdom and receive His loving guidance.