

Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 8: The Word of Wisdom

In this lesson you will learn:

1. What is the first thing we should seek from God?
2. How does the gift of the Spirit called “a word of wisdom” work in partnership with the word of knowledge?



When Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he asked him the 2 most important questions a person will ever ask:

Acts 9:5a, 6a

^{5a} And he said,

Who art thou, Lord?

And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest ...

^{6a} And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**



After you know who the Lord is,
only one question is left to answer:
What does he want you to do?

This explains our great need for wisdom.
Wisdom answers the question,
“Lord, what do you want me to do?”

A hand is shown from the right side, gripping the black handle of a large, dull, grey metal machete. The blade is long and curved, pointing towards the top left corner of the frame. The background is plain white.

WISDOM shows the way.
It is “profitable to direct.”

Ecclesiastes 10:10

If the iron [blade] be blunt,
and he do not whet [sharpen] the edge,
then must he put to more strength:
but *wisdom is profitable to direct.*



When the edge of the blade is sharp,
it does the work for you.

But if the blade is dull, you must use
your own strength. The cut will not be
clean, and you will soon get tired.



Trying to find your own way through life is like cutting a path with a dull knife.

Wisdom clears the path through the jungles of life!



Wisdom is the most important thing to find in life.

Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.



But how do we get it?
Do we need to find a stairway to heaven to
talk with God in the clouds?



The answer is so simple that most people will not believe it!



All we need to do is ask!

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom,
let him ask of God,

that giveth to all *men* liberally [generously],
and upbraideth not [he will not be angry];
and it shall be given him.



But God does NOT give you a lifetime supply of wisdom all at once so that everything you do will now be wise.

Wisdom is given one step at a time,
one answer at a time.





King Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba, was famous for his wisdom.

1 Kings 4:34

And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.



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1 Kings 4:34

And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

But Solomon was not BORN with wisdom.



To understand this story, you must know that some people were NOT happy when David announced that Solomon would become the new king. Solomon had an older brother who thought HE should rule.



But God chose Solomon to be king, and gave him the help he needed.

1 Kings 3:5

In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.



If God offered to give YOU anything you wanted, what would YOU ask for?

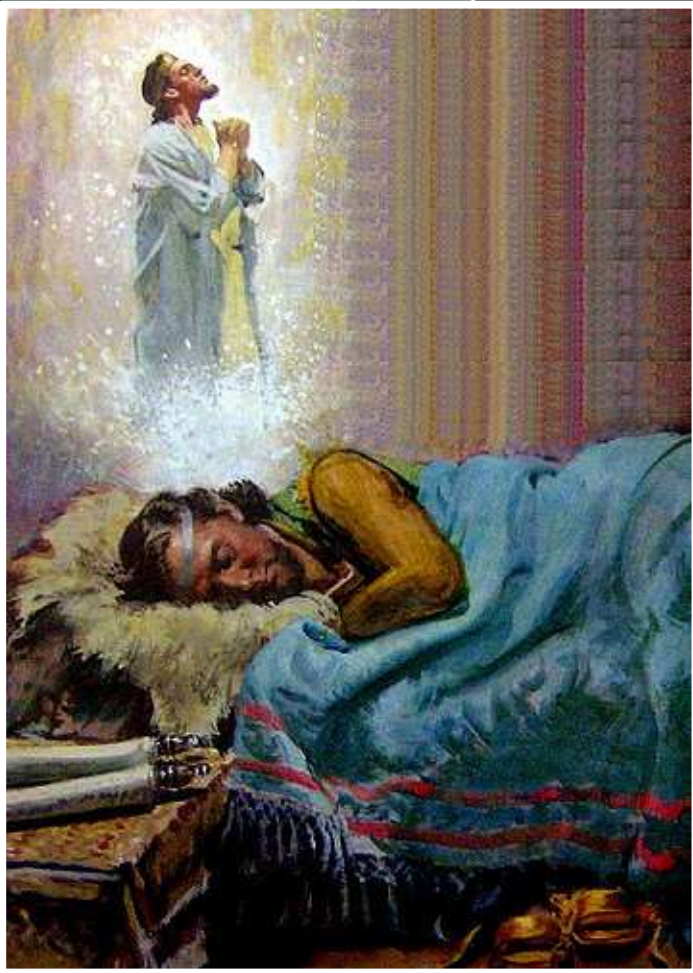


If God offered to give YOU anything you wanted, what would YOU ask for?

