

The Pathway to Eternal Wisdom

[Part 5]

Proverbs 2:1-2 [NIV] *“My son, if you will accept my words [Hebrew “êmer” – pleasant, persuasive words] and store up my commandments [Hebrew “mitzvah” – precepts] within you, turning your ear to wisdom [2451] and applying your heart [3820] to understanding [995].”*

There is humility about the father’s approach in these verses, he is offering a choice, the use of the word “if” denotes this choice.

The father’s words are not commandments in the same sense as “thus says the Lord” but precepts that are the fruit of thought and experience.

Such a voice of experience is not to be ignored, but we have to ask ourselves whether we really want to know and use what is being offered.

If we desire to receive wisdom from the Creator God, we must use every one of our faculties in our search.

The attentive ear, the receptive and lively mind, the voice which is **not** afraid to ask questions.

But above all it is the will to learn that drives us towards discovery and growth in wisdom.

Wisdom comes to us in two ways from our Creator God.

1) A God-given gift.

1 Corinthians 12:7-8 [NIV] *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,”*

Given to us individually with the purpose of helping others deal with day-to-day events.

2) The result of an energetic search.

Proverbs 2:3-4 [NIV] *“And if you call out [not being afraid to ask questions] for insight [995] and cry aloud [in our eagerness to actually accost the person offering wisdom] for understanding, [995] and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure.”*

God is looking for our total commitment in seeking for His wisdom.

Matthew 13:44 [NIV] *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”*

Wisdom is a intricate part of the Kingdom of God, so we must have a similar willingness to sacrifice everything, and be equally single-minded in our desire to find and use the Creator God’s wisdom.

Proverbs 2:5-6 [NIV] *“Then you will understand [995] the fear [Hebrew “yirâh” – the reverence towards God’s Sovereignty] of the Lord and find the knowledge [1847] of God. For the Lord gives wisdom [2451] and from His mouth comes knowledge [1847] and understanding [8394].”*

The Creator God is the only source and starting point of all true wisdom.

But God only gives wisdom to those who earnestly seek it from Him.

Proverbs 2:7-8 [NIV] *“He holds victory in store [Hebrew “tsâphan” – to lay up in store as the fruit of a victorious struggle] for the upright, [Hebrew “yâshâs” – meaning straight in the way or direction of life, thus pleasing to God] he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, [Hebrew “tôm” – integrity, completeness, mature, innocent, simplicity, thus easy to teach] for he guards the course of the just [Hebrew “mishpât” – favourable verdict, lawful manner] and protects the way of His faithful ones [Hebrew “châlîyd” – those who show mercy and are kind].”*

It is God who gives us wisdom and true victory in life, accomplishing the goal of life, as long as we are **not** just drifting through life or acting irresponsibly with the gifts and resources He has given us.

If we are faithful to keeping God’s purpose for our life clearly in the forefront of our mind.

[**Genesis 1:26-27**] Also see our article ‘Life? Why Do Humans Exist?’ listed under ‘Life’ on this website.

If we seek to reflect the very character of the Creator God in our life, He will keep us from pride and greed with all the pain that is the end product of such a lifestyle.

God’s wisdom is always hidden from the pride-filled rebel and those full of greed and selfishness.

Proverbs 2:9 [NIV] *“Then you will understand [995] what is right [Hebrew “tsâdaq” meaning morally cleansed] and just [Hebrew “mishpât” that which is pronounced right and gives vindication] and fair [Hebrew “mêyshâr” meaning straight and even] every good path.”*

Proverbs 2:9 [Living Bible] *“He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time.”*

Proverbs 2:10 [NIV] *“For wisdom [2451] will enter your heart [Hebrew “lêb” referring to the centre of everything in our life, feelings, the will, even our intellect] and knowledge [1847] will be pleasant [Hebrew “nâêm” meaning agreeable or delight] to your soul [Hebrew “nephesh” meaning our physical life consciousness].”*

We gain Godly Wisdom through a constant process of growing.

First, we must trust and honour the Creator God.

Second, we must realise that it is through the Christian Bible that God reveals His Wisdom.

Third, we must, using the information and principles shown in the Christian Bible, make right choices and avoid moral pitfalls.

Fourth, when we do make sinful or mistaken choices we must learn from our errors and recover our pathway to seeking God’s Wisdom.

People do **not** develop all aspects of wisdom at once.

For example some people develop more insight than discretion, others have more knowledge than the ability to apply that knowledge.

