

# THE BEST AND MOST USEFUL VEHICLE YOU'LL EVER USE



God's Wisdom to  
live life in its fullness  
**until you overflow**



**NICKY S. RAIBORDE**

Copyright © 2026, Nicky S. Raiborde

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review written for inclusion in a magazine, newspaper or broadcast.

Published in India by Prowess Publishing,  
GJ Complex, Thadikara Swamy Koil St, Alandur,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600016

ISBN: 978-1-5457-6727-6

eISBN: 978-1-5457-6728-3

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication

## Table of Contents

[Introduction The Best and Most Useful Vehicle](#)

[Chapter 1 The Pursuit of Wisdom](#)

[Chapter 2 Questions that open the door to Wisdom](#)

[Chapter 3 Wisdom Builds a House](#)

[Chapter 4 First Pillars Learning to see Before You Act](#)

[Chapter 5 The Next Pillars Learning to Walk with Others](#)

[Chapter 6 Why We Need Wisdom More Than We Think](#)

[Chapter 7 How is Wisdom Received?](#)

[Chapter 8 Is there a path to grow in Wisdom?](#)

[Chapter 9 The Four Voices of Wisdom](#)

[Chapter 10 Discerning the Friendly Counsel of God](#)

[Chapter 11 Wisdom Works on Monday Morning](#)

[Chapter 12 When You Can't See Tomorrow](#)

[Chapter 13 When There Is No One to Love](#)

[Chapter 14 When Your Body Won't Cooperate](#)

[Chapter 15 When the Money Has Run Out](#)

## Chapter One

### The Pursuit of Wisdom

One of the greatest blessings of my life has been my dad's steady, faithful mentoring. As you go through this book, you'll see frequent references to my dad and mom, and that's intentional. Their influence on my life has been deeply significant, and I make no apologies for highlighting them.

I find it particularly beautiful that conversations about wisdom frequently evoke Solomon, the wisest man ever — and even he was shaped by his parents. For example, the book of Proverbs is essentially a father sharing wisdom with his son, illustrating how knowledge is passed down through generations.

If you read Proverbs carefully, you will notice the phrase *"My son"* appearing repeatedly. In ancient Hebrew, the word *"son"* means *"the builder of the family name."* Sons were not merely heirs; they were standard-bearers. They were carefully formed to carry forward everything the family stood for — its values, its character, its reputation. That is why Solomon wrote in Proverbs 22:1, *"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."* (NIV) Our children need to understand that they are not just carrying their own name into the future. They are carrying ours. And more than that — they are carrying the name of God into every room they enter.

Alongside the phrase *'My son,'* Proverbs 6:20 offers this guidance: *'My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching.'* (NIV) Some versions replace *'command'* and *'teaching'* with *'discipline'* and *'instruction'* — and that difference is important.

Through years of pastoral work, I've learned that many people confuse 'discipline' and 'punishment,' which can be a costly misunderstanding. Punishment is a negative response, often driven by anger, aimed at penalizing wrongdoing. Discipline, on the other hand, is a positive, loving action meant to prevent or correct misdeeds. God never punishes His children; He disciplines them. *'For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.'* (Hebrews 12:6, NIV) This is not the act of an angry judge but the loving hand of a Father.

Now, back to my dad. Of all the things he taught me, two have become the foundations of my daily life.

The first was a simple phrase — four letters that changed the rhythm of my mornings forever: **NBNB. No Bible, No Breakfast.** Before the body is fed, the spirit must be fed. Before the day begins with its demands, decisions, pressures, and noise, it must begin with God. It is a practical expression of what Jesus taught in Matthew 6:33: *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (NIV) Lately, I have updated it slightly. I now say **NBNP — No Bible, No Phone.** It is remarkable how the phone has become the first thing most of us reach for in the morning. Before we have heard from God, we have already heard from everyone else. Before truth has shaped our thinking, opinion has already gotten there first.

