

# The Value of God's Wisdom | Proverbs 2:7-22, 3:1-7 | 4/17/16

- The results of God's wisdom in the heart of a Christian | Proverbs 2:7-15
  - Having sought God's wisdom and received it, there are immediate benefits to the Christian.
  - **Read Proverbs 2:7-8**
  - The benefits of being an obedient Christian.
    - Proverbs 2:7a
      - "God stores up wisdom for the upright"
    - Upright implies a strict adherence to God's moral principles.
    - Those who are upright are the Christians, the true believers who strive to live a life of obedience to the commands of God.
      - This is not to say that if you are not a Christian or are spiritually immature that God loves you any less than a spiritually mature believer.
      - But it does tell us that there are benefits to being a Christian who strives to live a life of obedience to God.
      - **Because the wisdom of God is only made known to the Christians.**
    - **The blessings and the guidance that God has for us resides in His teachings which require our obedience.**
      - For one to fully realize the benefits of being a Christian, that person must seek and obey the commands of God.
      - There are divinely established rules that God has put into place for His entire creation.
      - These rules are there to show us how to live a holy life and one that refrains from sin.
      - But God's commands and teachings can be contrary to the world.
        - The unbelievers of the world believe in rules that are provided by man so that mankind can live peaceably, but they disregard rules or laws that come from a higher power.
        - They look upon Christians with pity because in their eyes we put undo restrictions upon ourselves.
        - We do not live life to the fullest because we abstain from many things.
      - A Christian who has received the wisdom of God understands how important obedience to God's commands are.
        - This is where Godly wisdom can be quite different from worldly wisdom.
        - The worldly wisdom says to live a life that is selfish and benefits oneself, do what feels good etc.
        - **But the wisdom that we receive from God is quite different, and our obedience is required to fully realize the blessings of God.**
        - In fact, an obedient Christian full of Godly wisdom, has a joy that the lost can never have.
          - Proverbs 3:13-18
  - God is a shield
    - Proverbs 2:7b
      - "He is a **shield** for those who **live with integrity**"
    - God will be a shield and a protector for the believer who love and strive to obey Him.

- This verse does not say that God is a shield for those who willfully disobey and hate Him, but it is one who lives with integrity to the truths of God.
- All Christians desire the protection of God.
  - We ask this all the time in our prayers, for God to keep us from giving in to temptation, so that we have safe travels and make wise decisions.
  - What we may not always realize is that God has already answered these prayers for us.
    - **He has already given us the answers that we seek.**
    - This is because the answers to a lot of our prayers are already given to us in Scripture.
    - God's shield of protection comes to us from the Words of His Scripture.
      - The Bible is full of wisdom on how a Christian can stay away from sin and how we can resist the Devil's temptation.
- God's shield of protection is fully realized upon our obedience.
  - **If we do not obey the teachings of God how can His teachings be a shield to us?**
  - For example, if a parent tells a young child to not put their hand on a hot stove.
    - They do this because the parent knows that the stove is hot and if they touch it it will burn them and cause them pain.
    - The wisdom of the parent is given to the child and the parent desires for the child to listen and to obey it.
    - But if the child disregards the advice of the parent and touches the stove anyways they get burned and experience pain.
      - But this would have been avoided if they would have accepted the wisdom given by their parents.
  - God's wisdom must also be obeyed for His shield to protect us.
    - This same simple example applies to the wisdom of God that is given to His children.
    - His Word is full of wisdom of how to live our lives, and He tells us how to stay away from sin.
    - God does this because He loves us and He desires that we stay under His protection.
    - **But if a Christian chooses to disobey God, and disregards His wisdom. That Christian is intentionally removing themselves from God's shield of protection.**
      - **The disobedient Christian who asked God to be a shield had his prayer answered in Scripture, but Christians at times will still choose to reject God's protection.**
- **Why do Christians intentionally throw aside God's shield of protection by neglecting His wisdom through disobedience?**
- Having the wisdom of God allows us to see sin for what it is. | Proverbs 2:9-19
  - **Read Proverbs 2: 9-19**
  - When we lacked Godly wisdom and lived for the world, our sins and evil actions may not have always been so obvious.
    - Without the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of God we live for ourselves and walk in darkness. We choose to say perverse things and to do evil, because it feels good.
      - Proverbs 2:13-14