What have you asked God for lately?

Good health?

Money to pay your bills?



This was Solomon's answer:

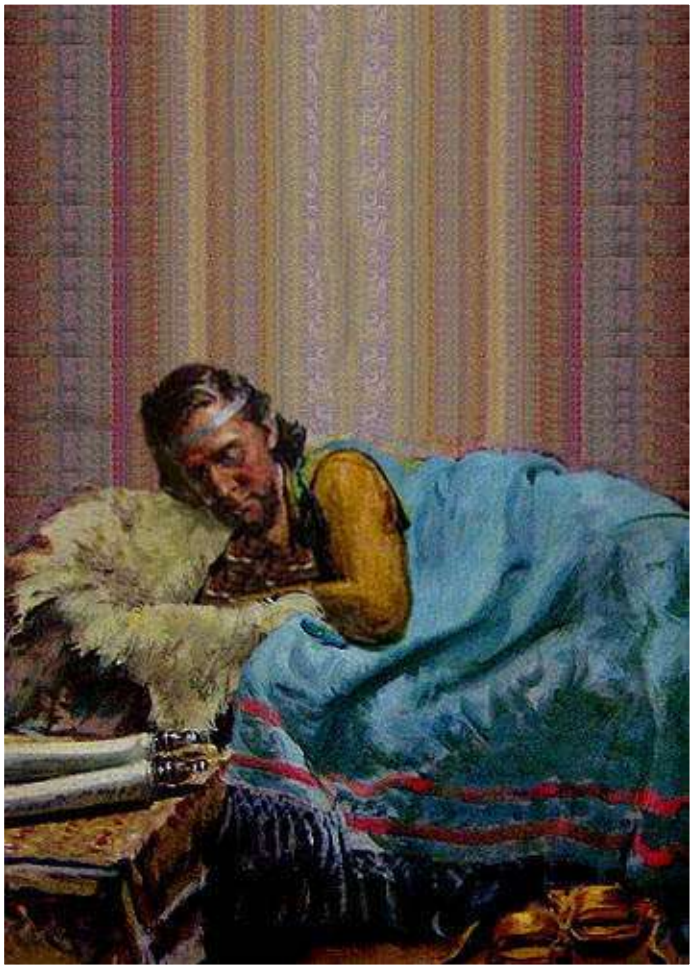
1 Kings 3:9

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

Solomon's request made God very happy.

1 Kings 3:10-13

- ¹⁰ And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.
- ¹¹ And God said unto him,
Because thou hast asked this thing,
and hast not asked for thyself long life;
neither hast asked riches for thyself,
nor hast asked the life of thine enemies;
but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;
- ¹² Behold, I have done according to thy words:
lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart;
so that there was none like thee before thee,
neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.
- ¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked,
both riches, and honour:
so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.



1 Kings 3:15

And Solomon awoke;
and, behold, *it was* a dream ...

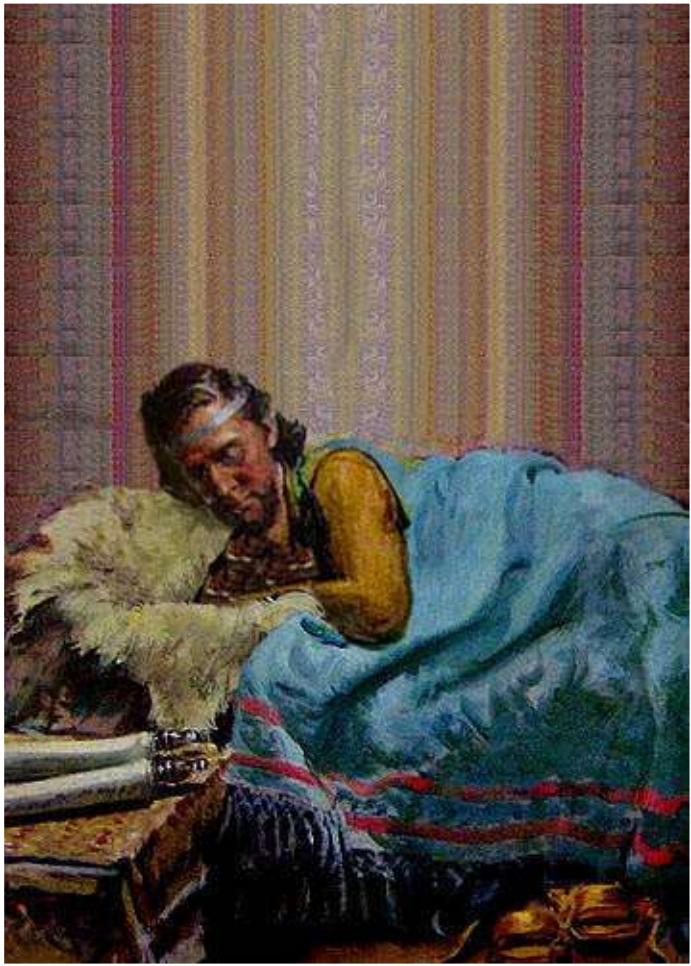
I've had dreams
of flying around
like a bird,
but I know I was
really in my bed
all night.



