

“Get Wise!”

Matthew 7:26

“And everyone who hears these words
of mine and does not act on them will
be like a foolish man who built his
house on sand.”

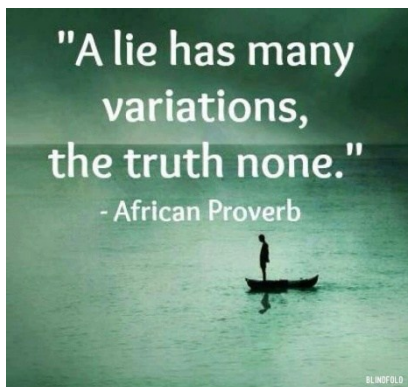
The words of Jesus

Wisdom means more than knowledge or experience. It is a quality like beauty. The word contains the idea of discernment, understanding, insight, perception, good sense, and foresight. The world prefers to seek wisdom through philosophy, science, and religion.

This little series of meditations looks at wisdom from a Christian point of view and is centred on the Bible. Wisdom is not the exclusive possession of Christians. There are many religious and philosophical books that offer wisdom. However, the quality of wisdom is not gained through accumulating knowledge or having intelligence, unless the teaching is digested and becomes a foundation for living.

The Christian standpoint is that one can be wise through humility and trust in the Bible as God's revealed Word. The Bible provides spiritual light for the spiritual mind which leads to wisdom in daily life. Wisdom that is relevant in real, everyday experience.

There are thirty-one thoughts. One a day?



Dave Chapman 2022

Revised 2025



1

Proverbs 9:10 NIV "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

The key is respect and awe of our Creator. We recognize the wonder and beauty of His Universe we bow before the One who created from nothing the amazing complexity of life itself. A complexity that mathematicians and scientists continue to puzzle over. The more they discover – the more they uncover to learn about!

When we turn to God for wisdom, we turn to the One Who knows all things – the only wise and true God. He is able to teach us good sense and skill for living in His Universe.

*If you think you are too
small to make a difference,
you haven't spent the night
with a mosquito.*

-African proverb

2

James 1:5 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."

Am I willing to admit to lacking wisdom? Isn't that the same as admitting to being foolish? Hans Christian Anderson wrote about an emperor who was tricked into buying and wearing nothing because he did not want to be thought a fool. God is not a trickster. He does and will never make a fool of you. You ask for wisdom and He will give it – no criticism, no fault-finding. You ask and He will give you a generous helping of wisdom. This wisdom is contained in a box that opens to the key of humility.



3

James 3:17 NIV “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

It seems that wisdom from God does not sit comfortably with human values such as power, wealth, ambition and self-fulfilment! Purity refers to a view that is not infected with sinful desires. Such a view can develop peaceful attitudes. The list describes attitudes that care about others. We can see the character of Jesus here – and the fruit of His Holy Spirit.

The word translated “sincere” carries the thought of being genuine – not a hypocrite.



4

Genesis 3:6 NIV “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

The account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is too easily dismissed. It provides deep insight to human nature and the explanation for human “crookedness”. We see three impulses described – all legitimate. Appetite, Appreciation and Ambition. These three encourage survival and growth but when misdirected they bring selfishness, self-indulgence, and suffering. Eve thought she would become wise, instead she gained mere knowledge without the wisdom to deal with it.

5



Proverbs 9:1 NIV “Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.”

The Seven Pillars of Wisdom

- 1. Pure:** Purity involves making holiness a top priority in our lives.
- 2. Peace-loving:** Loving peace means focusing on getting along well with other people in relationships.
- 3. Considerate:** Being considerate means being respectful and gentle with the words and actions we choose.
- 4. Submissive:** Submissiveness means being humble and sensible.
- 5. Full of Mercy and Good Fruit:** Being full of mercy and good fruit means being kind and taking action in compassion, so that good happens in the world because of us.
- 6. Impartial:** Impartiality involves being unwavering in our commitment to faithfulness. It means choosing to follow where God leads us, no matter what else competes for our attention. It also includes being fair and just.
- 7. Sincere:** Sincerity means caring about the truth, living with integrity, and being genuine.