My dad did not just teach this with words. He modeled it. I can still picture him in the early morning — sitting in his favorite chair, Bible open, head bowed in prayer. That image is burned into my memory. After his time with God, one of the first things he would do was make a to-do list. He organized his day before the day had a chance to organize him. He would often say to me, *"Nicky, make a list. Organize your time. Put things in order."* And then he would point me

to Psalm 90:12, the prayer of Moses: *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."* (NIV)

I love that prayer. Moses did not say, *"Lord, give me more days."* He said, *"Teach me to count the days I already have."* That is wisdom. Wisdom is not about having more time — it is about stewarding the time you have been given.

I will be honest with you: I was not naturally organized. Clothes could easily be hanged on the floor instead of on hangers. Books and papers had a way of scattering themselves across every available surface. But my dad was teaching me something far deeper than tidying a room. He was teaching me that disorder on the outside is often a reflection of disorder on the inside — and that wisdom brings the order of God into both. Charles Spurgeon once said, *"Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it."* My dad was not just giving me information. He was giving me wisdom — and there is a world of difference between the two.

The second thing my dad instilled in me was the daily reading of Proverbs. Not as a school assignment when I was 11 years old. Not as a ninety-day challenge. As a lifestyle. In fact, anyone who has spent significant time with my dad has likely picked up his practice of reading seven chapters of the Bible every day. There is a reason for that number. Just as the body needs a balanced diet — protein, healthy fats, carbohydrates, fiber, vitamins, and minerals — the spirit needs the whole counsel of God. Those seven chapters are like seven different spiritual nutrients being injected into your inner man each day.

One of those seven chapters is always from Proverbs. Since there are thirty-one chapters in the book, I simply read the chapter that

corresponds with the date. January 7<sup>th</sup>? Proverbs 7. March 15<sup>th</sup>? Proverbs 15. It is that simple. And the result is that in the course of a year, I read through the entire book of Proverbs twelve times. After years of doing this, Proverbs does not just sit in your head — it begins to live in your bones.

It does not take long before you are confronted, head-on, with the subject of wisdom. The word is everywhere in this book. That is not a coincidence, because the very name “*Proverbs*” means *wise sayings*. This is a book written to make you wise — wise in decision-making, in relationships, in finances, in the way you use your words, manage your emotions, lead others, parent your children, choose your friends, and walk with God.

The book is largely a compilation of wisdom from King Solomon — the man the Bible describes this way: “*God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt... From all nations people came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.*” (1 Kings 4:29–31, 34, NIV)

This was not a man who merely read books about wisdom. This was a man whose wisdom was so extraordinary that kings sent delegations from across the known world just to sit and listen to him.

And yet — and this is important — Solomon did not begin with wisdom. He began with a question. When God appeared to him and said, “*Ask for whatever you want me to give you,*” Solomon could have asked for wealth, power, or long life. Instead, he asked for wisdom to govern God’s people well. God was so moved by that request that

He gave Solomon not only wisdom but everything else as well (1 Kings 3:5-14).

That moment teaches us something profound: the pursuit of wisdom is itself an act of worship. When you prioritize wisdom above every other blessing, you are telling God that you trust His ways more than your own.

Let me ask you something. If I sat across from you right now and asked, *"What do you need most in your life?"* — what would you say?

You might say, *"I need financial stability."* But what you really need is wisdom to know how to create, steward, and sustain financial stability. You might say, *"I need my children to obey me."* But what you really need is wisdom to parent — to love, lead, discipline, and model the life of God before them. You might say, *"I need my spouse to love me better."* But what you may need first is wisdom to become the kind of spouse who loves with humility, patience, and strength.

Someone else might say, *"I just need a friend. I need someone who really knows me."* But wisdom says: learn to become a faithful friend first. Wisdom does not merely ask, *"What do I want?"* Wisdom asks, *"Who must I become?"*

That is why wisdom is not just a nice spiritual extra. It is the single greatest practical need of your daily life. It is, as I have come to describe it, heaven's intelligence for earthly living.

