



## WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are You?

### Joy is from the Hand of God

**Summary:** Fear leads to vanity, striving, folly and madness. Wisdom is living out the God-given joyful experience of vulnerability, connection and acceptance.

**Bible Verses:** Ecclesiastes 2:12-26, Genesis 3:8-11, Psalm 90:12-17

**Music:** "Dust in the Wind" performed by Kansas

**Resources:** *The Best Question Ever* by Andy Stanley and *Ecclesiastes*

September 24, 2015

"Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" —T.S. Eliot

Knowledge is gathered from learning and education, while most say that wisdom is gathered from day-to-day experiences and is a state of being wise. Knowledge is merely having clarity of facts and truths, while wisdom is the practical ability to make consistently good decisions in life. God desires that your life be a masterpiece that reflects His greatness and your uniqueness. But to create a masterpiece with your life, you must submit yourself to the hand of the Master. That moment of awareness and surrender is the beginning of true wisdom. You must allow God to influence each stroke on the canvas of your life. This series will lead you to a path of wisdom by considering the Book of Ecclesiastes, movie clips, story, and other resources.

### The role of FEAR in Vanity, Madness and Folly

1. Genesis 3: 8-11.
2. The wise \_\_\_\_\_ just like the fool. Wisdom is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
3. Toiling and striving are a \_\_\_\_\_. Accumulation of stuff is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
4. Fear creates the \_\_\_\_\_ and the EGO.

### The role of JOY in wisdom

1. Joy is the experience of acceptance and connection that comes from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Joy requires a \_\_\_\_\_ that provides \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Joy defeats fear and allows acting out of \_\_\_\_\_ and that is wisdom.
4. This is the community that only God can provide.

### Loves Purposes

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ Him over all else.
2. To live in \_\_\_\_\_ with HIM.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ the works, wonders and presence of God with gratitude, awe and awareness.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ people and \_\_\_\_\_ to them with vulnerability, compassion and humility.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ with HIM in bringing order to chaos with courage, service and generosity.

### Action: Engage in the Process

1. What do you do out of FEAR?
2. When have you felt JOY?
3. What was going on when you felt this JOY?

## Bible Verses

### Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

<sup>12-14</sup> And then I took a hard look at what's smart and what's stupid. What's left to do after you've been king? That's a hard act to follow. You just do what you can, and that's it. But I did see that it's better to be smart than stupid, just as light is better than darkness. Even so, though the smart ones see where they're going and the stupid ones grope in the dark, they're all the same in the end. One fate for all—and that's it.

<sup>15-16</sup> When I realized that my fate's the same as the fool's, I had to ask myself, "So why bother being wise?" It's all smoke, nothing but smoke. The smart and the stupid both disappear out of sight. In a day or two they're both forgotten. Yes, both the smart and the stupid die, and that's it.

<sup>17</sup> I hate life. As far as I can see, what happens on earth is a bad business. It's smoke—and spitting into the wind.

<sup>18-19</sup> And I hated everything I'd accomplished and accumulated on this earth. I can't take it with me—no, I have to leave it to whoever comes after me. Whether they're worthy or worthless—and who's to tell?—they'll take over the earthly results of my intense thinking and hard work. Smoke.

<sup>20-23</sup> That's when I called it quits, gave up on anything that could be hoped for on this earth. What's the point of working your fingers to the bone if you hand over what you worked for to someone who never lifted a finger for it? Smoke, that's what it is. A bad business from start to finish. So what do you get from a life of hard labor? Pain and grief from dawn to dusk. Never a decent night's rest. Nothing but smoke.

<sup>24-26</sup> The best you can do with your life is have a good time and get by the best you can. The way I see it, that's it—divine fate. Whether we feast or fast, it's up to God. God may give wisdom and knowledge and joy to his favorites, but sinners are assigned a life of hard labor, and end up turning their wages over to God's favorites. Nothing but smoke—and spitting into the wind.

### Genesis 3:8-11

<sup>8</sup> When they heard the sound of GOD strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD.

<sup>9</sup> GOD called to the Man: "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid."

<sup>11</sup> GOD said, "Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?"

### Psalms 90:12-17

<sup>12-17</sup> Oh! Teach us to live well!

Teach us to live wisely and well!

Come back, GOD—how long do we have to wait?—

and treat your servants with kindness for a change.

Surprise us with love at daybreak;

then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

Make up for the bad times with some good times;

we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.

Let your servants see what you're best at—

the ways you rule and bless your children.

And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us, confirming the work that we do.

Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

## DUST IN THE WIND

Written Kerry Livgren performed by Kansas

I close my eyes only for a moment, and the moment's gone

All my dreams pass before my eyes, a curiosity

Dust in the wind, all they are is dust in the wind

Same old song, just a drop of water in an endless sea

All we do crumbles to the ground, though we refuse to see

Dust in the wind, all we are is dust in the wind

Now, don't hang on, nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky

It slips away, and all your money won't another minute buy

Dust in the wind, all we are is dust in the wind (all we are is dust in the wind)

Dust in the wind (everything is dust in the wind),  
everything is dust in the wind

# **WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are you?**

**"Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" —T.S. Eliot. Knowledge is gathered from learning and education, while most say that wisdom is gathered from day-to-day experiences and is a state of being wise. Knowledge is merely having clarity of facts and truths, while wisdom is the practical ability to make consistently good decisions in life. God desires that your life be a masterpiece that reflects His greatness and your uniqueness. But to create a masterpiece with your life, you must submit yourself to the hand of the Master. That moment of awareness and surrender is the beginning of true wisdom. You must allow God to influence each stroke on the canvas of your life. This series will lead you to a path of wisdom by considering the Book of Ecclesiastes, movie clips, story, and other resources.**

**JOY is from the Hand of God!**



# **ACTION: Engage in the Process!**

1. What do you do out of FEAR?
2. When have you felt JOY?
3. What was going on when you felt this JOY?

# THE ROLE OF FEAR IN VANITY, MADNESS & FOLLY

Genesis 3:8-11

1. The wise dies just like the fool. Wisdom is not the purpose of life.
2. Toiling and striving are a vexation. Accumulation of stuff is not the purpose of life.
3. Fear creates the false self and the EGO.

# THE ROLE OF JOY IN WISDOM

1. Joy is the experience of acceptance and connection that comes from **vulnerability**.
2. Joy requires a **community** that provides **safety**.
3. Joy defeats fear and allows acting out of **love** and that is wisdom.
4. This is the community that **only God can provide.**



# LOVE'S PURPOSES

1. To **love** God and **desire** Him over all else.
2. To live in **union** with HIM.
3. To **enjoy and experience** the works, wonders and presence of God with gratitude, awe and awareness.
4. To **love** people and **connect** to them with vulnerability, compassion and humility.
5. To **participate** with HIM in bringing order to chaos with courage, service and generosity.