- “From those who abandon the right paths to walk in ways of darkness, from those who enjoy doing evil and celebrate perversion.”
    - It is very easy for us walk with those who entertain evil because we want to fulfill our selfish desires.
    - It is too easy to be taken captive by the seductive grip of a forbidden woman or man without God’s wisdom.
  - But when we have the wisdom of God it will guide us and give us the discernment to see sin for what it is.
    - With God’s wisdom we can see our previous paths of darkness that we took.
      - We can now recognize our sin for what it is and we are ashamed.
      - We can now remove it from our lives.
      - We can see when others are on a path that is contrary to God and we have the knowledge and understanding to stay away from it.
    - Godly wisdom keeps us on the path of light instead of darkness.
      - Ephesians 5:8-11
        - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light – for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. Don’t participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them.”
    - The wisdom of God will show us that we must turn from our sin and instead to live a life in obedience to God that is righteous, just and with integrity.
      - Proverbs 2:9
        - “Then you will understand righteousness, justice and integrity— every good path.”
    - Having received the wisdom of God we can now see the righteous path that God has called us to.
  - **How has Godly wisdom allowed you to see sin for what it is in your own life? Have you seen this change with spiritual maturity?**
- We must persevere in God’s wisdom to live our lives upright | Proverbs 2:20-22
  - ***Read Proverbs 2:20-22***
  - Then we must persevere and always follow the path of the righteous.
  - This commitment to walking in the truth of God and abiding by His wisdom is not a one-time occurrence.
    - Satan will try very hard to tempt us to mute the wisdom of God that is inside of us.
    - It is in these time that we must rely upon the wisdom of God and put aside our fleshly sinful desires that is contrary to God.
    - We must live the rest of our lives walking in the light of Christ by obey His commandments.
  - We must never think oh my walk with God is good enough, or if I take a break from reading the Bible for a few weeks and cut back on prayer that it’s not a big deal.
    - That is exactly what Satan wants you to think.
    - As soon as we let our guard down and we refrain from keeping ourselves filled with His wisdom we open up ourselves to being tempted into sin.
    - **If we decrease our time with God, our sinful nature will naturally drift into disobedience.**

- **We will make many more selfish decisions that reject the protection of God.**
- God's wisdom brings length of years and peace | Proverbs 3:1-2
  - **Read Proverbs 3:1-2**
  - If we do not forget the teachings of God and we retain His wisdom, there is a direct benefit to the Christian in the length of our years.
    - While we know that this does not mean that all Christians will live to be 105 because that is not the case, but if we live our lives for God He will certainly use us.
      - I have thought to myself that I am fearful if I came to a point where I quite being useful to God. I want instead for God to use me until the very end of the time that He has destined me to be here.
    - In the Old Testament it was considered a blessing to have your number of years increased.
      - Proverbs 4:10
        - "Listen, my son. Accept my words, and you will live many years."
      - Exodus 20:12
        - "Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."
    - While this life that we live in today is temporary and we look forward to a much greater life of eternity in Heaven, we do have a purpose in this life.
      - Because one does not automatically get sent to Heaven, one must have true saving faith in Jesus Christ.
      - Our job as Christians is to bring the Gospel message to as many as we can and to live our lives as Christ has called us to.
  - There is a peace that come through God's wisdom
    - This peace that is promised is not peace with the world.
      - We know from Scripture and our own experiences that being a Christian does not entitle you to peace with a sinful world.
    - This peace that is given to us through the wisdom of God, is a peace in Christ.
      - It is a peace that allows us to live our lives in a sinful world and still have joy and hope because we understand the truth.
      - Our hearts and minds are now open and we have experienced what it is to have the Holy Spirit living inside of us.
      - It is the peace that surpasses all understanding.
        - Philippians 4:7
          - "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
      - This peace is unlike any worldly definition of peace and can only be understood by the Christian.
  - **How would you describe the peace that you have obtained having received the wisdom of God?**
- A Christian who takes God's wisdom to heart will find favor in the sight of God and man. | Proverbs 3:3-4
  - **Read Proverbs 3:3-4**
  - We will find favor in the eyes of God and man when we put God's wisdom to action.
    - 2 Corinthians 3:2-3
    - When apply the wisdom of God to our hearts it will spill out in our actions.
    - This is of course pleasing to God, but it is also pleasing to man.

- Everything that God teaches us in how we are to treat others will always be a benefit and a blessing to the recipient.
  - We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.
  - We are called to love our enemies.
  - We are called to be a blessing to put others before ourselves.
  - We are called to help the widows and the orphans.
  - We are called to love our spouse and to be example for our children.
- While there are those in the world who no matter what good you do for them, they will not like you if you are a Christian, if we act in obedience and do what is commanded in Scripture we will find favor in the sight of God and man.
- If we put our trust in God with our whole heart, He will make our paths straight. | Proverbs 3:5-6
  - ***Read Proverbs 3:5-6***
  - And above all we must trust God with our whole heart.
  - No matter what are circumstances or what we are going through we must always trust in the Lord.
  - At times we still try to rely upon our own understandings, our own judgments and wisdom.
  - But if we truly trust God with our hearts, then even when our wisdom disagrees with God we will obey Him.