Many people think wisdom is new information. But often, wisdom is old truth remembered and finally obeyed. There may be new technology, new trends, new platforms, and new problems — but human nature has not changed since Eden. Pride still destroys. Anger still burns. Lust still deceives. Laziness still steals. Greed still corrupts. And on the other side: integrity still protects, humility still

attracts grace, and faithfulness still builds what shortcuts never can. Common sense is not always common. So God gave us Proverbs — to restate the obvious until our hearts finally obey it.

Proverbs is the voice of a wise parent speaking to a willful child. It addresses the day-to-day realities of life: how we speak, how we listen, how we work, how we spend, how we handle correction, how we respond under pressure, how we choose our friends, and how we walk with God. Wisdom builds character — one decision at a time.

A passage that stands out prominently to me is Prov 3:21–26 (TPT).

*21 My child, never drift off course from these two goals for your life: to walk in wisdom and to discover discernment. Don't ever forget how they empower you.*

*22 For they strengthen you inside and out and inspire you to do what's right; you will be energized and refreshed by the healing they bring.*

*23 They give you living hope to guide you, and not one of life's tests will cause you to stumble.*

*24 You will sleep like a baby, safe and sound — your rest will be sweet and secure.*

*25 You will not be subject to terror, for it will not terrify you. Nor will the disrespectful be able to push you aside,*

*26 because God is your confidence in times of crisis, keeping your heart at rest in every situation.*

Read that slowly. When wisdom and discernment work together, they bring strength, safety, guidance, restful sleep, fearlessness in crisis, and unshakable confidence. I have come to think of wisdom and discernment as two legs. If you have knowledge without

discernment, you may know facts but still walk into traps. If you have discernment without wisdom, you may recognize what is wrong but not know what to do about it. But when wisdom and discernment work together, you can walk steadily through storms that would flatten others.

This brings me to the first thing I know about wisdom: **wisdom is a commandment**. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 10:16, *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."* (NIV) Notice He did not say, *"If wisdom interests you, pursue it."* He commanded it. Heaven expects believers to grow in wisdom. God never intended for His people to be gullible, naïve, impulsive, careless, or easily deceived. The Holy Spirit does not only make us spiritual — He makes us wise.

Some people have almost made foolishness into a badge of spirituality. They believe that being led by the Spirit means they no longer need discernment, planning, caution, counsel, or wisdom. But the Spirit of God will never lead you into carelessness. Jesus held both together: *"shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves."* Be spiritually sensitive, but not spiritually naïve. Be loving, but not gullible. Be kind, but not blind.

The Passion Translation of James 1:5 puts it beautifully: *"And if anyone longs to be wise, ask God for wisdom, and he will give it! He won't see your lack of wisdom as an opportunity to scold you over your failures, but he will overwhelm your failures with his generous grace."* What a promise. Every sincere prayer for wisdom moves the heart of God. God is not offended by our need for wisdom. He is not standing in heaven, irritated that we do not have it all figured out. He is *inviting* us to ask.

As we bring this chapter to a close, we have discovered that wisdom

is not optional—it is essential. But if wisdom truly is the greatest vehicle we will ever own, then every wise traveler eventually asks deeper questions. What is wisdom, really? Why do I need it? How does it work? Where do I find it? Before we continue driving, we need to understand the vehicle itself.

## REFLECTION

1. Think about the people who have had the greatest influence on your life. What specific wisdom did they model — not just teach? How is that wisdom showing up (or not showing up) in your life today?
2. The chapter describes habits like putting God first, daily Scripture, and pursuing wisdom intentionally. What habits are currently shaping your life? Are they moving you toward wisdom or away from it?
3. Solomon pursued wisdom above wealth, power, and personal gain. If God asked you today, “*Ask for whatever you want Me to give you,*” what would your first response honestly be? What might that reveal about your priorities?
4. The chapter says that wisdom is “heaven’s intelligence for earthly living.” In what area of your life right now do you need wisdom most — relationships, finances, parenting, leadership, emotions, health, or another area? Why?
5. James 1:5 promises that God gives wisdom generously to those who ask. Is there an area where you have been relying more on your own understanding than on God’s guidance? What would it look like to intentionally invite God into that situation?

