

SERMON SERIES *from NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
—ANDY ANDREWS—

The
TRAVELER'S GIFT



Seven DECISIONS THAT DETERMINE
PERSONAL SUCCESS

by JAN *and* RICK LOY

SERMON

II

THE GUIDED DECISION:

“I WILL SEEK WISDOM”

“Knowing that wisdom waits to be gathered, I will actively search her out. I will seek wisdom. I will choose my friends with care. I will listen to the counsel of wise men. A wise man will cultivate a servant’s spirit, for that particular attribute attracts people like no other; I will be a servant to others. I will continually seek wisdom.”

ADAPTED FROM *The TRAVELER’S GIFT*, by ANDY ANDREWS

I Kings (selected), Proverbs, James 1: 5, 3:13-18 (NASB)



·WHAT IS BIBLICAL WISDOM?

·**Wisdom is the Christ-honoring application of knowledge – I Kings 3:6-12**

1. *For an individual*
2. *For individuals working with/influencing others in any manner*

“Wisdom is God-given discernment and insight to make good choices in pursuit of highest goals and employ honorable means for achieving those goals.” -Unknown

· In Scripture, wisdom is often synonymous with understanding, insight, and sound judgment. James calls this “wisdom from above.” (James 3:17-18)

· In Scripture, the opposite of wisdom is ignorance, foolishness, recklessness, irresponsibility, lack of self-control, laziness, selfishness, arrogance, etc...

James calls this “earthly, natural, demonic.” (James 3:14-16)

·**The insights of wise, godly men:**

1. *“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.” —Charles Spurgeon*

2. *“People only have true understanding (wisdom) when they look at everything from God’s perspective. Authentic wisdom begins when we understand that God is to be the object of our devotion, our adoration, and our reverence (Psalm 111:6).” —R.C. Sproul*

3. *“Wise” speaks not of one who merely knows some fact, but of one who is skilled in the art of godly living. He submits to Scripture and knows how to apply it to his circumstances.”*

—John MacArthur

4. *“My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.”* —Solomon, Proverbs 3:21-23

· **Why Do We Need Wisdom? Proverbs 1:1-7, 2:6-17**

- **For building lives that honor God**
- **For discerning truth versus error**
- **For maintaining moral purity**
- **For the decisions we will make**
- **For navigating the challenges we encounter**
- **For solving the problems we face**
- **For maximizing our God-given potential:**

1. To be creative with our unique gifts
2. To achieve honorable goals
3. To contribute in meaningful ways to the lives of others
4. To continue to become more than we have been.
5. To positively influence others for Christ

“Each one of us should lead a life stirring enough to start a movement.” —Max Lucado

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” —Col. 3:23

“At the end of your life on earth you will be evaluated and rewarded according to how well you handled what God entrusted to you.” —Rick Warren

“In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.” —I Cor. 4:2

· **How do we get wisdom? —Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5, I Kings 3:9**

· **Wisdom begins with “the fear of the Lord” —Psalms 111: 10, Proverbs 1:7, Psalms 119: 89-104.**

1. This “fear” is loving, reverential submission to God and to His Word
2. This “fear” embraces accountability before God for choices and actions
3. This “fear” sees life as stewardship before God; wisdom enables stewardship

Wisdom is readily available; it is not hidden – Proverbs 1:20-21

- **Wisdom is intentionally sought and diligently applied – Proverbs 8:32-36**
- **Wisdom comes in the study of God’s word – Psalm 119:97-104**
- **Wisdom is given by God in response to prayer – I Kings 3:9, James 1:5**
- **Wisdom comes from good, wise counsel – Proverbs 11:14, 15:22**

1. Spiritually wise friends and those who are wise in the particular area of need
2. Books and audio recordings that spiritually feed the soul and mind

Wisdom is supported by active participation in the process.

“You must constantly ask yourself these questions: Who am I around? What are they doing to me? What have they got me reading? What have they got me saying? Where do they have me going? What do they have me thinking? And most important, what do they have me becoming? Then ask yourself the big question: Is that okay? Your life does not get better by chance; it gets better by change.” —Jim Rohn

· Wisdom comes from intelligent, honest assessments of life experiences.

• **Conclusion:** It is our need and privilege to grow in wisdom daily; God has designed that we do so in order to maximize all He has equipped us to be.

