



WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are You?

EXPERIENCE IS EMPTY!

Summary: The Man who thinks a new experience is how to find life is a fool. Wisdom comes from knowing only the experience of God can bring life to an experience.

Bible Verses: Ecclesiastes 12:13; Ecclesiastes 1:12-11; Amos 3:6; Galatians 5:20; I Kings 4:22-23; Proverbs 24:14; Proverbs 2:12; Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 19:8; James 1:2-5; Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 3:19-20

Video Clip: YouTube – “Groundhog Day: I'm not going to live by their rules anymore”

Music: “Already Gone” performed by The Eagles

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

September 17, 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.

God has determined to trap you in a meaningless existence! – Eccl. 1:12-2:11.

1. Solomon offers the world as a _____ . He determined that he was going to figure out the world (Eccl. 1:12-18). He fell away with his eyes open. His whole investigation was a sorry failure.
2. Solomon learned what is meaningful behind his meaninglessness- _____ ! Man cannot straighten what has made crooked (Amos 3:6).
3. Wisdom shows you that God has determined to trap you in a _____ ! Any intelligent investigation of the world and its pleasures will only multiply sorrows (Eccl. 1:18).
4. Solomon chose to _____ . He used his intelligence to plumb the depths of madness and all folly (Eccl.1:17). Solomon gave way to every vice, but nothing good came from it. Empty experience shows Solomon that experience is empty
 - a. Even laughter is empty and jokes are hollow apart from God.
 - b. Wine as a mental anesthetic is fruitless. Drunkenness is empty. Galatians 5:20 = pharmakeia > pharmacy – “the use or the administering of drugs.”
 - c. Eat and drink, eat and drink, madness and folly. I Kings 4:22-23 = It would take 35,000 people to consume all this.
 - d. Great accomplishments (Eccl. 2:4-7).
 - e. Music and art (Eccl. 2:8).

WISDOM MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

1. When you possess the wisdom needed for a particular situation, you gain _____ , and even certainty for the resolution of the problem (Proverbs 24:14).
2. God has _____ when it comes to solutions. He can and will make a way.
 - a. Struggling with difficult or hurtful people (Proverbs 2:12).
 - b. Seeking out answers to your problems (Proverbs 4:7).
 - c. Best things to do to take care of yourself (Proverbs 19:8).
3. Wisdom and Truth come from _____. He will give you the wisdom you need (James 1:2-5).
4. God uses the wisdom _____. Someone knows how to resolve your problem. Wisdom can be found by seeking out those you have experienced whatever you are struggling with.
5. Seek _____ - Resources > Pastors, Churches (that are equipped with programs for specific needs), Community colleges, seminars, books & tapes, workshops, retreats, professionals, and self-help groups.
6. _____ of wisdom. The goal is to get wisdom, even though the cost might be high (Proverbs 4:7). Be careful: Just because someone says he or she is an expert does not make it so.
7. Not a _____. God has created a universe that has order. There are principles that govern relationships, work, the way you feel, etc. (Proverbs 3:19-20).
8. God's ways _____ ! Ask for help, seek wisdom with all your strength, and then when you find it, apply it with all that you are.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What is the wise thing you need to do NOW?
2. How is your relationship with God related to your experience of joy?
3. What foolish decisions to you most regret?

Bible Verses

Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

12-13 But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy. There's no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you're no good for anything else. The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what he tells you.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-14

12-14 Call me "the Quester." I've been king over Israel in Jerusalem. I looked most carefully into everything, searched out all that is done on this earth. And let me tell you, there's not much to write home about. God hasn't made it easy for us. I've seen it all and it's nothing but smoke—smoke, and spitting into the wind.

Amos 3:3-7

3-7 Do two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place? Does a lion roar in the forest if there's no carcass to devour? Does a young lion growl with pleasure if he hasn't caught his supper? Does a bird fall to the ground if it hasn't been hit with a stone? Does a trap spring shut if nothing trips it? When the alarm goes off in the city, aren't people alarmed? And when disaster strikes the city, doesn't God stand behind it? The fact is, God, the Master, does nothing without first telling his prophets the whole story.

Galatians 5:19-21

19-21 It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

I Kings 4:22-23

22-23 One day's food supply for Solomon's household was:
185 bushels of fine flour
375 bushels of meal
10 grain-fed cattle
20 range cattle
100 sheep
and miscellaneous deer, gazelles, roebucks, and choice fowl.