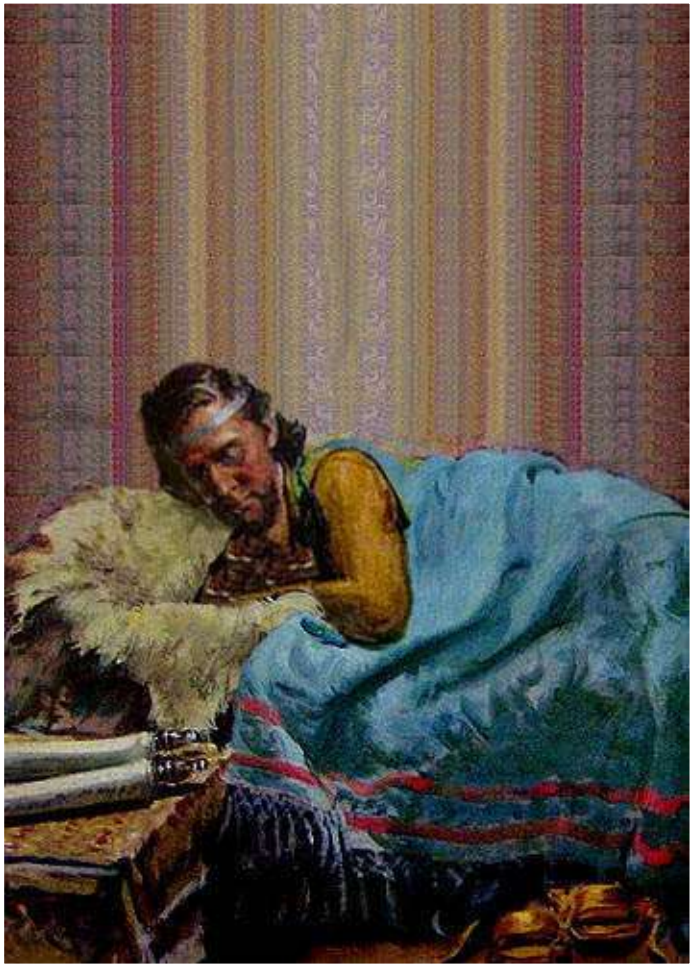


Did Solomon really ask God for wisdom,
or did he DREAM he asked God for wisdom?