We should pray that we are helped by the Holy Spirit to develop all aspects of Godly Wisdom including the applying of them in our day-to-day relationships with other human beings.

One goal that must underline all we seek to do, that in the end it will bring glory to the Creator God and for us to enjoy a closer relationship with Him.

Godly Wisdom will **not** only bring glory to Him it will help us to have a fearful respect for Him, and serve Him.

Such nearness to God is a rewarding, fulfilling and joyful experience.

“Ignorance is bliss” is **not** a Biblical proverb it is godly knowledge that is bliss.

Proverbs 2:11 [NIV] *“Discretion [Hebrew “mezimmâh” meaning a plan, we stop speaking or acting before we apply learned Godly Wisdom] shall protect you and understanding [8394] will guard you.”*

Examples of this ability to tell right from wrong are shown to be a blessing in the next few verses.

This is the result of our evaluating our actions and the consequences.

For most of us this gift of discretion from God is developed by using God’s Word and Wisdom, found in the Christian Bible in the choices we make day by day.

This discretion has to be applied not only to our speech and actions but also how we use our time, for our life is bound closely to time.

Proverbs 2:12-15 [NIV] *“[Applied discretion] will save you from the ways of wicked [7451] men, from men whose words are perverse [Hebrew “tahpûkâh” meaning fraud from a root word meaning abyss]. Who leave the straight [Hebrew “yôsher” meaning upright, good, pleasant and prosperous] paths to walk in dark ways [Hebrew “ghôshek” meaning darkness and figuratively misery, destruction and sorrow] who delight [Hebrew “sâmêach” meaning gleeful making merry] in doing wrong [7451] and rejoice [Hebrew “gûwl” meaning literally dance with joy] in the perverseness [Hebrew “tahpûkâh” fraudulent action] of evil [7451], whose paths are crooked [Hebrew “iqqêsh” distorted hence false, forward, perverse] and who are devious in their ways.”*

This last kind of evil person in this list are those who are off the right path in life and are leading others astray, unreliable and untrustworthy.

Two of the most difficult sins to resist are pride and sexual immorality. Both are seductive. Pride says *“I deserve it”*; sexual desire says *“I need it.”* In combination their appeal is deadly.

In fact the writer of Proverbs tells us that only by relying on God’s strength within us the Holy Spirit, can we overcome them.

Pride appeals to an empty head that is not filled with godly wisdom.

Sexual enticement appeals to an empty heart that is not filled with the love of God that is one of the *“fruits”* of an indwelling Holy Spirit. [**Galatians 5:22-23**]

Proverbs 2:16-17 [NIV] *“It [discretion or applied Godly Wisdom] will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward [Hebrew “zûwr” meaning to turn aside] wife with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.”*

Proverbs 2:18 [NIV] *“For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.”*

Two aspects of death are indicated, first a natural, physical death, but then a spiritual eternal death.

Revelation 22:14-15 [NIV] *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.”*

The unrepentant sexually immoral will not have access to eternal life.

Revelation 21:7-8 [NIV] *“He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who*

practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”

The unrepentant sexually immoral will end up in the lake of fire, the second death from which there is no resurrection.

Proverbs 2:19 [NIV] *“None who go to her return or attain the paths of life [Hebrew “chay” meaning living thing, from a root word “châyâh” meaning to revive or keep, give a promised life].”*

What is at stake here is our eternal life, this is how God views sexual immorality.

Proverbs 2:20 [NIV] *“Thus [if we learn discretion and wisdom] you will walk in the ways of good [Hebrew “tôwb” a prime root word meaning to make good, well or pleasing] men, and keep the paths of the righteous [Hebrew “tsaddîq” to be clean in a moral or forensic sense, justified].”*

Proverbs 2:21 [NIV] *“For the upright Hebrew “yâshâr” meaning straight, just, to take right away] will live in the land and the blameless [Hebrew “tâmîym” complete, entire, without blemish, perfect] will remain in it.”*

Proverbs 2:22 [NIV] *“But the wicked [7563] will be cut off from the land and the unfaithful [Hebrew “bâgad” to deal deceitfully, treacherous dealings] will be torn [Hebrew “nâcach” rooted out and destroyed – Matthew 13:24-30; Matthew 13:36-43] from it.”*

The “land” and “it” is the Hebrew word “erets” meaning the earth and nations that inhabit it.

The more we study into these verses the more powerful is the warning for all humans from a loving Creator God who wants all humanity to come to repentance and receive eternal life. [2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11]