

Fit for Life
Parkview Church
Class #1 -- Growing in Wisdom
April 2018

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. **Luke 2:52 (ESV)**

These are ALL spiritual issues..

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
2 Corinthians 5:15 (ESV)

Intellectually, physically, spiritually, socially: mind, body, spirit, and soul.

Definition of wisdom: The ability to consistently make good choices about the way that you live. The Hebrew word ***hachma*** means “skill in living life.”

The Greek word for “wisdom” is the word ***sophia***. This Greek word refers to “ultimate knowledge” about God and about how we relate to God and others.

A wise person then is someone who translates God’s character into actions.

“Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and the highest goal together with the surest means of attaining it.” **J. I. Packer**

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

Isaiah 11:1–3 (ESV)

HOW can I grow in wisdom?

1. FEAR THE LORD

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts [His word] have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.”

Psalm 111:10 (NIV)

⁶ and he [God] will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion’s treasure.

Isaiah 33:6 (ESV)

Fearing the Lord is a deep respect for the person of God that includes not only growth in the Lord, but also things such as...

- ⇒ A greater and greater abhorrence of sin.
- ⇒ A deeper and deeper love for sinners.
- ⇒ A deeper and deeper love for God.

2. SET YOUR MIND

² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:2 (ESV)

Summary: (1) Fear the Lord and (2) set your mind. When we set our mind on heaven and what God is doing in heaven, it elevates an essential ingredient in my mind that is essential for wisdom to flourish – **HOPE!**

3. VALUE WISDOM

“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Mark 12:30 (ESV)

Proverbs teaches us that **one of the keys to genuine wisdom** is becoming a person who values **thinking like God thinks**. The more I do that, the wiser I become.

God’s wisdom and human wisdom are very different...

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ 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? ²¹ 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. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 (ESV)

Two different approaches to wisdom:

4. FILL YOUR MIND

Once I've valued wisdom, and once I've made it the most important thing in my life and developed this respect for God, I've got to make the choice and have the discipline to fill my mind with all the right things.

Let's look at some different ways to feed our minds:

- Sometimes we feed our minds with **junk food**.

- We also feed our mind on **mental drugs**.

- There is a **balanced diet** for the mind.
 - ◆ **Inspiration** – I need some wisdom from **God's word**.

 - ◆ Fill your mind with Godly **information**.

Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.” **Proverbs 13:10 (NIV)**

“A fool learns by nobody's experience. An ordinary man learns by his own experience, but a wise man learns from the experience of others.”

- ◆ **Relaxation.**

Battle Plan:

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

Think about things that are...

- ◆ **True.**
- ◆ **Honorable/Noble.**
- ◆ **Just/Right.**
- ◆ **Pure.**
- ◆ **Lovely.**
- ◆ **Commendable/Admirable.**
- ◆ **Excellent & Praiseworthy.**

5. GAIN HUMILITY

² When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 (ESV)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. James 3:13 (ESV)

Therefore, let us ask God...

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5 (ESV)