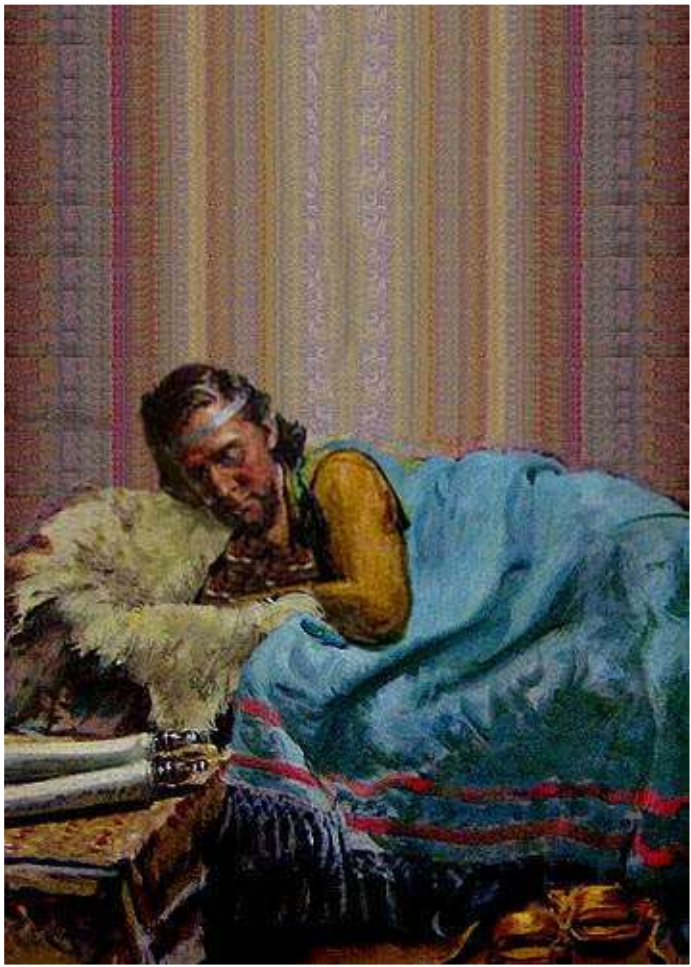
He DREAMED he asked for wisdom.



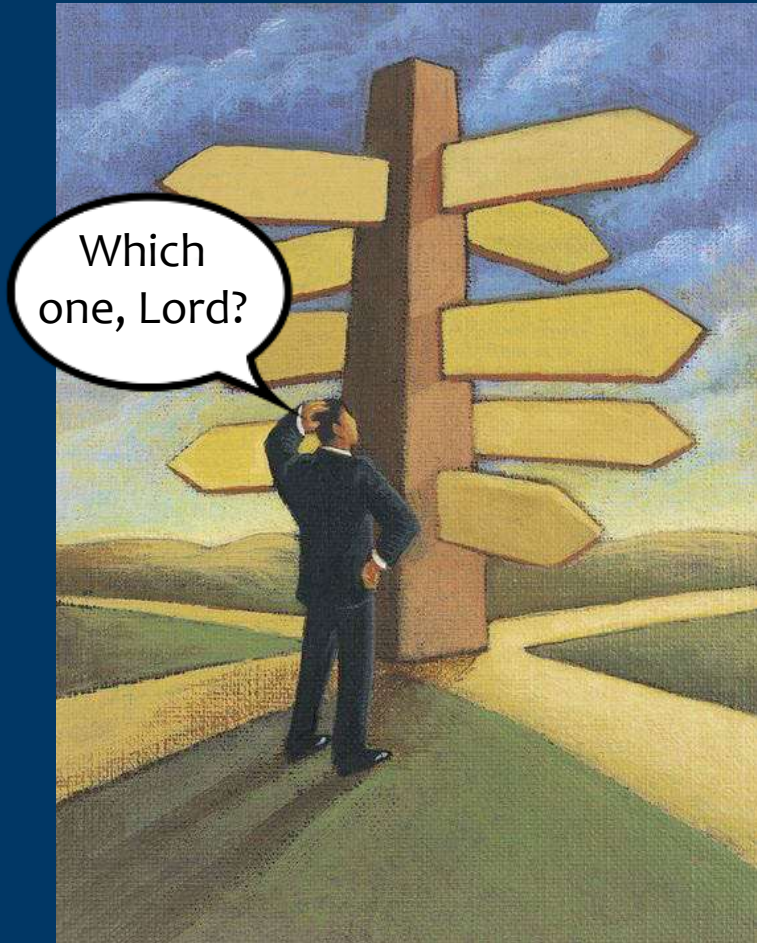
What do you think he prayed for after he awoke up?