## PRAYER

Father, thank You for inviting me into a life of wisdom. Forgive me for the times I have relied on my own understanding instead of seeking Your direction. Give me a hunger for Your Word, sensitivity to Your Spirit, and a heart that desires wisdom above every other pursuit. Teach me to put You first and help me walk in Your ways each day. Let Your wisdom guide my thoughts, decisions, and future. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **APPLICATION**

### **Practical Path for Pursuing Wisdom**

#### **Give God the first part of your day.**

Practice NBNP — *No Bible, No Phone*. Spend time in Scripture and prayer before allowing other voices into your heart and mind.

#### **Begin a Proverbs journey.**

Read the chapter in Proverbs that corresponds with the day of the month. Write down one truth that stands out and one action you will practice.

#### **Ask for wisdom daily.**

Pray James 1:5 each morning: *"Father, give me wisdom for today."* Invite God into ordinary decisions, not only major ones.

#### **Evaluate the voices shaping your life.**

Identify what is influencing your thinking most—social media, friends, news, fear, past wounds, or God's Word—and make intentional adjustments.

#### **Practice wisdom in one practical area this week.**

Choose one area—relationships, finances, speech, time management, parenting, or work—and intentionally apply what God is showing you.

**Keep a wisdom journal.**

Write down moments where God gave direction, corrected you, protected you, or revealed something important. Over time you will build your own testimony of His faithfulness.

## Chapter Two

### Questions that open the door to Wisdom

Great answers often begin with great questions. The ancient Arab philosopher Naguib Mahfouz is often quoted as saying, *“You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.”* I have found that to be profoundly true in life and in ministry. The person who walks in wisdom is rarely the person with the quickest answer. They are the person who pauses long enough to ask the right question.

With that in mind, let me tell you where this book is headed. As you journey through these pages, the Holy Spirit will help us answer seven vital questions about wisdom. In this chapter, we will introduce each one. But through the rest of the book, we will go deep — because these are not merely academic questions. They are doorways, invitations into a life governed by the Word of God and guided by the Spirit of God.

#### Question One: What Is Wisdom?

Before I define wisdom, let me first define its close companion — discernment. Discernment is the ability to identify, distinguish, and assess the true nature of a person, plan, purpose, or situation in order to make the right decision. Discernment asks, *“What is really happening here?”* Wisdom then asks, *“Now that I see what is happening — what does God want me to do about it?”*

So here is how I define wisdom: **Wisdom is discernment applied in sync with the will of God.**

It is not just knowing truth. It is walking in truth. The Bible gives us

a perfect picture of this in 1 Kings 3. Two women came before Solomon, both claiming the same baby. Both had words. Both had emotion. Both had a story. Solomon did not need more information — he needed discernment to perceive the true mother, and wisdom to reveal what was hidden. His decision exposed the heart of the real mother (1 Kings 3:16–28). Wisdom sees beneath the surface. It does not react to noise; it listens for truth.

Wisdom is also not the same thing as intelligence. A person can have degrees and still destroy their family. A person can understand technology and still lack emotional maturity. A person can run a business and still not know how to govern their own spirit. Proverbs 16:32 says, *“Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.”* (NIV) Biblical wisdom is not brilliance of mind alone — it is maturity of life.

This is why wisdom must be spiritual before it is practical. True wisdom begins in God, flows from God, and leads us back to God. James 3:17 says, *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”* (NIV) Heaven’s wisdom has a fragrance. It carries purity, peace, mercy, humility, and fruitfulness. If what we call wisdom makes us proud, harsh, manipulative, or selfish — it may be strategy, but it is not the wisdom from above.

