

# Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge

By Margaret McIntyre

In education, the world begins with knowledge, thinking that this is a path to wisdom.

But what does God say?

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10)

What is the fear of the Lord? Loving God and being obedient to Him. (This is not a subservient obedience, but a loving obedience.)

## **Bible verses on wisdom:**

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 14:6 The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.

Proverbs 17:24 A discerning person keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

## **What is understanding?**

It is a response to God's direction.

It involves doing. We hear God and then do what he says. This leads to knowledge of God.

## **Bible verses on understanding:**

Proverbs 4:7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Proverbs 24:3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.

Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

Job 28:28 And He said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

### **What is knowledge?**

God wants us to have a knowledge of His character. He wants us to grow in knowledge.

Phil 3:10 – I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

For the Christian, we know God through His Son Jesus.

Ephesians 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may *know* him better.

Col 1:16 – 17 is the basis of the school curriculum.

For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole universe through him and for him. Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place.

- He is the image of the invisible God
- He created everything
- Jesus, God, the Son, created the things in heaven and earth.
- He created lords, rulers and authorities

We teach about the visible and invisible things He created. We teach about everything that He made.

Romans 11:33 – 36 (ESV)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Begin with God. God is the curriculum.