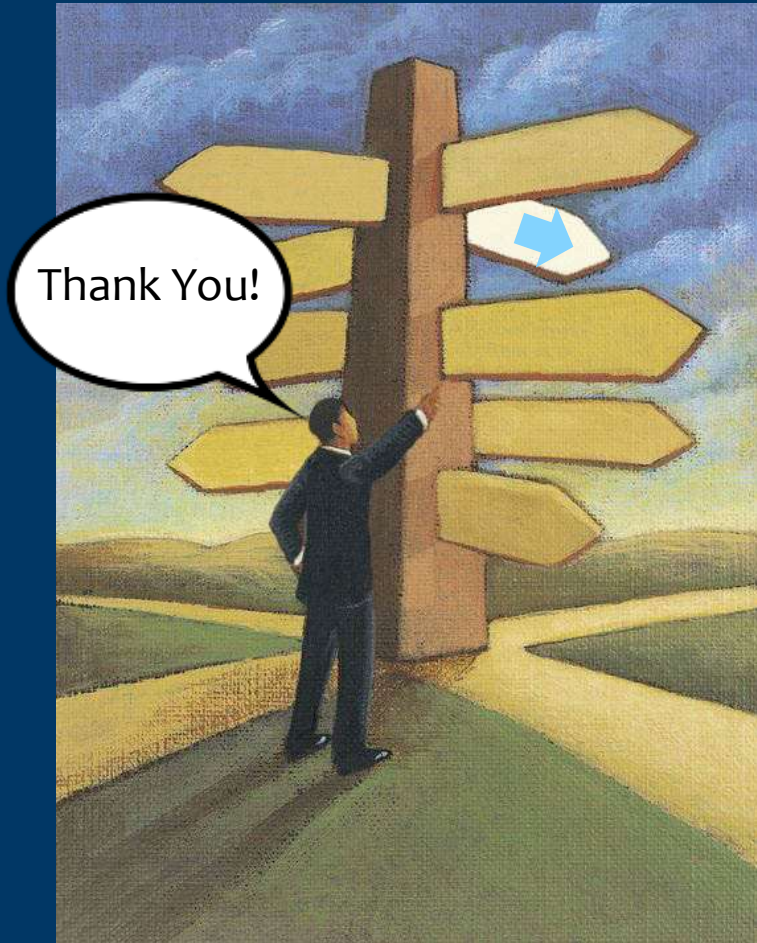
God gave him this dream to show him the right thing to ask for. Wisdom is profitable to direct!



Now that you understand this story, what will YOU ask God for?



Life is full of choices.
Wisdom shows you the right path.



Proverbs 4:11

I have taught thee in the way of wisdom;
I have led thee in right paths.



Everyday there are so many things to do,
and not enough time to do them all.
How do we know the RIGHT thing to do?

Jesus will help us the same way he helped
Martha.



Luke 10:38-39

- ³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.
- ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.