(from Crosswalk.com)

“He was old and wise, which meant tired and disappointed...”
— T.E. Lawrence, **Seven Pillars of Wisdom**



6

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 NIV “..but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Preaching Christ is more than a Gospel challenge it is about declaring Who He is and what He has done. Such a message brings experience of God’s power and wisdom through the Holy Spirit. When undergoing the severe test of the wilderness, Jesus showed God’s power and won the day! He did it by affirming, “It is written ...!” That same power is available today when we stand faithfully on God’s Word; on His promises in Christ.



7

Proverbs 4:7 NIV “Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”

The Lord Jesus takes this up in teaching us to “take up the cross”, “to not look back”, “to give all for the pearl, for the treasure in the field”. Modern pressures might lead you to prefer the world’s ways and “wisdom”. The immediate benefits might seem attractive but there is no pension! The narrow way of walking in God’s wisdom leads to eternal life and glory.



8

Ecclesiastes 2:13 NIV “I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness.”

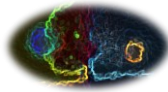
Stating the obvious can be annoying – and lead to ignoring what has been said. The Bible says elsewhere that people prefer darkness and choose folly! We need wisdom to choose wisdom. So, at some point, we need to recognize that God knows best and act on His Word.



9

Isaiah 11:2-3 NIV “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— (3) and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears.”

This is a prophecy about Jesus Christ. His humanity was not fallen – not spoiled by sin. His wisdom was, and is, the wisdom of God. His wisdom is available to us. We can begin by avoiding our personal opinions and superficial judgements.



10

Jeremiah 51:15 NIV “He made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.”

Sometimes all the debate about creation can forget the Creator. This glorious universe was formed from the wisdom and understanding of God. The evidence of His omniscience is everywhere. The glory of it all should bring us to humility and reverence.

Psalms 8:4 NIV “..what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

**When there is
no enemy
within, the
enemies outside
cannot hurt
you.**

- African Proverb

11

Proverbs 15:12 NKJV “A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.”

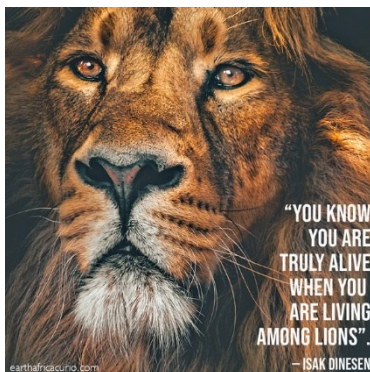
Strange how people choose help from those who have made the same mistakes. The argument being that “they will understand”. Maybe they will have learned wisdom. But we pray to God, who has never made a mistake, never lied. We follow Jesus and seek the Spirit’s help. The Godhead has never indulged in the things that get us into trouble. Perhaps, we need to change our way of thinking and go to the wise!

He is no fool who gives what
he cannot keep to gain that
which he cannot lose.
-Jim Elliott

12

Daniel 12:3 NIV “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

A great verse to encourage sharing the Gospel. However, the emphasis is on a life that leads people to the wisdom of repenting and trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour. The apostle Paul refers to this in Philippians 2 verses 15 and 16.



13

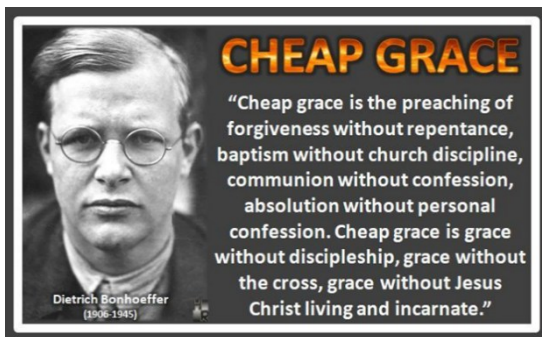
Daniel 1:20 NIV “In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.”

The story is of four young men who chose to be different than the rest. They chose to keep to the ways of Y-W-H, the only true God. They denied themselves legitimate things because those things were tangled up with idol worship. They wanted to shine for God, and they did. Their choice honoured God and God honoured them



Mark 6:2 NIV "When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!"

