

Personal Study Guide Part 5
The Wisdom of God

Read the following introduction then watch the video using pages 2, 3 & 4 to take notes. Use the information on page 5 to dig deeper during the week and page 6 to discuss with a friend.

Introduction: What is the biggest challenge you're facing in your life right now?

"To believe actively that our Heavenly Father constantly spreads around us providential circumstances that work for our present good and our everlasting well-being brings to the soul a veritable benediction.

Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and never gives rest to the heart.

There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and take instead the infinite wisdom of God. Our insistence upon seeing ahead is natural enough, but it is a real hindrance to our spiritual progress.

God has charged Himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn in faith to Him."

A. W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

What a difference it would make in life's most difficult times if we could believe that God is "all wise!"

Question: How can we learn to rest and trust in the wisdom of God?

Watch Session 5 of The Real God and Take notes below.

Defining the wisdom of God:

- Definition: “that attribute of God whereby He produces the best possible results by the best possible means” - Berkhof
- Definition: “the quality of being wise; power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action based on knowledge, experience, and understanding.”
Root words – ‘to see, to know’ - Webster

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

1 Timothy 1:17

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

Romans 11:33

“Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture...

All God’s acts are done in perfect wisdom, first for His own glory, and then for the highest good of the greatest number for the longest time...Not only could His acts not be better done: a better way to do them could not be imagined.”

A. W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

How has God revealed His wisdom to us?

- Through _____ Psalm 104:24

- Through _____ Psalm 33:10-11

- Through _____

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified to the Lord of glory. However, as it is written:

*What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard,
And what no human mind has conceived" –
That things God has prepared for those who love Him.*

*These are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit.
The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

- Through His _____

It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30

We must learn to live wisely!

Ephesians 5:15-17

HOW do we do that?

1. It begins with a _____ of His ways.

Proverbs 1:7; Job 28:28

2. It grows with _____ His Word.

Psalms 119:97-100
2 Timothy 3:15-17

3. It _____ asking for it specifically.

James 1:5; Colossians 1:9

4. We must learn to **TRUST** Him completely...

...that all that comes our way is from the hand of a good and loving God who knowing all things actual and possible, is exerting His unlimited power to execute the best possible outcomes, by the best possible means, to fulfill the highest possible purposes.

Application:

1. What circumstance in your life seems to defy God's wisdom?
2. Pray that God will help you turn that circumstance back to Him and trust that He knows what's best.
3. Look for opportunities this week to encourage and pray with others.

This section is designed to help you discover what God's Word says about the wisdom of God.

- 1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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What word or phrase about God's wisdom most stands out to you? Why?

- 2. God's wisdom is most clearly revealed in Scripture. Read Psalm 119:33-37, NLT.

Teach me you decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart. Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money! Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. (Psalm 119:33-37, NLT)

What one word would you use to describe you current engagement with God's Word?

Is it . . .

- Dry?
- Vibrant?
- Stagnant?
- Life-giving?
- Inconsistent?
- _____

In your own words, write out a paraphrase of Psalm 119:33-37. Make it personal.

TALK IT OVER

***We are better together because God created us for relationships.
Work through the following questions with a friend.***

1. God's infinite and perfect wisdom is revealed in creation, through its intricate balance and amazing resilience. What do you personally find inspiring about creation? What is it in the world around you that speaks to you about God's wisdom?
2. Ephesians 5:15-17 says, *"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."* In order for you to live "wisely," what is one area where you need to be careful how you live?
3. God's wisdom means that He makes perfect decisions. We are called to grow in wisdom and make increasingly better decisions. The starting point for wisdom may be surprising: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). In your own words, what does it mean to fear God? How would you explain the "fear of the Lord" to someone younger than you?
4. The Bible says that God gives wisdom when we ask Him for it. What is a situation you are currently facing where you need more of God's wisdom?