Luke 10:40

⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

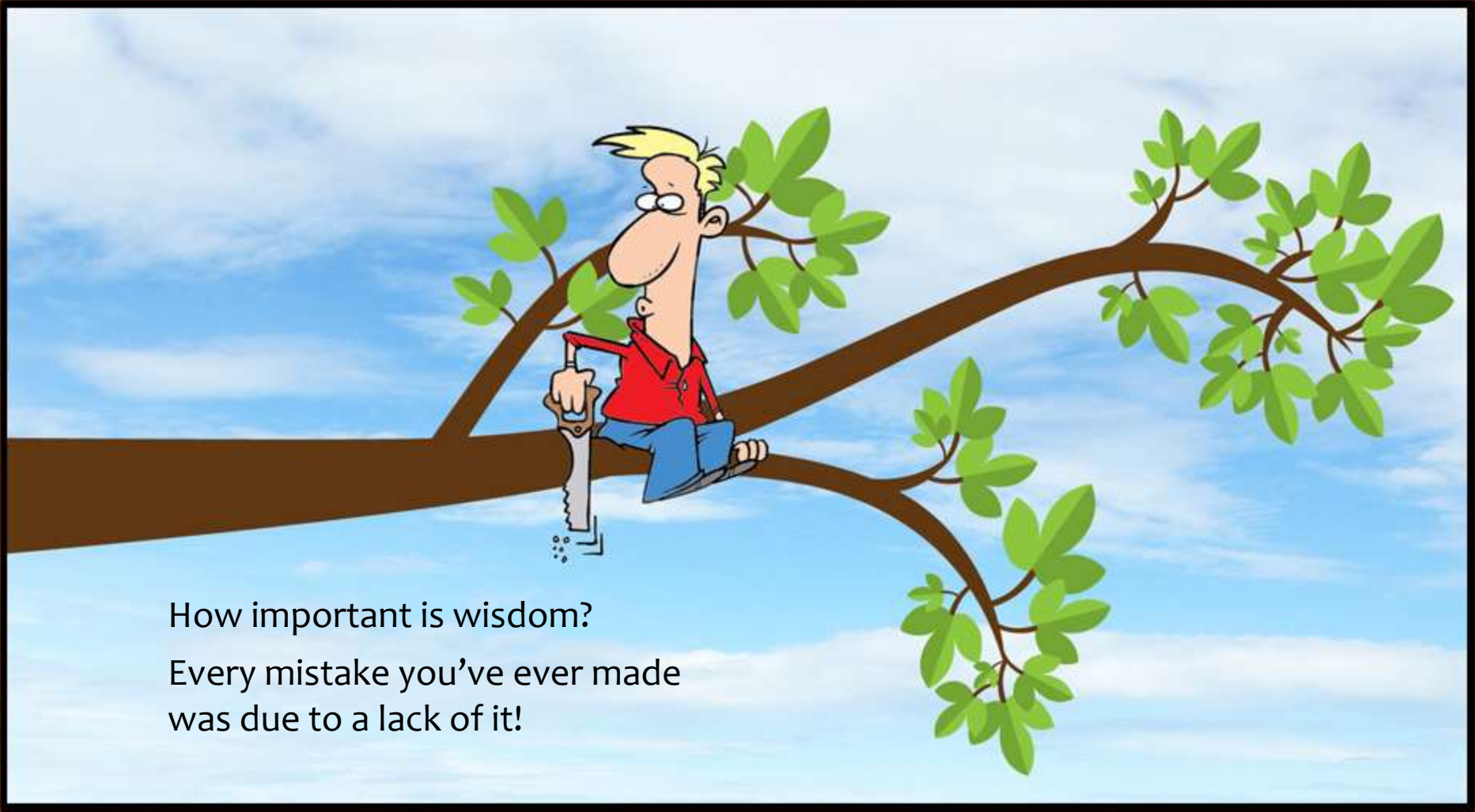




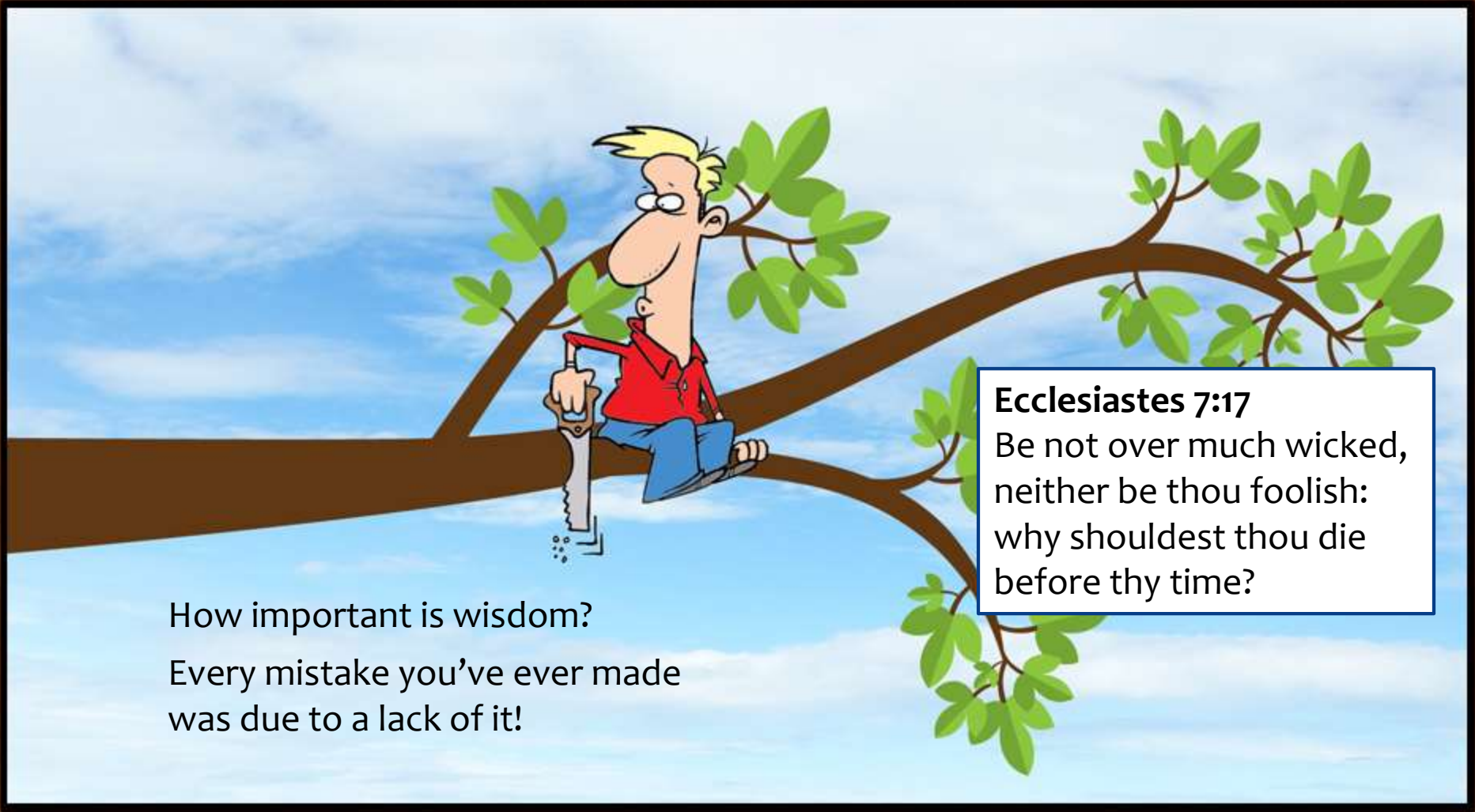
Luke 10:41-42

- 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her,
Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:
- 42 But one thing is needful:
and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.





How important is wisdom?
Every mistake you've ever made
was due to a lack of it!



Ecclesiastes 7:17
Be not over much wicked,
neither be thou foolish:
why shouldest thou die
before thy time?

How important is wisdom?
Every mistake you've ever made
was due to a lack of it!



Up to now, this lesson has focused on our need for WISDOM.

Now we will look at a special kind of wisdom, the gift of the Spirit called “the word of wisdom.” This gift is the companion to the word of knowledge.

The Spirit SPEAKS

The Spirit REVEALS

By the gift of the word of wisdom, the Holy Spirit gives you a revelation of counsel, showing you what God wants you to do with the information you received by a word of knowledge.



By a word of knowledge, Joseph told the Pharaoh there would be seven years of prosperity and then seven years of great famine.

But what was Pharaoh to do with this information?

Obviously, some of the food should be stored for the future, but how much?

Ten percent?

Fifty percent?





Happily, God gave Joseph another revelation to tell the Pharaoh!

God gave Joseph a word of counsel, a word of wisdom.

Genesis 41:33-36

- 33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.
- 34 Let Pharaoh do *this*, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up **the fifth part** of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.
- 35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.
- 36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.



The Pharaoh realized that the only man wise enough to manage such a big project was “a man in whom the Spirit of God is” (Gen. 41:38).