There is one more truth I have learned about the nature of wisdom: it enters the spirit before it manifests in action. Job 32:8 says, *“But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.”* (NIV) Wisdom is not merely transferred intellectually — it is imparted spiritually. The Holy Spirit breathes understanding into the inner man. That is why two people can sit under the same sermon, read the same Scripture, and attend the

same conference — yet only one walks away truly transformed. One received information. The other received impartation.

## **Question Two: Why Do I Need Wisdom?**

You need wisdom because life is full of voices — and not all of them are telling you the truth.

Proverbs 1 paints a vivid picture: wisdom is crying aloud in the streets, raising her voice in public places, calling people to turn and listen. But the same world where wisdom calls is also filled with temptation, distraction, pride, fear, and pressure. Every day, something is discipling you. Your phone is discipling you. Your pain is discipling you. Your friendships are discipling you. Your wounds are discipling you. The question is never whether you are being formed. The question is always: *who is forming you?*

We need wisdom because many of life's greatest disasters are not caused by a lack of opportunity — they are caused by a lack of judgment. A person can have money without wisdom and lose it. A person can have influence without wisdom and misuse it. A person can have gifting without wisdom and damage the very people they were meant to serve. A person can have passion without wisdom and burn out before they ever reach their destiny. Wisdom protects the blessing from becoming a burden.

Think about a young driver with a powerful car. The car is impressive, but without judgment, that power becomes dangerous. Many people are asking God for more horsepower — more anointing, more opportunity, more resources — while God is patiently trying to teach them how to steer. Wisdom is the steering wheel of blessing. It tells you when to accelerate, when to slow down, when to stop, when to turn, and when to wait.

This brings me to the second thing I know about wisdom: **wisdom is the vehicle that gets you where God wants you to go.** Talent may open a door, but wisdom helps you stay in the room. Anointing may start something, but wisdom sustains it. Many people pray for destiny while neglecting wisdom — but wisdom is often the bridge between the prophecy and the fulfillment.

Joseph had dreams from God. But wisdom is what carried him through betrayal, slavery, false accusation, prison, and eventually the palace. Without wisdom, bitterness could have destroyed him long before promotion arrived. Wisdom helped him manage famine, govern Egypt, and save nations. Your future is not only connected to what God has promised you. It is deeply connected to how wisely you walk in the space between the promise and the fulfillment.

### **Question Three: Who Is Truly Wise?**

The truly wise person is not the one who boasts in intellect, wealth, strength, or status. Jeremiah 9:23–24 says, *“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me.”* (NIV) According to God, the highest form of wisdom is not knowing more about the world — it is knowing Him.

Romans 16:27 calls God *“the only wise God.”* This means wisdom is not merely something God possesses — it is part of who He is. To be truly wise, we must live connected to the only wise God. The world can produce cleverness, but only God produces wisdom that saves the soul, heals the heart, orders life, and prepares us for eternity.

A truly wise person is teachable. Proverbs 9:9 says, *“Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.”* (NIV) Foolish people resist correction because it feels like

rejection. Wise people welcome correction because they understand it is protection. A wise person would rather be corrected privately than destroyed publicly.

This is one reason the Holy Spirit is so essential. He not only comforts us — He corrects us. He not only encourages us — He convicts us. Jesus called Him *“the Spirit of truth”* in John 16:13 and said He would guide us into all truth. The truly wise person learns to welcome the Holy Spirit’s guidance, even when it challenges pride, disrupts plans, or exposes hidden motives.

Wisdom is not simply a function of age. Job 32:8–9 says, *“Great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always understand justice.”* (NKJV) Age can bring experience, but experience alone does not guarantee wisdom. Some people grow older without growing wiser — because wisdom requires humility, teachability, and genuine surrender to God. A title does not make a person wise. A platform does not make a person wise. Some people with great influence lack discernment, while others in quiet prayer closets carry wisdom from heaven. Ecclesiastes tells the story of a poor wise man who delivered an entire city — and no one remembered him afterward.

