

# How Do *You* Know?

by  
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This manual is the result of the united efforts of both authors. The concepts and ideas are a culmination of cooperative study and revelation. The experiences described are common to both. The pronoun “I” is used to demonstrate the unity of our thoughts.

Verses are from the KJV Bible unless otherwise noted.

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# Preface

Dr. Mark Virkler's *How Do You Know?* will give you a divine double-take. This book challenges from a biblical standpoint our current assumptions about learning, study, and education in Christian seminaries, colleges, and universities.

I love rigorous, disciplined study. I was trained to be a scholar at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, where I completed my undergraduate degree in 1983 and at the University of Chicago, where I completed my Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in 1990. I have been a seminary professor for over five years. I cannot be accused of being uneducated and critical of what I do not know. But the rationalism found in most undergraduate and graduate classrooms at *CHRISTIAN* seminaries, colleges, and universities is radically opposed to biblical patterns of learning and knowing.

Scripture teaches nothing less than the Spirit-anointed epistemology outlined by Dr. Virkler in this book. Rationalism must be replaced by revelation-based knowledge and study that comes from encountering God's Spirit and letting Him guide our pursuit of knowledge. How can our seminaries and colleges have neglected to train the heart to hear God's voice and so focused on training only the mind of future Christian leaders? No wonder we see graduates with skilled minds but corrupt hearts, or at best, hearts devoid of faith and the life of God.

God created our minds to function under the guidance of His Spirit, the Spirit of truth. The disciplines of critical thinking, careful reasoning, and systematic assessment of evidence were all meant to operate only in conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit. True understanding, knowledge, and skill come from the Spirit of God alone. The day Adam and Eve decided to exercise these disciplines apart from God, they started dying.

We must do away with teaching Christian leaders to reason apart from God — the sin of the Garden and the sin of the Pharisees (John 5:37-39) — and we must teach them to eat of the Tree of Life — to reason with a conscious dependence on God's Spirit speaking to them and leading them into all truth (John 16:13-15). I agree with Dr. Virkler completely (Chp. 16 "spirit," p. 10): "Our classes must be reverent, worshipful, heart experiences where the presence of God is invited, honored, and worshiped. Without that, all we have is head knowledge, natural knowledge, and religion. This is all clearly taught with thousands of verses of Scripture. Let him who has ears, hear, and let his classes be spiritual encounters with the living God."

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# Introduction

## How I Have Known

### LIFE WITHOUT A BIBLICAL EPISTEMOLOGY

In my early life, I never reflected upon the epistemology (i.e. system for knowing) that I used. I hadn't even heard the word "epistemology." It never crossed my mind to ponder the **method** I used for "knowing" something. I just knew. And I have always been quite sure that what I knew at any particular time was the absolute truth. I was so convinced about that that I would consider anyone who held a different point of view as being wrong, and I would generally try to convince them of my correct position on the issue at hand.

As I reflect back, it becomes clear to me that I have used several methods for "knowing" during my life. Most of them were based on who I honored as an authority at that time.

The first method I used was the exploration of the world around me with my five senses. As I discovered the world, I drew conclusions concerning it.

My second method was probably, "If Dad or Mom say something is true, then it is true."

Next I believed, "If my school teacher says it is true, then it is."

After I became a Christian, my approach was, "If my study of the Bible convinces me of a particular position, then that is true."

Finally, in Bible college, my belief was, "If my Bible school teacher says it is true, then it must be true."

At some points in my life I have held such philosophies of knowing as, "If my doctor says it is so, then it is so," and "If the government or the majority says it is so, then it is so," and if science *proved* it was so, then it was true.

So I have held many varied epistemologies throughout my life, and during all this time it never occurred

to me that perhaps I should do a thorough examination of Scriptures to see what they teach about how one knows.

### CAN THE WRONG THEORY OF KNOWING CAUSE SHIPWRECK?

Once you ask the question, the answer becomes obvious. Yes! If my foundations for knowing are faulty, then my conclusions will be faulty and I will be living in error rather than in truth.

