

# 2026

## spring bible studies



### The Way of Wisdom

Carye Gillen  
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**TITLE:** The Book of Proverbs

In the Hebrew Bible it is called “The Proverbs of Solomon”

Proverbs pulls together the most important 513 of the over 3,000 proverbs pondered by Solomon, along with some proverbs of others whom Solomon likely influenced.

Proverbs means “to be like”. It is a book of comparisons between common, concrete images and life’s most profound truths.

Proverbs are simple moral statements or illustrations that highlight and teach fundamental realities about life.

Solomon sought God’s wisdom and offered these “pithy sayings” designed to make men contemplate:

1. The fear of God
2. Living by His wisdom

**AUTHOR:** Primarily Solomon, but Agur (ch. 30) and King Lemuel (ch. 31) also are named along with anonymous wise men who wrote the Proverbs collected in Ch 22:17-24:34

#### **SOLOMON’S REQUEST FOR WISDOM**

1 KINGS 3:5-15 Solomon asked God for Wisdom

1 Kings 4:29-34 God granted Solomon Wisdom

1 Kings 11:1-13 Solomon’s heart turned away from God.

#### **PROCESS TO GAIN WISDOM**

**GODLY WISDOM DEFINED** - It is the divine ability to apply knowledge and understanding from God’s perspective, leading to righteous living, good judgement, and alignment with His will.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” commands you must start with reverence for Him (the “fear of the Lord”), which involves discernment, righteousness, and spiritual insight.

Wisdom is a gift from God, sought through prayer, found in Scripture (especially Proverbs), and embodied in Jesus Christ. It enables believers to live virtuously and navigate life's challenges in a way that honors God.

Wisdom is the ability to perceive the true nature of a situation and to implement the will of God in that situation. Wisdom is the practical application of God's truth to a specific situation. It is knowing what God wants you to do and then doing it.

Divine wisdom: God's wisdom is practical and practical wisdom that is truly wise, that leads to the path of life, and that is confirmed to the character and nature of God becomes Divine wisdom-our goal!

Proverbs 2:1-6 gives clear instructions to gain wisdom.

### **WISDOM HAS THREE MAIN PARTS:**

1. WISDOM INCLUDES KNOWLEDGE - knowing truth, having the facts and the correct information about the situation. It answers the question, What truth do I need to know? You begin with the Bible and discover what God's Word says about the situation or subject that will guide your thinking and understanding of the situation. Proverbs 18:15- "The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out."
2. WISDOM INCLUDES UNDERSTANDING - the ability to translate meaning from the facts. It's the ability to KNOW the significant of the information and what to do with that knowledge. It is the ability to take the truth and imagine what it would look like lived out in your life. Psalm 119:130- "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."
3. WISDOM INCLUDES RIGHTEOUSNESS - applying what you know and understand to your specific situation. It is KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING IN ACTION. ;You KNOW what God's Word says (knowledge) and you have a grasp of what you need to do (understanding), but now it 's time to actually DO WHAT YOU UNDERSTAND (RIGHTEOUSNESS).

COLOSSIANS 1:9-10 includes all three concepts of wisdom.

"So we have not stopped praying for you since we heard about you. We ask God to give you COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE of His will and to give you SPIRITUAL WISDOM and UNDERSTANDING. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better." (NLT)

Paul is telling the Colossian believers he was praying they would have "knowledge" (know God's truth) and "understanding" (have a grasp of the implications and application of God's truth) resulting in "righteousness" (practical application) that affected "the way they lived." THAT'S WISDOM!

## **GODLY WISDOM VS EARTHLY WISDOM James 3:13-18**

GODLY WISDOM IS:

PURE - reflects spiritual integrity and moral sincerity

PEACE-LOVING - peace promoting

GENTLE - a character of sweet reasonableness; it suffers mistreatment with an attitude of kind, courteous, patient humility, without any thought of hatred or revenge

WILLING TO YIELD/OPEN TO REASON - teachable, compliant, easily persuaded to obey God's standard

FULL OF MERCY - showing concern for those who suffer pain and hardship; and the ability to forgive quickly

WITHOUT PARTIALITY/SHOWS NO FAVORITISM - undivided in your commitment and concern

REFLECTS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - Galatians 5:22-23

VS  
WORLDLY WISDOM

Characterized BY:

JEALOUSY

SELFISH AMBITION

DEMONIC

DISORDER

EVIL OF EVERY KIND

REFLECTS THE WORKS OF THE FLESH - Galatians 5:19-21

“Everyone is on a path... Life is a journey, and the end of it all is not just a place but also a condition. We are becoming the end of our journey, wise or foolish, and every moment takes us closer there”

-Ray Ortlund

Proverbs:Wisdom That Works