Heaven measures wisdom very differently than culture does.

#### **Question Four: Where Does Wisdom Come From?**

Proverbs 2:1–6 gives us the pathway with beautiful clarity: receive God’s words, treasure His commands, turn your ear toward wisdom, apply your heart to understanding, cry out for insight, and search for it like hidden treasure. And then comes the great declaration: *“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”* (NIV)

Wisdom comes from God’s mouth. It is found in His Word and

released by His Spirit. The Bible gives us the vocabulary of wisdom, and the Holy Spirit gives us its illumination. Without the Word, we become subjective and unstable. Without the Spirit, we can read words and miss life. But when the Word and the Spirit work together, Scripture becomes bread, light, sword, mirror, and map.

Imagine walking through a dark house filled with furniture. You may be completely sincere in your desire to reach the other side — but sincerity alone will not keep you from stumbling. You need light. Psalm 119:105 says, *“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”* (NIV) God’s Word does not always reveal the whole journey at once. But it always provides enough light for the next step. And wisdom, more often than not, comes one obedient step at a time.

This is why NBNB is not just a religious slogan — it is a survival principle. Before I satisfy my appetite, I feed my spirit. Before I scroll through opinions, I sit under truth. Before I hear the world’s noise, I listen for the voice of God. Wisdom comes from above, but it must be received below — and receiving it requires intentionality.

The Holy Spirit also imparts wisdom in moments of prayer and encounter. There are times when you are praying and suddenly understanding comes — a Scripture you have read a hundred times comes alive in a completely new way. A situation that had you confused suddenly becomes clear. A burden lifts because wisdom enters the room. First Corinthians 2:12 says, *“What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.”* (NIV) Wisdom is supernatural illumination. It is the Spirit of God making the things of God real to the spirit of man.

### **Question Five: Where Do I Begin My Search for Wisdom?**

Proverbs 1:7 answers this clearly: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning*

*of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* (NIV) The search for wisdom does not begin with information but with reverence.

To fear the Lord does not mean to run from God in terror. It means to honor Him, trust Him, obey Him, and treat His voice as final. The fear of the Lord puts everything else in its proper place. When God becomes weighty in your life, people’s opinions lose their power to control you. When God’s Word becomes final, your emotions no longer get the last word. When God is first, everything else finds its rightful place. This is why wisdom begins with worship.

The first temptation in the Garden was a wisdom temptation. The serpent’s suggestion was subtle: *“You will be like God, knowing good and evil.”* (Genesis 3:5) In other words — you can define good and evil for yourself. You can trust your own understanding. You can make decisions without surrender. That is still the temptation today. And Proverbs 3:5–6 is still the answer: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”* (NIV)

The beginning of wisdom is the moment we stop trying to be our own god. It is the moment we say, *“Lord, I do not know enough to lead myself without You. Teach me. Correct me. Guide me. Search me. Lead me.”* That prayer is not weakness. That prayer is the doorway to wisdom.

### **Question Six: How Do I Grow in Wisdom Daily?**

Wisdom is not downloaded once. It is cultivated daily. This is why my dad’s rhythm impacted me so deeply — Bible first, prayer first, God first, then planning, then work, then decisions. A wise life is built by repeated holy patterns, not occasional spiritual experiences.

One of the most spiritual things you can pray each morning is

simply: *"Father, give me wisdom for today."* Not just wisdom for ministry or for major decisions — wisdom for conversations, for parenting, for spending, for resting, for responding to criticism. Wisdom for what to say, and wisdom for what not to say.

You also grow in wisdom by walking with wise people. Proverbs 13:20 says, *"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."* (NIV) Wisdom is contagious — but so is foolishness. The people closest to you are quietly shaping what becomes normal to you. If you walk with the bitter, bitterness will start sounding reasonable. If you walk with the prayerful, prayer will become natural. If you walk with the wise, wisdom will become attractive.

