



Let's take a moment to focus on three key words: **intelligence**, **knowledge**, and **wisdom**. What's the difference? We'll read about all three in this priceless book in the heart of our Bibles. For example...

Even a fool who keeps silent is considered _____;
when he closes his lips, he is deemed _____. (Prov 17:28)

An intelligent heart acquires _____,
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (18:15)

So what do you think? How would you define these key words and describe the difference between them?

🕒 Intelligence -

🕒 Knowledge -

🕒 Wisdom -

In what ways do they build on each other? How does our Creator expect us to use the intelligence he has given us to acquire knowledge and live with wisdom? Why do we need all three?

Solomon is identified as the author of the majority of these proverbs (Prov 1:1; 10:1; 25:1), but Solomon lived a very long time ago and he didn't always walk with wisdom, so should we listen to him? 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 and 1 Kings 4:29-34 might be helpful here...

Proverbs 1:2-7 is a kind of mission statement for the entire book.

To know _____ and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give _____ to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
Let the wise hear and _____ in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
The _____ of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
_____ despise wisdom and instruction.

What stands out to you about this “mission statement”? What do we need to understand?

Proverbs 2:1-5 calls on us to do several things so that we can find and grow in wisdom.
What action words do you see? What do each one of us need to be doing, and why?

Finally, Solomon often describes life as a “walk” (2:7, 20; 3:23; 6:22; 9:6; 10:9; 13:20; 14:2; 28:26). Why is that a powerful way of looking at life? To “walk” in wisdom means...

Proverbs Made Personal

Warning: a message of caution I needed to hear...

Insight: a point I need to remember...

Strength: I was helped and encouraged to walk in wisdom by...

Exalt: God is worthy of honor and praise because...

For next week: read Proverbs 1-4