

CHAPTER 47

HOW TO BE A WISE WOMAN

I. Why do you need wisdom?

- A. Since most of you are married, or probably will be, why bother with developing this attribute of mind and character?
- B. After all, isn't it the responsibility of your husband to lead and guide you and make all the major decisions?
- C. Isn't your main calling and duty to submit to him and play the role of helpmeet or companion — to support and encourage him but keep meekly in the background?
- D. Is it really that important for you to acquire wisdom in order to make the Kingdom?
- E. You will soon see that seeking wisdom should be one of your most urgent and necessary goals — not only for your present well-being and happiness, but also to qualify for sonship in God's family.

II. Let's approach this question from another viewpoint: If you were married to Jesus Christ, would it change your present outlook, attitude or approach to life?

- A. Is there anything you would do differently?
- B. Would you work harder at becoming a better helpmeet, wife or companion?
- C. Would you strive to set a more wholesome and God-fearing example?
- D. Would you be more conscious of your speech and conduct and try to reflect the culture and character of a true Christian woman?

III. Don't assume that being married to Christ is just a fanciful idea or religious sentiment.

- A. In a manner of speaking, the Bible says that you are already married to Him.
- B. Rom. 7:1-4 — *'...that ye should be married to... him who is raised from the dead...'*

IV. And what kind of wife does Christ wish you to become?

- A. Eph. 5:25-27 — *'...That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.'*
- B. Clearly the goals, values and standards that Christ has set for His wife are high and lofty indeed.

V. Proverbs 31 is an excellent description of the kind of wife that would please Christ.

- A. Proverbs 31:26 lists wisdom as one of her foremost qualities.
- B. On a scale of 1 to 100 where would you place wisdom in importance?
- C. 25th, 15th, 5th place?
- D. Does the Bible even say?
- E. Yes, it emphatically does.

VI. Apart from God's Spirit and its fruits, wisdom is the single most important quality you need.

- A. Prov. 4:7 — *'Wisdom is the principal thing...'*
 1. The word 'principal' means: a matter or thing of primary importance.
 2. First, foremost, the most important or vital thing.
- B. Prov. 3:13-18 — *'...all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her...'*
 1. Wisdom is more valuable than wealth, fame or riches.
 2. *'She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her...'* (vs. 18).

VII. Yet, the Bible speaks of those God has called as the foolish, weak and base things of the world.

- A. 1 Cor. 1:26-19 — *'For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called...'*
- B. Luke 16:8 — *'...for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.'*
 1. God's apostle says that we're all seriously lacking in this area of life.
 2. God even likens us to dumb sheep.
 3. *Examples:*
 - a. A member's reaction to the sale of Christmas stamps at the Gladewater, Texas post office.
 - b. A member railing at waitress for bringing toast to his table during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

c. A wife commenting in the presence of her disinterested husband, 'He's unconverted, close-minded and stubborn.'

d. We've all caused much friction and heartache by trying to convert others.

4. Clearly, we all need wisdom.

VIII. What is wisdom?

A. Job 28:28 — '*...the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom...*'

B. Ps. 111:10 — '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...*'

1. These verses give us a broad definition of what constitutes wisdom.

2. It's the fear of the Lord.

IX. But exactly what is the fear of the Lord?

A. The fear of God is a state of mind that puts us into a right relationship with Him.

B. It's an attitude of complete and whole-hearted surrender.

C. It's a condition that tunes us into the Holy Spirit — God's wavelength.

X. Note, then, that it's God's Spirit that imparts wisdom.

A. Eph. 1:17 — '*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.*'

B. This verse clearly shows that once you're tuned into God's wavelength, His Spirit imparts wisdom.

C. Your mind is then enlightened to see the practical answers to the myriad of problems that assail you daily.

D. This does not mean that all your problems are suddenly and miraculously solved.

E. It does mean that you will grow more and more in the ability to cope with stresses and tensions that arise.

F. In other words: You will come to have the mind of God — which is another definition of wisdom.

XI. But first, let's examine and discuss the two broad components of wisdom — KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING.

A. KNOWLEDGE

1. Prov. 10:14 — '*Wise men lay up knowledge...*'

2. Prov. 18:15 — '*...the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.*'

3. Prov. 1:5 — '*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning...*'

a. What is the result of not having knowledge

(1) Hos. 4:6 — '*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*'

(2) Isa. 5:13 — '*...my people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge...*'

4. Explain the meaning of knowledge.

a. Knowledge is the possession of facts, data, information and truth.

b. It's like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, parts of a car, components of a TV set, pieces of a dress pattern, etc.

c. It can be compared to all the materials to construct a building.

d. It's like the letters of the simple game of Scrabble.

e. On the spiritual realm, it's the words, truth, laws, etc. of the Bible.

B. UNDERSTANDING

1. Prov. 4:5-7 — '*Get wisdom, get understanding...*'

2. Prov. 10:13 — '*In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found...*'

3. Ps. 111:10 — '*...a good understanding have all they that do his commandments...*'

4. I Kings 3:5-12 — Solomon prayed for understanding.

5. Explain the meaning of understanding.

a. It is the capacity to grasp the order and pattern of things.

b. It is the ability to see the logic, sequence and steps of how facts fit together.

c. It is the ability to see the end result or outcome of situations or circumstances.

d. Understanding requires thought, study and careful investigation.

e. Examples:

(1) Jigsaw puzzle — putting the parts together.

(2) Constructing materials into a house.

(3) Assembling the components of a TV set.

XII. When knowledge and understanding are fused together, the end product is wisdom.

- A. How will you know when you have this attribute of God?
- B. You will be able to see a problem and its solution in clear perspective.
- C. Wisdom is discernment, perception and insight.
- D. Wisdom is to the mind what eyesight is to the head — it is clear, mental vision.

