



Daily Verse and Comment

Proverbs 1:1-7

(1) The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: (2) To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; (3) To receive the instruction of wisdom, righteousness, and judgment, and equity; (4) To give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young man. (5) A wise man will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel (6) To understand a proverb and its interpretation, the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. (7) The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

A Faithful Version

The ancient Hebrews associated [wisdom](#) with our modern term “skill,” even though “skill” is not a direct translation of the Hebrew term. “Skill” implies what wisdom is in actual practice: excellence in quality or expertise in the practice of one's occupation, craft, or art. People may acquire many skills in life, but the Bible focuses on human life and its God-given purpose. Therefore, a practical definition of biblical *wisdom* is “skill in living according to God's way of life.”

To refine it further, biblical wisdom is unique to those truly in a relationship with [God](#). That biblical wisdom is a gift of God reinforces this fact, and according to [James 1:1-8](#), we should ask for it and He will give it. James cautions that we must be patient because God gives it through the experiences of living within a relationship with God. Living requires time, and in some cases, a great deal of time because we are often slow to learn. God gives wisdom for us to make the best practical use of all the other gifts He gives, enabling us to glorify Him by our lives. As it is used, it displays a host of characteristics similar to the [fruit of the Spirit](#) (see [James 3:17-18](#)).

[Proverbs 1:1-7](#) helps to clarify wisdom by showing that it consists of such other godly characteristics as knowledge of God Himself, the fear of God, understanding, discernment, discretion, prudence, justice, judgment, equity, etc., all of which, melded together and used, produce a skill in living that—this is important—is in alignment with God's purpose and way of life.

Undoubtedly, some people are worldly-wise. However, biblical wisdom and worldly wisdom are not the same skillset. Biblical wisdom contains those spiritual qualities that are in alignment with and support God's purposes. Though wisdom may provide a measure of worldly success, that is not its primary purpose.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Ecclesiastes and Christian Living \(Part Eight\): Death](#)

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