Daily wisdom also grows through reflection. My dad made lists not because paper is powerful, but because reflection is powerful. A to-do list can become an altar when you place your plans before God. *"Lord, here is my day. What matters most? What should I do first? What should I not do at all? Who needs my attention today?"* Wisdom numbers the day before the day disappears.

Luke 2:52 tells us that even Jesus *"grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."* (NIV) If Jesus increased in wisdom, then wisdom is progressive. We are meant to grow in it. No matter how mature you are, there is greater wisdom available. No matter how much you know, there is still more to learn. This should humble us and encourage us at the same time — humble us because we have not arrived, and encourage us because God is willing to keep teaching us. A believer who walks with God for years should become more discerning, more patient, more measured, more compassionate, and more spiritually perceptive over time. Wisdom deepens. It sharpens. It develops. And God is committed to that process in you.

## Question Seven: How Do I Apply Wisdom to Real Life?

Wisdom must eventually leave the page and enter the kitchen, the car, the office, the bedroom, the church meeting, the budget, the difficult conversation, the text message, and the calendar. Wisdom is not proven by what we underline in our Bible — it is proven by what we obey in our life. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24, *“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”* (NIV)

Applying wisdom involves asking more meaningful questions in real situations. Instead of just asking, *“Can I afford this?”* consider, *“Is this wise stewardship?”* Rather than, *“Did I win the argument?”* think about, *“Did I protect the relationship?”* Instead of asking, *“Do I have the right to say this?”* ask, *“Will my words bring life?”* And instead of, *“Is this opportunity open?”* reflect on, *“Is this assignment truly from God?”*

Jesus illustrated the power of applied wisdom in Matthew 7:24–27 through the story of the wise and foolish builders. Both men built houses. Both faced the same storm — the same wind, the same rain, the same rising flood. The difference was not the storm. The difference was the foundation. The wise man built on obedience to the words of Christ. Wisdom is not storm prevention — it is storm preparation.

This is the third thing I know about wisdom: **wisdom is security against life’s storms.** Financial storms come. Relationship storms come. Emotional storms come. Ministry storms come. Health storms come. But a life built on wisdom has foundations strong enough to withstand pressure. A wise life may bend in the storm — but it will not collapse.

Think about parenting. A foolish parent only reacts to behavior. A wise parent looks deeper. Is my child disobeying because of

rebellion — or fatigue, insecurity, lack of structure, or because I have been inconsistent? Wisdom does not excuse wrong behavior, but it seeks understanding so that correction can be redemptive rather than merely reactive.

The same is true in marriage. A foolish spouse says, *“You need to change.”* A wise spouse asks, *“Lord, how can I become more like Christ in this relationship?”* Wisdom does not make us passive — it makes us responsible. It teaches us to remove the plank from our own eye before addressing the speck in another’s (Matthew 7:3–5).

In finances, wisdom teaches us that more money is not always the answer. Sometimes the answer is discipline. Sometimes it is generosity. Sometimes it is contentment. Sometimes it is counsel. Sometimes it is honest repentance for trying to live an image we cannot afford. Proverbs 21:5 says, *“The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”* (NIV) Wisdom slows down long enough to plan.

In leadership, wisdom teaches us that people are not projects — they are souls. A wise leader does not use people to build a vision; a wise leader builds people according to God’s vision. A wise leader listens, prays, discerns, corrects gently, decides courageously, and serves faithfully. Wisdom makes leadership safer for the people being led.

Ecclesiastes 9:14–18 gives us one more powerful picture. A small city was surrounded by a great king with a mighty army. Humanly speaking, defeat was certain. But there was found in that city a poor wise man — and by wisdom, he delivered the city. The conclusion of the story is striking: *“Wisdom is better than weapons of war.”* (Ecclesiastes 9:18, NIV)

This is the fourth thing I know about wisdom: **wisdom is better than strength.** Wisdom can accomplish what power cannot. Wisdom can

preserve what money cannot buy back. Wisdom can solve problems that aggression only worsens. One wise decision can save years of pain. One foolish decision can destroy years of progress.