I have seen someone like a showman performing miracles from a stage. He claimed the Name of Jesus but his behaviour was nothing like the character of Jesus. When Jesus healed it cost Him (see Isaiah 53). He often made healing a private matter (see Mark 7:31-37). Everything our Lord Jesus did was based on wisdom, understanding of His father's Will. knowing what was in human hearts.



Matthew 7:24 NIV "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

The world is a slippery place, full of pitfalls, quicksand, and booby traps. A rock is a clean place, solid, all things visible and its roots go deep into earth's crust. Jesus is the rock; we build on Him. We become wise because we are building on a rock that has roots deep in the wisdom of God.



16

Matthew 25:2 NKJV “Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.”

Wisdom avoids “burnout!?” Could be the lesson here – keep something in the tank for emergencies. Maybe it warns against trying to be a Christian without being born again – born of the Spirit? Maybe it just means that being ready for Christ’s return needs more than just knowing it will happen. We need to live so that we are always ready for the “unexpected”.



17

2 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

Exclusive groups, exclusive attitudes are too common among Christians. This verse points out that there is no wisdom in being among self-congratulatory people. The problem arises when the group decide that everyone else is wrong. Instead, we should meet with those who are like-minded in seeking the mind of Christ.



18

Romans 16:19 NKJV “For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore, I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.”

Adam and Eve desired wisdom – they disobeyed God and ate of the fruit of knowledge of good and evil. The problem they experienced was that they did not have the wisdom to know which was which! We are able to see and know what is good (Micah 6:8). We are to be simple – unmixed,



19

innocent about evil – NOT simpletons!

Matthew 10:16 NKJV "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

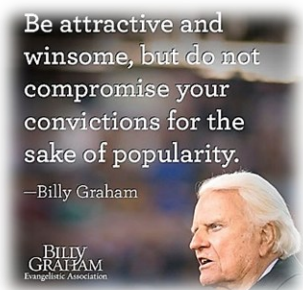
Jesus knew about wolves. He did not hold back his challenge to religious and political evil. We need to be a special kind of sheep that can combat wolves! We need the shrewd nature attributed to the snake. The world has many clever ways – all for selfish ambition. Our cleverness must be for the kingdom of Christ. Our shrewdness should do no harm to anyone.



20

Luke 10:21 NIV “At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”

Children can show great wisdom. Partly because of their innocence and lack of experience. God can reveal His truth to children, and they can see it! This gave Jesus great joy. His joy was about his disciples having acted in simple faith. Clever, educated people can become very dense and too complicated to see the way of faith and grace.



21

1 Corinthians 4:10 NIV “We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured, we are dishonoured!”

No doubt about it. The clever world sees the Christian as a clown! A Christian has such strange values – money isn’t everything, life is wrapped up in loving others. “Me” culture has been given up for Jesus culture. It is a great shame when Christians lose sight of this and see Christian self-sacrifice as foolish!

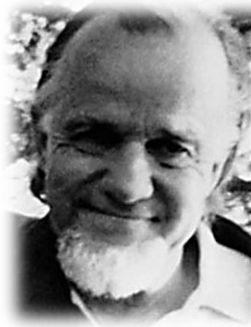


22

Ephesians 5:15 NKJV “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise...”

The idea of living wisely is connected with walking gingerly, carefully – like a cat making its way along a wall that has bits of glass embedded in it. This is a memory of childhood when such walls were allowed!

A foolish cat which did not tread carefully would receive the inevitable result. But I never saw a foolish cat!



Art is a reflection of God's creativity,
an evidence that we are made in the
image of God.

— Francis Schaeffer —

AZ QUOTES

23

Exodus 28:3 NKJV “So you shall speak to all *who are* gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”

God gave these people skill to make garments of glory and beauty for the High Priest. They were filled with wisdom, the artistic skill to make things the way God wanted. We need that kind of wisdom. Imagine that the things we do and say are like making a garment for Jesus - something just right for the glorious Son of God.



