



TRUTH!

WISDOM FOR FLOURISHING PEOPLE

SERIES RESOURCES

Truth!: Wisdom for Flourishing People
How do you become wise?
Proverbs 1:1–7

Proverbs 1:1–7

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
- 3 to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- 4 to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
- 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
- 6 to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

See Revealed Wisdom

- Wisdom is revealed.
- What is wisdom?
 - “Wisdom is skill, expertise, competence that understands how life really works, how to achieve successful and even beautiful results” (Ray Ortlund, *Proverbs*, 28).
- How is wisdom revealed?
 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (v. 7).
 - “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).
 - “16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
 - Revelation=Inspiration+Infallibility
 - Inspiration – Scripture is God’s word
 - Infallibility – Scripture is God’s truthful word
- What about ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature?
 - “All this is like their gold and silver, and not something they instituted themselves, but something which they mined, so to say, from the ore of divine providence,

veins of which are everywhere to be found” (St. Augustine, *Teaching Christianity*, II.40)

- See it!

Trust Relational Wisdom

- Wisdom is relational.
- How is wisdom relational?
 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (v. 7).
 - Jesus is the wisdom of God
 - “The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:42).
 - “Wisdom is the grace of Christ beautifying our daily lives” (Ray Ortlund, *Proverbs*, 17).
 - “to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2b–3).
 - “22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:22–25).
- Trust it!

Welcome Received Wisdom

- Wisdom is received.
- How do we receive wisdom?
 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (v. 7).
 - The Need for humility
 - “In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that—and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison—you do not know God at all. As long as you are you proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you” (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 124).
 - The Need for the Spirit
 - “12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:12–16).
- Welcome it!

APPLICATION: Get in the Word so the Word gets in you.

Wisdom is revealed. See it. Wisdom is relational. Trust it. Wisdom is received. Welcome it.