



THE POWER OF

UNDERSTANDING

What Does The Bible Say?

“Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7

Much is said regarding wisdom, but wisdom without understanding can be lopsided. Wisdom can give you access to what is required, while understanding opens you up to why it's required and gives insight into its application.

The Bible makes it clear that understanding is critical to our walking successfully with God and being effective in our daily lives. What is understanding and why should we prize it so highly? How does it give us an edge and how do we acquire it?

We will look at this and more over the next few days.

Day 1 The Source

“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”
Job 32:8 KJV

By virtue of being created in God’s image, there’s a level of intelligence inbuilt in each person. Beyond this, when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit we receive the ability to access the supernatural capacity to understand that the Spirit gives. Does this mean that people who don’t have the Holy Spirit lack intelligence and the capacity to comprehend? Not at all. But there is a level of understanding that the Spirit gives which is far beyond human capacity.

“For God has unveiled them and revealed them to us through the [Holy] Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things [diligently], even [sounding and measuring] the [profound] depths of God [the divine counsels and things far beyond human understanding].”
1 Corinthians 2:10

The Lord is the source of all understanding and the Holy Spirit equips us far beyond our natural ability. He is eternal and He knows all things.

“As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all kinds of literature and wisdom; Daniel also understood all kinds of visions and dreams.” Daniel 1:17

“Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.” 2 Timothy 2:7 NLT

We need the Lord’s help to truly understand who we are, what’s going on around us and what we are to do about it. Otherwise we run the risk of taking the wrong action based on our limited understanding. The Holy Spirit knows all things and one of the tools He uses to guide us is by giving us understanding.

Reflect: Over the course of this study, commit to spending time with the Holy Spirit and ask specifically that He reveal new levels of understanding to you.

Day 2

The Scriptures

'Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures' Luke 24:45

There are depths and riches in the scriptures that we won't be able to access without the help of the Holy Spirit. If we don't involve the Holy Spirit in our Bible study, we risk reading the Bible as a historical or legalistic document and that won't bring transformation. In the verse above Jesus had been discussing with the disciples about things He told them before going to the cross, but He had to open their understanding to comprehend what the scriptures said. If Jesus had to give understanding to the disciples He was with daily during His earthly ministry, we certainly need Him to give us understanding.

"Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked.' Matthew 15:16

'So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.' Acts 8:30-31

'And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"' Luke 24:32

It's not the words in the Bible that pierce our hearts and transforms our lives, it's the understanding that the Spirit gives that makes the scriptures real to us. When we ask the Holy Spirit to help us as we read the Bible, He opens up our understanding and reveals the truth of the word to us. This is why it's possible to read a portion of the Bible you think you're familiar with and all of a sudden it seems new to you. And because there are depths in God's word, you can get a new revelation on the same word.

Reflect: Don't ever take scripture for granted. Before you begin reading your Bible, always ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth in the word to you as you read. You will be amazed at what revelations you will receive if you do this consistently.

Day 3 God's Ways

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

"Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart." Psalms 119:34

The Lord makes it clear to us that His thought processes are very different from ours. Since this is so, how then do we walk with God in a manner that pleases Him? Trying to reason God out using our natural senses or logic is similar to trying to communicate to a group of non-English speaking people in English language. It's a recipe for confusion and many wrong assumptions.

As we've noted in earlier studies, God would not have us be confused, He wants us to walk with Him all our days. This is one of the things the Holy Spirit does in our lives: He reveals God's thoughts to us and helps us understand His ways.

'But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.' I Corinthians 2:10-11

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.' 2 Samuel 7:12-13

In 2 Samuel David had planned to build a temple for God and he and Nathan the prophet both believed this to be a good idea. But not every good idea is a God idea. The Lord revealed to Nathan that it wasn't David that would build the temple, but his son. This shows us that we need to always check with the Holy Spirit if our thoughts and actions are in line with God's plans. It is dangerous to assume that just because something appears good that it is in line with what God would have us do. The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God and reveals them to us so we can walk in the fullness of all that Jesus obtained for us in a manner that please Him.