24

Romans 11:33 NIV “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”

Yuri Gagarin flew in a metal capsule a few miles above the earth. He declared that God was not there! For him God was not anywhere – he was too blind to see! Frank Borman was commander of the first space crew to travel beyond the Earth's orbit. Looking down on the earth from 250,000 miles away, Borman radioed back a message, quoting Genesis One: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." He recognised and felt God's Presence out there.

Unto You It is Given
To Know
The Mystery of
The Kingdom of God
Take Heed what
Ye Hear
Mark 4:11, 24

25

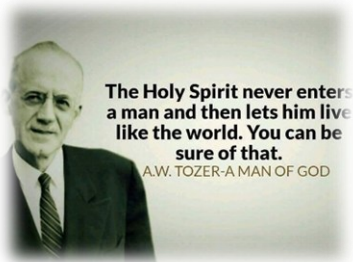
1 Corinthians 2:7 NKJV “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory...”

We ought to see that the mystery of God's wisdom should not be a mystery to a believer. God has revealed to us His wisdom in Jesus Christ. The mystery remains for the people who choose darkness and do not want to come to the light. [see 1 Corinthians 2:10]



James 3:13 NIV “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”

Another comment from James about true wisdom. Wisdom promotes humility. Tradition had Moses being exceptionally wise. When he was opposed, he did not fight or argue but fell down prostrate before the Lord. The protagonists had then to contend with God!



**IT'S BETTER TO HAVE
A LITTLE CHURCH
THAT IS REAL THAN
A BIG CHURCH
THAT IS ARTIFICIAL.**

A.W. TOZER
WWW.REVIVAL-LIBRARY.COM

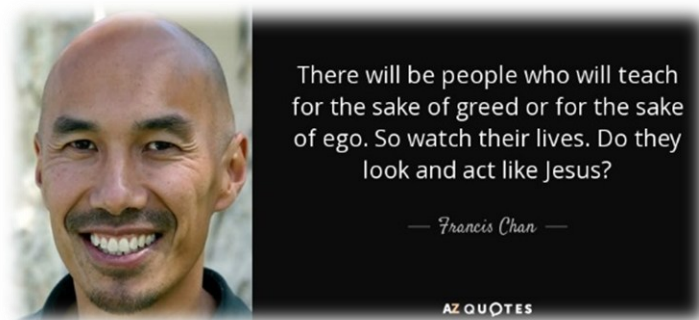
Acts 6:3 NIV “Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.”

The company of Christians in Jerusalem grew rapidly. More leaders were needed. Their duties were to be pastoral. They needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit and demonstrate godly wisdom. Our leaders should not be less than this today. The people chose their leaders.

28

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NIV “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.”

Paul did not resort to worldly cleverness or use worldly methods to get the message over. He was in fear in trembling that he might let his skills take the place of God's Spirit. Paul did not want to browbeat listeners with his knowledge or tie them up with his great learning. This did not mean that he spoke gobbledygook! [see Acts ch.17]



29

Colossians 1:9 NKJV “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Often, I hear prayers that ask God to do what He has told us that we must do. If we want wisdom we must ask. If we want to be holy, we must be obedient. Paul interceded for the Christians in Colossi. He wanted them to have spiritual wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He told them his prayer because they needed to want this too!



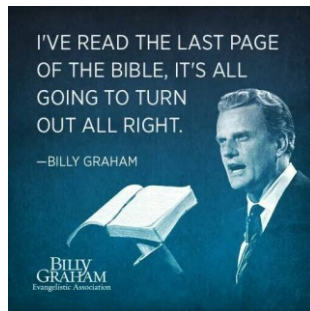
30

1 Kings 10:7-8 NIV “But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!”

I am always moved by this account of Solomon and Sheba. There are two things especially that impress me:

1. When we are gathered together in glory and see Jesus’ face to face, we will confess, “not even half was told me”
2. The blessedness experienced by Solomon’s servants being in his presence was obvious. Do people see that blessedness on me – a servant of the King?

[see Matthew 12:42]



31

1 Timothy 1:17 NKJV “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

***Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.***