That man was Joseph. When his day began, he was a condemned prisoner. When he went to bed, he was the prince of Egypt.

Genesis 41:39-40

- ³⁹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:*
- ⁴⁰ Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled:
only in the throne will I be greater than thou.





The famine arrived and the storehouses were opened. When Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy some food, they were unknowingly reunited with the brother they sold into slavery.

They bowed down before him just as Joseph had seen in his dream.



By the hand of Joseph,
God caused great wealth to
come into Egypt.



By the hand of Joseph,
God caused great wealth to
come into Egypt.

This same wealth went out
of Egypt by the hand of
Moses when the tribes of
Israel made their exodus.

Do you see how the Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom work together?

A Word of Knowledge told Pharaoh what was going to happen

There would be seven years of great plenty followed by seven years of severe famine.

A Word of Wisdom told Pharaoh what he should do about it.

1. He should 20% of the abundance into storage.
2. He should appoint a person wise enough to manage this project.



Now in the story of Moses and his father-in-law, we will again see how the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom work together to show us God's solution to our problems.

After Moses returned from the exodus, his father-in-law brought Moses' wife and sons to meet him.

Exodus 18:5-7

- ⁵ And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God:
- ⁶ And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.
- ⁷ And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of *their* welfare; and they came into the tent.



The next day, Jethro watched as Moses gave advice to the people from morning to night:

Exodus 18:13-14

¹³ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

¹⁴ And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said,
What *is* this thing that thou doest to the people?
why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?





