



# A WISE WOMAN BUILDS HER HOME

A 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL & STUDY

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# WEEK 1 - WISDOM VS INTELLECT

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## DAY 1- WISDOM VS INTELLECT (INTRODUCTION)

Hey Sis, let's dive in. In this devotional we will explore a number of themes. Being a wise woman who builds her home (the God-way) requires much more than what we think. It's not a physical home. Although everything you build and how you build will reflect on your physical home. It's about what you carry as a woman and your ability to build with God. Our focus is Proverbs 14:1

*"The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."*

The Bible tells us where wisdom comes from. In a world that is filled with opinions and different perspectives, the Word of God becomes filtered to suit the narratives of the prideful. Those who are trying to build their own little empires and kingdoms. Those who thrive on the vulnerability of others and whose lifeline comes from the applause of man.

To the world, those who attend the prestigious schools and colleges are deemed to be elite and highly regarded. Leaders being pushed to the front because of their ability to read and memorise a textbook. In the world, the opportunities that people sometimes receive when having the the right resources and connections are granted regardless of whether you have the character and integrity to sustain them.

The truth is, in the eyes of man, it is the outside things that matter. But to God, it's what's inside of you that counts. To lead a Christ-like and Christ-centred life, you need more than just the brilliance in academics or the ability to process and analyse information like a pro- bringing the most brilliant and intricate solutions to the marketplace. You need more than just the ability to memorise scripture, study theology and quote the facts word-for-word. You need wisdom.

Wisdom has often been mistaken to mean intellect. And to the world, intellect seems to be enough. That is false. Wisdom and intellect are completely different things.

**Intellect** has to do with cognitive thinking. Your ability to think. Your ability to process information. It's your 'brain power'. It's what helps you to pass that exam, to look right or left when crossing the road and know when to stop, to solve mathematical problems or, if you love literature and art like me, to be able to understand and process the intricacies of a piece. Creating, problem solving and analysing. These abilities are mastered through reading, writing, education, skill-building and sometimes experience in a specific field or line of work. Being intellectual does not mean you are a wise person.

**Wisdom**, on the other hand, is completely different. Wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit. It is the ability to comprehend things that are beyond your human understanding, beyond worldly knowledge and perspectives; regardless of your educational background or social status. Wisdom is not cognitive thinking, although God can use it. It can only come from relationship with the Holy Spirit. Understanding wisdom is much more intricate. This is why we will explore it first.

**Read James 3:17-18 to prepare for tomorrow's study**

*"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."*

### Prayer

**God, I thank You for this new journey that You are leading me in. Have Your way in me. Help me to keep focused and to be open. Lead me and show me the way through Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name. Amen**

## DAY 2- THE PURITY OF WISDOM

*James 3:17*

*'But wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure ...'*

The Oxford dictionary describes purity as being free from adulteration or contamination.

The **Greek** word for purity in James 3 is *hagnē*- which literally means undivided (or a oneness). This tells us that purity is oneness with God (in thinking and in being)

Our perspectives get contaminated by different factors. Hurt, anger, unforgiveness, jealousy, envy and a sinful lifestyle.

Read Galatians 5:16-26

The scripture in Galatians 5 provides us with a blueprint. The things mentioned in this verse show us how to detect the lack of purity. If those things are present, you cannot function in God's wisdom

*Mathew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"*

It is no coincidence that purity is the first description of what wisdom is. Wisdom has often been portrayed as an exterior strength. There is a reverence towards those who are said to carry wisdom, and in turn, it becomes performative and driven by ulterior motives.

Human 'wisdom' has to do with envy and self-serving ambition, in the attempt to feel worthy, important or even relevant.

On the other hand, wisdom from God [that is pure] has a divine viewpoint on life. It's God's perspective and God's heart for humanity.

Wisdom from God only has good intentions. Wisdom teaches, not for the purpose of proving that you are right and shaming others, but the genuine effort and desire for your neighbor to win. Even in the midst of chaos and misunderstanding.

