

The Pathway to Eternal Wisdom

[Part 4]

The first six verses of chapter two of Proverbs are not only a guide to our study of Proverbs but to all of God's inspired words throughout the Christian Bible.

Stated in these six verses is what God expects of us if we are to maximise the benefit that our Creator God is making available to us in His Word.

Here we see eight requirements of a student or disciple of Jesus Christ, followed by two results of applying the eight guidelines to the study of God's Word.

Proverbs 2:1-6 [NIV] *“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”*

Note the word “if” is used three times. This shows that these are conditional but as always God will not force His way of life or His wisdom on us, we have to choose.

But we will only receive the benefits stated in verse five if we apply all the conditions in verses one to four.

“Accept my words” – “accept” – Hebrew “*lâqach*” [3947] – a very positive and active response, to take hold of, to seize, to enfold, wrap our arms around.

“Store up my commandments within you” – “store” – Hebrew “*tsâphan*” [6845] – to hoard or to reserve, protect because of our esteem for them, and their great value.

“Turning your ear to wisdom” – “turning” [7181] – “*qâshab*”, to prick up your ears, give heed, incline, mark well.

This is something that is very difficult in today's society. Very few people are really used to giving full attention to anything. There are too many distractions, tv, radio, mobile phones, background music, etc.

This is why I recommend we all have a special place for our study of God's Word where these distractions are completely cut out.

“Applying” – Hebrew “*nâtâh*” [5186] – to stretch out, to bend towards, to turn aside to.

“Your heart” – Hebrew “*leb*” [3820] – the driving force of our life, our feelings, intellect and will, the very centre of our whole being.

“Call out” – addressing a person by name, with the idea of accosting them, Hebrew “*qârâ*” [7121].

“Insight” – Hebrew “*chokmâh*” [2451] – the dexterity to be able to use the knowledge we have acquired.

“Cry aloud” – Hebrew “*nâthan*” [5414] – to give total commitment to, to offer ourselves to.

“Understanding” – Hebrew “*biyn*” [995] – to be able to be separate from, without personal emotional influence, discrimination.

“Look for” – Hebrew **“bâqash”** [1245] – **to search out by any method possible**, to strive after, ask, beg, desire, beseech.

“Search” – Hebrew **“châphas”** [2664] – **to search diligently really applying ourselves as we would looking for a hidden treasure, literally addicted to this search.**

“Treasure” – Hebrew **“ôwtsâr”** [214] from root word **“âtsar”** [686] – **a secret storehouse, hidden riches, buried treasure.** Something greatly valued making it well worth the labour involved in obtaining it. Digging for treasure when applied to the study of the Christian Bible, is a systematic searching for original of words in concordances and seeking to understand the historical background to the scriptures.

We will find that this is the best way to train our mind and to keep it active all our lives.

Systematically, orderly, prayerful, dedicated study of the Christian Bible which is the most logical and practical book in the world.

What are the blessings that come from such a dedicated study of the Christian Bible?

“Wisdom” – Hebrew **“chokmâh”** [2451]

“Knowledge” – Hebrew **“da’ath”** [1847]

“Understanding” – Hebrew **“tâbûwn”** [8394] – comes from the root word **“diyn”** [995] – intelligence, discretion, reasoning, **caprice** [an unaccountable change of mind or conduct].

This is the **only** way that other scriptures can be fulfilled by the direct work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

We are guided into all truth, the veil of deception is lifted.

John 16:8 [NIV] *“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:”*

Brings us to a position of repentance, shows us where true righteousness is found, and reminds us of the ultimate judgement before Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — **this is your spiritual act of worship.** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This is how we can truly worship God and stop conforming to this evil society.

Luke 12:11-12 [NIV] *“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”*

When we are challenged on our faith and hope in God the Holy Spirit will bring the right scriptural responses to our mind.

1 Peter 3:15 [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”*

This comes through having Jesus Christ **“in our heart”**, the central driving force of our lives.

From the human viewpoint this is “caprice” an unaccountable change of mind and conduct.

Proverbs 2:7-8 [NIV] *“He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.”*

God gives us through wisdom a victory over the influence of evil and shields us for the full impact of the evil one [Satan], directs our path in life and upholds the wise decisions we make.

This wisdom is a gift from God but it doesn’t come to those who just drift through life, or act irresponsibly with His gifts and resources.

If we are faithful in keeping our purpose in life clearly in our mind, God will shield us from pride and greed, that in the end destroys every life.

Proverbs 2:9-10 [NIV] *“Then you will understand [995] what is right and just and fair, every good path. For wisdom [2451] will enter into your heart [3820] and knowledge [1847] will be pleasant to your soul [5315].”*

We gain wisdom through a constant process of growing.

First, we must trust and honour God.

Second, we must realise that the Christian Bible alone reveals God’s wisdom to us.

Third, we must make a life-long series of right choices and avoid moral pitfalls.

Fourth, when we make a sinful or mistaken choice, which we will as human beings, we must learn from our errors and recover.

People do not develop all aspects of wisdom at once.

For example, some people have more insight than discretion.

Others have more knowledge than common sense that is the application of wise understanding.

James 1:5-8 [NIV] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. **But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**”*

We can pray to God for His wisdom.

To “*believe and not doubt*” means not only believing in the existence of God, but also believe in His loving care for every human being.

It includes relying on God and expecting that He will hear and answer when we pray.

We can have total confidence in God answering our prayers when we align our desires with His purpose for creating human beings.

A mind that wavers is not completely convinced that God’s way is best, and only treats God’s Word like any other human advice, and retains the option to reject it.

The only way to stabilise a wavering or doubtful mind, is to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to our Creator God.

“*Double minded*” is “*two spirited*” [in Greek “*dis*” – “*pshche*”] – that is, allowing our human spirit, that gives us intellect, to out-balance the direct input by the Holy Spirit.

Such an attitude of mind will cut us off from God because self-pride and self-righteousness is involved.