

# The Secret to Long-Life, Riches, and Honor

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding. .... Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.” - *Proverbs 3:13-16*

The entirety of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are dedicated to imparting wisdom to its readers. A case could even be made that all of Scripture seeks to impart wisdom. *Proverbs 4:7* says, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:...”. What imagery comes to your mind when you think of wisdom? What is wisdom and how do you obtain it? Is it available to you?

## Defining Wisdom

Wisdom is built upon knowledge and understanding. These three terms are used many times throughout Scriptures, especially in Proverbs. Generally, they each carry a different connotation.

**Knowledge** – “Acquaintance with facts” (Webster’s)

“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge”. - *Proverbs 12:1*

In relation to Scriptures, how would you describe someone with knowledge?

**Understanding** – “A specific interpretation or inference of a matter” (Webster’s)

“Let men of understanding tell me, and let a wise man hearken unto me” - *Job 34:34*

In relation to Scriptures, how would you describe someone with understanding?

## The Qualities of Wisdom

“He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous... Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity, yea every good path”. - *Proverbs 2:7-9*

Webster’s defines wisdom as, “The power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, and understanding”.

Read *James 3:17* and discuss the seven qualities of wisdom. Based on what we have read and discussed so far, how does Scripture define wisdom?

Read *1 Corinthians 1:17-31* and contrast worldly wisdom from godly wisdom? Is there a difference?

***Wisdom is not the accumulation of a body of knowledge, but a way of life. Likewise, foolishness is not a lack of knowledge but a rejection of a godly way of life.***

## The Pursuit of Wisdom

### **Pursuing God / Pursuing Wisdom**

“One becomes competent and expert as far as the orders in life are concerned only if it begins from knowledge about God.” (G. von Rad, *Wisdom in Israel*, 1972, 67)

Read the following passages and discuss the key concepts taught in them.

Proverbs 9:10 –

Daniel 2:20 –

Ecclesiastes 2:26 –

James 1:5 –

# The Secret to Long-Life, Riches, and Honor

## The Wisdom Hungry Lifestyle

Read *Proverbs 8:32-36* and discuss some of the qualities of one that pursues wisdom.

Do you see any correlations between the pursuit of wisdom and *Matthew 5:6*?

Read *Proverbs 1:1-6*. Is wisdom available to anyone, regardless of intellect?

## Solomon: An Example of Wisdom

Read through these passages on wisdom one by one and discuss how the principles we learned about wisdom and the pursuit of wisdom applied to Solomon.

*Proverbs 4:1-13* –

*2 Chronicles 1:1-6* –

*2 Chronicles 1:7-12* –

*1 Kings 3:16-28* –

## The Need for Wisdom

Solomon desired wisdom so that he could be a good ruler of his people. Thus far, none of us are in a position like that. Why would you need wisdom?