Proverbs 24:13-14

13-14 Eat honey, dear child—it's good for you—and delicacies that melt in your mouth. Likewise knowledge, and wisdom for your soul—get that and your future's secured, your hope is on solid rock.

Proverbs 2:9-15

9-15 So now you can pick out what's true and fair, find all the good trails! Lady Wisdom will be your close friend, and Brother Knowledge your pleasant companion. Good Sense will scout ahead for danger, Insight will keep an eye out for you. They'll keep you from making wrong turns, or following the bad directions of those who are lost themselves and can't tell a trail from a tumbleweed, these losers who make a game of evil and throw parties to celebrate perversity, traveling paths that go nowhere, wandering in a maze of detours and dead ends.

Proverbs 4:3-9

3-9 When I was a boy at my father's knee, the pride and joy of my mother, he would sit me down and drill me: "Take this to heart. Do what I tell you—live! Sell everything and buy Wisdom! Forage for Understanding! Don't forget one word! Don't deviate an inch! Never walk away from Wisdom—she guards your life; love her—she keeps her eye on you. Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom! Write this at the top of your list: Get Understanding! Throw your arms around her—believe me, you won't regret it; never let her go—she'll make your life glorious. She'll garland your life with grace, she'll festoon your days with beauty."

Proverbs 19:8

8 Grow a wise heart—you'll do yourself a favor; keep a clear head—you'll find a good life.

James 1:2-8

2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

5-8 If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believably, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

Proverbs 3:19-20

19-20 With Lady Wisdom, God formed Earth; with Madame Insight, he raised Heaven. They knew when to signal rivers and springs to the surface, and dew to descend from the night skies.

ALREADY GONE

Written BY Robb Strandlund and Jack Tempchin and performed by The Eagles

Well, I heard some people talkin' just the other day
And they said you were gonna put me on a shelf
But let me tell you I got some news for you
And you'll soon find out it's true
And then you'll have to eat your lunch all by yourself
'Cause I'm already gone
And I'm feelin' strong
I will sing this vict'ry song, woo, hoo, hoo, woo, hoo, hoo

The letter that you wrote me made me stop and wonder why
But I guess you felt like you had to set things right
Just remember this, my girl, when you look up in the sky
You can see the stars and still not see the light (that's right)

And I'm already gone
And I'm feelin' strong
I will sing this vict'ry song, woo, hoo, hoo, woo, hoo, hoo

Well I know it wasn't you who held me down
Heaven knows it wasn't you who set me free
So often times it happens that we live our lives in chains
And we never even know we have the key

But me, I'm already gone
And I'm feelin' strong
I will sing this vict'ry song
'Cause I'm already gone
Yes, I'm already gone
And I'm feelin' strong
I will sing this vict'ry song
'Cause I'm already gone
Yes, I'm already gone
Already gone
All right, nighly-night

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Experience is Empty! – Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:11

God has determined to trap you in a meaningless existence!

– Eccl. 1:12-2:11.

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2. Solomon learned what is meaningful behind his meaninglessness– the purpose and intent of God! Man cannot straighten what has made crooked (Amos 3:6).
3. Wisdom shows you that God has determined to trap you in a meaningless existence apart from Him! Any intelligent investigation of the world and its pleasures will only multiply sorrows (Eccl. 1:18).
4. Solomon chose to pursue meaning apart from God. He used his intelligence to plumb the depths of madness and all folly (Eccl.1:17). Solomon gave way to every vice, but nothing good came from it. Empty experience shows Solomon that experience is empty
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WISDOM MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! - Continued.

3. Wisdom and Truth come from God. He will give you the wisdom you need (James 1:2-5).
4. God uses the wisdom of others. Someone know how to resolve your problem. Wisdom can be found by seeking out those you have experienced whatever you are struggling with.
5. Seek structured wisdom - Resources > Pastors, Churches (that are equipped with programs for specific needs), Community colleges, seminars, books & tapes, workshops, retreats, professionals, and self-help groups.

WISDOM MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! -Continued.

6. Test the voices of wisdom. The goal is to get wisdom, even though the cost might be high (Proverbs 4:7). Be careful: Just because someone says he or she is an expert does not make it so.
7. Not a random universe. God has created a universe that has order. There are principles that govern relationships, work, the way you feel, etc. (Proverbs 3:19-20).
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