**Key points on purity:**

- purity seeks God's viewpoint
- purity is not self-seeking

**Key points on impurity:**

- impurity is self-serving, envious
- impurity brings chaos
- impurity is not the breeding ground for divine wisdom

Take some time today to reflect and write down the areas that God shows you, where there may be impurity in your life. This might be a hard pill to swallow. Yikes! - but you need to be honest and let God lead you.

**Prayer**

*God I thank You for Your unwavering love towards me. I am grateful that Your love covers a multitude of sins. Help me to receive Your love today and everyday as I walk this journey. Help me to yield to Your loving correction, and lead me to where You are. Help me to live the way You want me to live as I continue to let go of my perspective. Prepare my heart to receive wisdom that comes from Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name*

**Amen.**

## DAY 3- WISDOM IS IMPARTIAL

*“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is... impartial and sincere”*

*James 3:17*

One of the famous bible stories I would hear as a child was the one about king Solomon and the two women who had a conflict. They were two prostitutes who both had sons. One of the women's son died and she stole the other woman's baby to replace her dead son. When the baby's mother noticed that her son had been stolen and replaced with a dead baby, she sought king Solomon. When the king heard their stories, both women claiming that the baby was theirs, he requested something that sounds gruesome and will raise exclamations of disapproval to anyone with a heart. The king suggested that they cut the baby in half, and give each half to each woman. The mother of the child cried out in dismay, while the other woman agreed with the king's decision. When king Solomon studied both reactions, he knew for sure who the real mother was, and the baby was given back.

When I first heard this story, somehow I thought king Solomon was an evil king who did not care about the well-being of the innocent child. It dawned on me later on that king Solomon was a strategic leader. He used that as a tactic to discover who the real mother was. To the human eye it looked like the king had lost his mind, but he had a purity that would help him be impartial, and strategic. He did not have favorites.

We've discovered that wisdom requires purity. A oneness with God. The ability to think like God and see things from His perspective. Wisdom that comes from heaven has no favorites. The only agenda is to achieve justice and to do the right thing, no matter what. Sometimes it is hard to see things impartially, but taking a step back is the only way God can show you the bigger picture to help you deal with the situation, for a fruitful outcome.

Notes on impartiality:

- Impartiality requires honesty and a mindset that is not one-sided.
- Impartiality is open-minded

For the rest of this week, live with the knowledge that the answer you are looking for might not look like what you think it should look like.

### Prayer

***Lord, I thank you for Your Word. Thank You for life and for Your grace. Help me to understand and see things the way that You do. Where there are limitations in the ability to make wise choices, help me to rely on you completely and trust you to lead me. Clear my mind and my heart of one-sided thinking so that I can fully embrace Your wisdom. In Jesus' Name. Amen***

## DAY 4- SUBMISSION IN EXCHANGE FOR WISDOM

*"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is...submissive" James 3:17*

Read James 4:6-8

*"But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*

If you want to be wise, you have to be submissive. You are going to have to let go of what you think you know. Your degree and all the life hacks you, skills and worldly principles are not wisdom. Your intellect cannot be enough to sustain you.

When we submit to God, He is able to lead us. We need to submit to His will and His way. We cannot submit only in part, so if you trust God's will but struggle to trust and accept His way, then you are not giving Him the full access He needs to do what He needs to do in you and with you.

If you struggle with trust and submission to God, just remember that He is incapable of hurting you or sinning against You. He is Holy. He can be trusted. He is worthy of our submission.



## DAY 5- THE FRUITS OF WISDOM

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” James 1:5-6*

How do you receive wisdom?

You simply ask God.

Take a few moments over the next few days to pray and ask God for wisdom. He wants to give it to you, so you do not have to work to earn it. Just ask Him, and believe that He has given it to you. Meditate on His Word and all that He has revealed to you.

Over the next few weeks, some opportunities will arise to apply wisdom and everything we have learnt about it. Recognise it, and trust God to lead you step by step. Wisdom bears fruit. This is only the beginning.