Prayer: Father I ask that I may be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10)

Day 4 Times and Seasons

'From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.' 1 Chronicles 12:32

It's important to understand the times and seasons we are in so we can make the right decisions. The Bible tell us about a set of people from the tribe of Issachar who were able to guide Israel in what to do because they had understanding of the times.

'For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.' Ecclesiastes 3:1

Life isn't necessarily measured by days but by seasons and the requirements of each season differs. Without an accurate understanding of the times, we run the risk of not doing anything or even doing the right thing at the wrong time which is just as bad as doing the wrong thing.

'Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come..." ' John 7:6a

In the preceding verses, Jesus' brothers were trying to get him to be more public about His ministry. But Jesus had understanding and knew that it wasn't yet time for what they were proposing. And we see this played out throughout His ministry, Jesus always knew what to do and where to be because He understood the times.

There is a set time for everything God has planned for you, which means there is an appropriate response to the season, provided you understand the season you're in. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to be prudent with your finances because there's a recession coming up. However, because you misread the signs of the times, you spend lavishly and have no buffer when the recession hits. Or at a time you should be developing yourself you decide to take it easy and rest on your oars.

It's critical we realize that no season exists in isolation, one always prepares us for the next. But if you don't understand where you are now and what this period demands of you, there's no way you will be equipped to prepare accurately for the next. And if you're not ready for the next season, you will remain where you are.

Prayer: Father please give me understanding of times and seasons and help me to respond accurately to the demands of each season.



Day 5

Wise Counsel

'The wise will hear and increase their learning, and the person of understanding will acquire wise counsel and the skill [to steer his course wisely and lead others to the truth]' Proverbs 1:5

You don't know what you don't know. If you are not aware that what you're doing is wrong chances are you will just keep doing it, regardless of what anyone says. This is because the absence of understanding brings either ignorance or confusion. But when you receive understanding you begin to realize that there's a better way and that you need help to get it. As the Holy Spirit gives us understanding, He also helps to position us to receive wise counsel.

Wisdom is enshrined in an understanding heart; wisdom is not found among fools. Proverbs 14:33

'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'" Psalms 32:8

As we open ourselves to God's word and begin to act on what we have read, our hearts and minds start being transformed and the Holy Spirit begins to expose our gaps to us. But the wonderful thing is that He does not leave us at that stage. He also begins to instruct us on how to close the gaps and also brings those who can provide us with the wise counsel we need to help us on the journey. The Lord may lay something on our mind or may work through someone. Regardless of the method He chooses, as we partner with the Holy Spirit, we grow in discernment and are better able to understand what the right path to take is.

'If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.' Proverbs 15:32

Those who the Lord uses to give us wise counsel won't necessarily tell us only things that we want to hear about ourselves or the matter we have brought to them. Remember Godly counsel is meant to make us better and this may include undergoing some discipline on our part. It may not be enjoyable, but it's a necessary part of our growth process.

Reflect: We aren't supposed to be wise in our own eyes, ask the Lord to always surround you with those who can provide you with wise counsel that will align you with God's plan for your life. If there are no such people around you right now, pray them into your life.

Day 6

Solution Provider

'... and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.' Daniel 1:17b

'Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.'" Daniel 5:12

When we look at Daniel's life, we see that he was well known for being a solution provider. If there was a dream or vision that needed to be interpreted, Daniel had the accurate interpretation. If there was a complex problem to solve, Daniel was reputed as the 'go-to' person. Why? Because he had been gifted with understanding. The same Holy Spirit that endowed Daniel with this understanding is also available to us, which means we can also ask for the same endowment.

'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.' Romans 8:19

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:14,16

Because we have access to supernatural understanding, we have the capacity to resolve issues no one else can resolve. As a result, we demonstrate that there's something different about us when we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to provide solutions. Remember we are the temple of God. Confusion, ignorance, perplexity are all forms of darkness and there's a lot of these in the world right now. However, when a child of God comes into a situation, it means light has come – and this light illuminates any area of darkness around us, impacting our environments and those we come across.

Reflect: It's not all about you. There is an aspect of creation waiting for you to reveal the understanding that the Lord has given you. Cry out to the Lord today for the understanding that will equip and enable you to be a solution provider.



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