Definition: WISDOM IS MENTAL EYESIGHT.

XIII. Scriptures which prove it.

- A. Prov. 27:12 — 'A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself...'
- B. Deut. 32:29 — 'O that they were wise ... that they would consider their latter end!'
- C. Prov. 29:18 — 'Where there is no vision, the people perish...'
- D. Eccl. 8:5 — 'Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.'
- E. Eph. 1:16-19 — '...The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...'
- F. Ps. 39:4 — 'Lord, make me to know mine end...'
- G. Ps. 119:18 — 'Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.'

Formula for getting wisdom:

First: Collect the facts, data, details, information.

Second: Study the facts until you can clearly see how they fit together.

Third: Apply your mind to the task, problem or difficulty at hand until you form a clear mental picture of its solution or end result.

- 1. Use jigsaw puzzle theory to illustrate.
- 2. Use components of a transmitter to explain the process.

XIV. How to obtain wisdom.

A. You must do two things:

1. ASK GOD FOR IT.

a. Job 28:12-13; 20-27 — God knows where wisdom is to be found.

b. And how do we get this wisdom from God?

(1) James 1:5 — 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...'

(a) Ask for wisdom in specific things and for specific needs.

(b) To be a better mother, wife, neighbor — to control emotions, temper, etc.

1. 1 Kings 3:5-14 — Solomon asked for an understanding heart to judge Israel.

2. 1 Kings 4:29-34 — Because Solomon's heart was right, God gave him wisdom.

2. APPLY YOURSELF TO GET IT.

a. To find wisdom you must be willing to pay the price of discipline and sacrifice.

b. You must also have an inquiring mind.

(1) Eccl. 7:25 — 'I applied mine heart to know and to search, and to seek out wisdom...'

(2) Prov. 2:1-7 — '...incline your ear unto wisdom...'

(3) In your general quest for wisdom, ask the following six questions: WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN, WHO and HOW.

XV. James 3 describes the kind of wisdom that God imparts.

A. James 3:17 — 'But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.'

B. Please note carefully the individual words that describe the quality of wisdom you'll receive.

XVI. Twelve overall ways to get wisdom.

A. General methods:

1. By studying the life, example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

a. He epitomized wisdom.

b. He was the perfection of wisdom in all walks of life.

c. 1 Cor. 1:24, 30 — '...Christ... the wisdom of God...'

2. By diligently studying God's Word.

a. II Tim. 3:15 — '...scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation...'

b. Prov. 15:1 — 'A soft answer turneth away wrath...'

3. Through meditation.

- a. Josh. 1:8 — *'This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.'*
- b. Ps. 119:97-98 — *'O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.'*

4. Through observation.

- a. Prov. 1:20-23 — *'Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets...'*

5. Through experience.

- a. Job 32:7 - *'I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.'*

6. Through seeking counsel and advice.

- a. Prov. 13:10 — *'...with the well advised is wisdom.'*

7. By walking with wise men.

- a. Prov. 13:20 — *'He that walketh with wise men shall be wise...'*

8. Through reflection.

- a. This involves thinking things through and taking stock of your mistakes.
- b. It has to do with general self-examination with an eye toward improvement.
- c. It involves thinking of ways to apply the Bible and God's laws to all of life's experiences.

9. By reading good books.

- a. Dictionary of thoughts.

10. By studying God's creation.

- a. Rom. 1:20 — *'For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.'*

11. By praying for it.

- a. James 1:5 — *'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'*

12. By applying your whole being to get it.

- a. Eccl. 7:25 - *'I applied mine heart to know and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness.'*

XVII. Attaining total wisdom involves setting priorities and organizing your life.

- A. A list of priorities in order of importance.
 1. Build and maintain a right relationship with God.
 2. Learn to love, submit to and respect your husband.
 3. Learn how to love and train your children in godly character.
 4. Learn to be a good homemaker.
 5. Become a dedicated servant to the Church and God's people.
 6. Be a good neighbor and a light to the community.
 7. Continually strive to improve your life.
 8. Be a faithful and productive employee.

XVIII. A profile of a truly wise woman.

- A. Characteristics.
 1. She recognizes her role and calling in God's plan.
 2. She maintains a high standard of conduct, striving to avoid all appearance of sin.
 3. Her lifestyle is discreet and modest.
 4. She understands the admonition to be quick to listen and slow to speak.
 5. She knows how to gain and hold the respect of others by acts of kindness, generosity and genuine concern.
 6. She controls her emotions, they don't control her.
 7. She's always positive and upbeat in her outlook on life.
 8. She strives to encourage and edify others, instead of depressing them through negative attitudes and remarks.
 9. She always supports and stands behind her husband.
 10. She possesses the ability to weigh matters and foresees the outcome or solution to a problem.
 11. She is capable of making critical decisions in a time of crisis.

12. She recognizes the extent of her capacity and defers to others when matters are beyond her reach.
13. She strives to be knowledgeable and competent in her realm of responsibilities.
14. She is self-disciplined and self-motivated.
15. She's a confident and charming person who expresses calm inner peace and joy.
16. She's patient and long-suffering toward others and tolerant of their faults.
17. She's innovative and resourceful and knows how to think her way through difficult situations.
18. She understands people and knows how to adapt to their personality and temperment.
19. Her children reflect intelligence, strong character and good breeding.
20. She evidences trust and faith, and a close walk with God.

XIX. Conclusion.

- A. Make walking with God your number one goal and you will become truly wise woman.
- B. Start now.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRULY WISE WOMAN

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