Notice also that the wise man in Ecclesiastes was poor and, in the end, forgotten. Wisdom is not always loud. It is not always celebrated. Sometimes the wisest voice in the room is the quietest one. Ecclesiastes 9:17 says, *"The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools."* (NIV) Our culture rewards noise, charisma, and volume. Heaven honors wisdom.

So how do we apply wisdom? We pause. We pray. We search the Scripture. We listen to the Holy Spirit. We seek godly counsel. We examine our motives. We consider the consequences. And then — we obey. Wisdom is not complete until it becomes action.

The invitation of this chapter is simple: become hungry for wisdom. Do not wait until crisis forces you to seek it. Seek wisdom before the storm. Before the decision. Before the relationship breaks, before the money is wasted, before the words are spoken, before the opportunity is missed.

Every morning, wisdom calls again. She calls through the Word. She calls through the Spirit. She calls through correction. She calls through mentors. She calls through consequences. She calls through the quiet conviction in your heart that says *there is a better way*. And the wise will answer. *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."* — Psalm 90:12 (NIV)

We have spent this chapter asking important questions about wisdom: What is it? Why do we need it? Where does it come from? How do we grow in it? But asking questions alone never builds anything. Questions open doors, but wisdom eventually begins construction. If wisdom truly is heaven's intelligence for earthly

living, then it must create something stable enough to carry the weight of life. Solomon now invites us to look at wisdom not as a concept, but as a builder. Wisdom does not merely answer questions – it builds houses, establishes foundations, and creates places strong enough to survive storms.

## REFLECTION

1. This chapter defines wisdom as *“discernment applied in sync with the will of God.”* Think about a situation you are currently facing. What do you believe is really happening beneath the surface, and what do you sense God may be asking you to do?
2. Which of the seven questions in this chapter impacted you most:
  - What is wisdom?
  - Why do I need wisdom?
  - Who is truly wise?
  - Where does wisdom come from?
  - Where do I begin my search?
  - How do I grow in wisdom?
  - How do I apply wisdom?

Why did that question stand out to you?

3. The chapter teaches that life is full of competing voices shaping us. What voices currently influence your thinking the most? Which voices draw you closer to God, and which may be pulling you away from His wisdom?
4. Proverbs says that *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*

Are there areas of your life where God's voice has not been final? What would it look like to surrender that area completely to Him?

5. Jesus described the wise builder as someone who hears His words and puts them into practice. What is one truth God has already shown you that you need to stop merely admiring and start obeying?

## **PRAYER**

Father, thank You that You are the source of all wisdom. I confess that I need Your guidance and understanding in every area of my life. Give me discernment to recognize truth, humility to receive correction, and courage to obey what You show me. Teach me not only to hear wisdom, but to walk in it. Build my life on the solid foundation of Your Word and Your ways. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **APPLICATION**

### **Practical Path for Growing in Wisdom**

**Ask one wisdom question every day.**

Before making decisions, pause and ask: *"What would wisdom do here?"*

**Pray James 1:5 consistently.**

Invite God into both large and small decisions. Wisdom grows through dependence.

**Develop a teachable heart.**

Receive correction without becoming defensive. Remember: correction is often protection.

**Walk with wise people.**

Identify people in your life who sharpen your faith, challenge your

growth, and encourage your pursuit of God.

**Slow down before major decisions.**

Wisdom rarely rushes. Give yourself time to pray, seek counsel, and examine your motives.

**Move wisdom from information to action.**

Choose one truth from this chapter and practice it immediately. Wisdom becomes powerful when it leaves the page and enters daily life.

**You've Just Finished your Free Sample**

**Enjoyed the preview?**

**Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>**