

# Wisdom

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*Think carefully before acting to maintain integrity.*

Often times when wisdom comes to mind one immediately pictures the ancient bearded one sitting on top of a tall mountain peak and the humble seeker of wisdom climbing to ask the ultimate, life-changing question of him. Character Council has defined wisdom as the use of knowledge, experience and common sense to exercise responsible judgment. We hope our children will someday use wise judgment in choosing career paths, spouses and other very important day to day life choices. We often compare the foolish acts with more desirable wise ones. Since wisdom seems to be a life quest for so many (or needs to be), what is wisdom and how does one obtain it?

From a Christian faith perspective, the Bible reveals the source of wisdom as having come from God. When Solomon was a young king, he asked God for wisdom to lead the nation of Israel. In I Kings 3:12, God tells Solomon, "I will give you a wise and discerning heart". The result was seen immediately as indicated in I Kings 4:29, "God gave Solomon **wisdom** and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore." Joshua, another young warrior leader of Israel, was also given wisdom. Deuteronomy 34:9 says that, "Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of **wisdom** because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses."

But they are celebrities, mighty leaders...what about everyday wisdom for everyone? James 1:5 instructs us, "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." So there we have it, ask God for wisdom and He will give it to you.

But why wisdom? We all know about choices. From the time we are little, we understand choices and we are told, "Good choice. Bad choice." Our choices become more life-impacting as we get older from choices of friends; to abstinence in sex, drugs, & alcohol; to career paths; life-partners and faith. Using our experience, common sense and knowledge, both ours and the council we seek, along with wise council from God, the giver of wisdom, will help us to exercise responsible judgment or wisdom. Our choices will then be bathed in wisdom and our integrity maintained.

My prayer for you today would be:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of **wisdom** and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Ephesians 1:17