

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.

TOPIC: I AM WISE

**TEXT: JAMES 1:5, 3:13-18, PROVERBS 1:5, PSALMS 111:10,
MATTHEW 7:24**

Introduction: *“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.*

All we have to do is ask and God will give us wisdom. What a powerful promise! To pray for wisdom is to come to God in humility, acknowledging our need for His wisdom.

What is wisdom? The Hebrew root word stating the basic concept of wisdom appears over 300 times in the Old Testament. It centres our attention on a person’s basic approach to life and moral values. Wisdom is fundamentally the choice to be godly (be Christ-like, imitate God's character). The wise person is sensitive to God, obeys Him, and applies God’s Word to choices in everyday life.

Our eyes are open to spiritual things (we are no longer ignorant, walking in the dark) when we know God through Christ. But we are still babes needing to mature. There are four basic steps to growing in wisdom.

- 1. Fear of the Lord: Proverbs 1:7** – Having the right reverence and attitude toward God is the first step taken toward wisdom’s path.” The Full Life Bible comments on the fear of the Lord as “A reverent awe of God’s power, majesty, and holiness [which] produces in us a holy fear of transgressing His revealed will.

Q: In what ways does the fear of God make us grow in Wisdom?

2. Study God’s Word: Proverbs 1:5 says: *Wise people listen to wise instruction, especially the Word of God.* To grow in true wisdom we must:

- Diligently spend time carefully studying the Word of God. In **Mark 4:24**, Jesus tells us to pay attention to what we hear: Jesus tells us to pay attention to how we hear – **Luke 8:18**.
- Knowledge of Scripture is not enough: **1 Corinthians 8:1**. You can pursue knowledge, but if you are off course it will all be in vain: (**Ecclesiastes 12:12**). Knowledge can be memorized.
- Wisdom means that you must think things through.
- Wisdom is the something that enables us to use knowledge rightly.

Q: How does studying the word enables us to grow in Wisdom?

2. **Obey God's Word:** A wise person is careful about what they read and about their radio and television selections. Wise people listen to wise counsel (**Proverbs 13:10; 12:15**) and profit from rebuke (**Proverbs 9:8–9; 17:10**). Wise people are careful about who they associate with; they resist group pressures and think for themselves. Wise people connect God's words and everyday experience, and it is only in the way a person lives his life that wisdom can be demonstrated.

Q: Obeying God's word is a choice we are encouraged to make, how does that choice help us to grow in wisdom?

3. **Prayer:** The world often looks down on the one who acknowledges his weaknesses. God will never find fault in a prayer from a humble heart, for God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (**James 4:6**). God promises: For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened (**Matthew 7:8**). A person will be blessed when their mind is focused on a prevailing spiritual and eternal interest, one that keeps steady in its purposes for God. That person will grow wise by afflictions, will continue fervent in devotion, and will rise above trials and oppositions.

Q: Why is Prayer a key element of growing in wisdom?

Conclusion

In the book "The Kneeling Christian" – "When we stand with Christ in glory, looking o'er life's finished story," the most amazing feature of that life as it is looked back upon will be its prayerlessness. We shall be almost beside ourselves with astonishment that we spent so little time in real intercession. It will be our turn to "wonder."

In John 15:16 – One would think that our Lord had now made it plain enough that He wanted them to pray; that He needed their prayers, and that without prayer they could accomplish nothing.

In Romans 12:2 ESV – The present evil age still threatens those who belong to Christ, so they must resist its pressure. Their lives are changed as their minds are made new (contrast with **Romans 1:28**), so that they are able to "discern" God's will.