

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

"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*

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

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’ - Websters

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

1 Timothy 1:17 (NIV)

“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 (NIV)

“In the Holy Scriptures wisdom, when used of God and good men, always carries a strong moral connotation. It is conceived as being pure, loving, and good . . .

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. Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relation to all, and is thus able to work toward predestined goals with flawless precision.

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. And **all His acts are as pure as they are wise, and as good as they are wise and pure. 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 19:1-7, Psalm 104:24
- Through _____ Psalm 33:10-11, Romans 8:28
- Through _____ 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

“God’s almighty wisdom is always active, and never fails. All His works of creation and providence and grace display it, and until we can see it in them we just are not seeing them straight. **But we cannot recognize God’s wisdom unless we know the end for which He is working.** . . . God’s wisdom is not, and never was, pledged to keep a fallen world happy, or to make ungodliness comfortable. Not even to Christians has He promised a trouble-free life; rather the reverse. He has other ends in view for life in this world than simply to make it easy for everyone.

What is He after, then? What is His goal? What does He aim at? . . . He plans that a great host of mankind should come to love and honor Him. **His ultimate objective is to bring them to a state in which they please Him entirely and praise Him adequately, a state in which He is all in all to them, and He and they rejoice continually in the knowledge of each other’s love** – men rejoicing in the saving love of God, set upon them from all eternity, and God rejoicing in the responsive love of men, drawn out of them by grace through the gospel.”

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

- Through His _____ 1 Corinthians 1:30, James 3:17

How must we respond to the wisdom of God?

- We must learn to _____ wisely! Ephesians 5:15-17

HOW?

1. It begins with _____ for God. Proverbs 1:17; Job 28:28
 2. It grows with _____ His Word. Psalm 119:97-100
2 Timothy 3:15-17
 3. It _____ asking for it specifically. James 1:5; Colossians 1:9
- We must learn to _____ 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**.

Assignment for Spiritual Growth:

1. Sit quietly for 15 minutes and ponder your most difficult circumstance through the lens of God's wisdom.
2. Read J. I. Packer's *Knowing God* chapter ten, focusing especially on pages 93-97 which offers valuable insight into our purpose in life and how to live it. This is the finest overview of Ecclesiastes that I've ever come across.