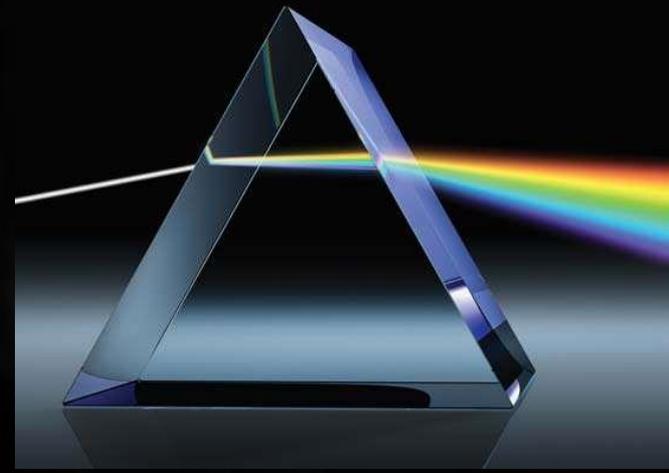


*<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are*



*different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

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*wisdom*

# Definition of Wisdom

**"Capacity of judging rightly in matters relating to life and conduct; soundness of judgement in the choice of means and ends; sometimes, less strictly, sound sense, esp. in practical affairs: opp. to folly;"**

**Charles Spurgeon defined wisdom as "the right use of knowledge".**

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T H E S P I R I T

# Wisdom is vital

***Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.***

**Proverbs 4:5-7**

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# Wisdom is desirable

*‘When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it’.*

**Genesis 3:6**

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# Give me Wisdom – Solomon said

*"Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honour, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honour, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."*

**1 Chronicles 1: 11,12**

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# Where do we look for wisdom?

- 1. Following the example of Adam and Eve do we look for wisdom independently of God.**
- 2. Or do we follow the example of Solomon and ask God for wisdom?**

# Ask God for Wisdom

*'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.'*

**James 1:5**

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***18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:***

***'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'***

***20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.***

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***22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.***

***26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.***

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***27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.’***

***1 Corinthians 1:18-31***

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# A further dimension

*Access to heavenly knowledge and wisdom in particular situations.*

- Evident in the life of Jesus.
- Made available to us today by the Holy Spirit.

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# Heavenly Wisdom and knowledge the Imperial Tax

<sup>13</sup> Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.<sup>14</sup> They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay or shouldn’t we?”

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# Heavenly Wisdom and knowledge the Imperial Tax

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. “Why are you trying to trap me?” he asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” <sup>16</sup> They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

And they were amazed at him.

Mark 12:13-17

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# Heavenly Wisdom and knowledge the paralysed man

*When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

*Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, ...*

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# Heavenly Wisdom and knowledge the paralysed man

*... and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."*

# Heavenly Wisdom and knowledge the paralysed man

*So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

**Mark 2:5-12**

# As for Jesus – so too for us

- 1. How close is your walk with God?**
- 2. How hungry are you for more of God?**
- 3. How expectant are you that God will speak words of knowledge and wisdom?**

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