Exodus 18:15-16

- ¹⁵ And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:
- ¹⁶ When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make *them* know the statutes of God, and his laws.





Exodus 18:17-18

- ¹⁷ And Moses' father in law said unto him, **The thing that thou doest is not good.**
- ¹⁸ Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee:
for this thing *is* too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.



Jethro had received a revelation from God, a word of knowledge. If Moses continued doing things this way, it would not have a good ending.

But what was Moses supposed to do? Tell the people to solve their own problems?

Exodus 18:17-18

- ¹⁷ And Moses' father in law said unto him, **The thing that thou doest is not good.**
- ¹⁸ Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee:
for this thing *is* too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.



Jethro had another revelation for Moses – a word of wisdom showing him the changes he needed to make.

A word of wisdom is a revelation of counsel.

Exodus 18:19a

Hearken now unto my voice,
I will give thee counsel, and God
shall be with thee:





Exodus 18:19b-20

- ^{19b} Be thou for the people to Godward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:
- ²⁰ And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

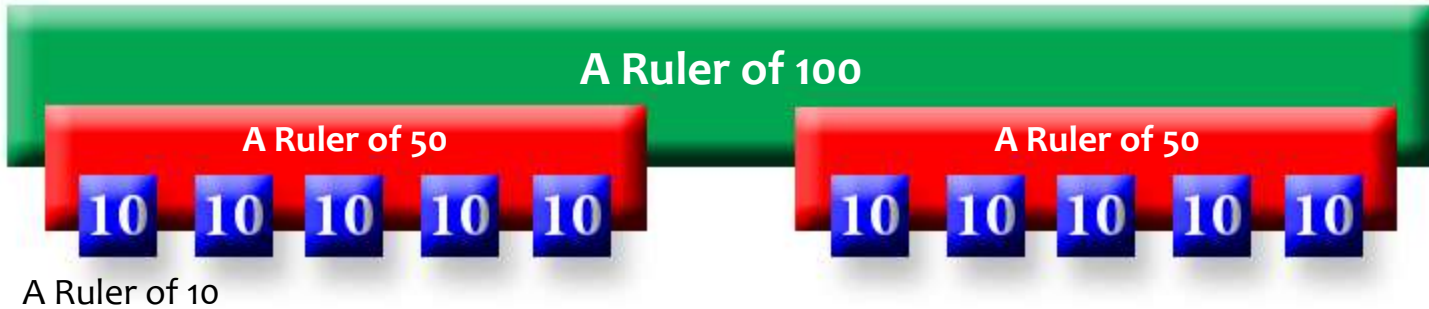




Exodus 18:21-22

- ²¹ Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them, to be rulers of thousands, *and* rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:
- ²² And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, *that* every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear *the burden* with thee.

The “Jethro Principle” of management is still used today



Jethro made sure that Moses knew this counsel was not just his personal opinion:

Exodus 18:23-24

- ²³ If thou shalt do this thing,
and God command thee so,
then thou shalt be able to
endure, and all this people shall
also go to their place in peace.
- ²⁴ So Moses hearkened to the
voice of his father in law, and did
all that he had said.



Jethro had a Word of Knowledge and a Word of Wisdom for Moses

The Word of Knowledge
revealed the PROBLEM

“This thing *is* too heavy for thee;
thou art not able to perform it
thyself alone.”

The Word of Wisdom
revealed the SOLUTION

“Every great matter they shall bring
unto thee, but every small matter
they shall judge: so shall it be easier
for thyself, and they shall bear *the*
burden with thee.”



Jethro had the courage to correct a mighty man of God, and Moses had the meekness to receive that correction. But it was the wisdom of God that saved the day, wisdom brought into the world by the revelation gifts of the Spirit.



“Walk in wisdom,” says Colossians 4:5. The Holy Spirit helps us to walk in wisdom with this wonderful gift of the Spirit called a word of wisdom.

In the next lesson we will study another revelation gift,
the gift of the discerning of spirits.

Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. What two questions did Saul ask Jesus on the road to Damascus?
2. In Ecclesiastes 10:10, “Wisdom is profitable _____.”
3. In James 1:5, how does a person get wisdom from God?
4. What was the problem that Jethro saw by a revelation of the word of knowledge?
5. What was the solution he gave to Moses by a revelation of the word of wisdom?

Each question is worth 20 points.



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