We have thousands of denominations all seeking truth, using different philosophies for determining truth and arriving at fairly different conclusions.

We have medical researchers who have spent \$27 billion over a period of 27 years seeking a cure for cancer, and yet the incidence of cancer is now 18% higher than before they invested their \$27 billion in research. Is their theory for knowing flawed? Has this wrong epistemology cost us millions of lives and much needless pain and suffering in the United States? If doctors used a more biblical approach to knowing, would they have the solution to cancer?

Medical researchers currently use a ten-year process which involves careful scientific experiments and a \$200 million price tag to bring a new drug to market to prevent a disease. Does this process follow biblical principles concerning how one is to know and discover truth?

Philosophers argue about how one knows. There are many beliefs currently in fashion concerning how to discover truth, ranging from humanism, to mysticism, to pragmatism, to rationalism, to hedonism, to empiricism, to you name it. Which is correct? Do several of them have pieces of the puzzle? Or are all philosophical approaches to discovering truth wrong?

For about 500 years, science has said that we know by using the scientific method and applying it to the outer world, analyzing the results with the use of

sense knowledge. However, science added a whole new dimension to its approach to knowing in 1979 when it accepted parapsychology into its ranks. They have essentially reversed themselves and said in effect, “We now believe there is knowledge beyond the five senses and we have begun to explore it.”

#### WHY SUCH A LONG BOOK?

Because the theories of knowledge being used in the western world are so unbiblical, it is going to take a considerable amount of effort to remove them and replace them with a biblical way of knowing.

For those who can handle it, this book is as simple as the following statements:

KNOWLEDGE COMES BY RECEIVING THE REVELATION OF GOD IN OUR HEARTS.

MATURITY COMES THROUGH LIVING IT OUT ON THE ANVILS OF LIFE.

That’s the simple condensation of this book. However, for those not accustomed to acquiring knowledge through their spiritual senses, this book provides a detailed process to bring you intellectually to the revelation of one’s need to learn this way. We have also written several books which will bring a person experimentally to a place of sensing their spirits. These are *Dialogue with God*, *Communion with God* and *Sense Your Spirit*.

#### WHERE THIS BOOK WILL TAKE US

You could go straight to the summaries in Chapters Twenty-six and Twenty-seven and assume that in reading them you would know what the book is about. However, what you will really have is a summary of the things God has so far revealed to me. It is unlikely that you will have received the same revelations, but will instead simply be reading words. How exactly is a revelation passed on from one to another? How does the living truth within me become living truth within you? I doubt it happens by reading a summary of what God has shown me. It must come by God showing you revelation in your own heart. The design of this book is such as to cause that to happen in your heart. By studying through the book chapter by chapter and doing the

exercises as they are assigned, I believe it is possible for this truth to live within you as well.

If Jesus doesn’t explain Scripture to us, our hearts don’t “get it” (Lk. 24:32). If our hearts don’t get it, then Scripture seems to be only endless laws and theology, which is a trait of phariseeism. Therefore, I recommend that you process through all the chapters and all the exercises in each chapter, praying for a spirit of revelation as you study (Eph. 1:17,18).

Obviously, as a Christian, the Bible should be the first place I look to answer any question. Unfortunately, I find that many times I have not consulted Scripture before making up my mind on a topic.

In this book, we are going to examine as many Scriptures as we can find which might bear on the topic of what the Bible teaches about “how one knows.” I meditated on 5,500 verses in preparation for this book. Although I will not take you through all these verses, I will guide you through a few thousand so you will see what the Bible teaches us concerning approaches we are to use in discovering truth.

Obviously, truth is an integrated whole. In this book, we are examining many individual words which all bear on various aspects of truth. We will be putting together a Christian epistemology piece by piece. Ultimately, we will integrate the various pieces and ask God to give us an overall understanding of knowledge and truth from His perspective.

We will discover if there is more than one kind of knowledge, and if so, what the different kinds of knowledge are and how each kind of knowledge is arrived at.

We will compare a biblical epistemology to that used by various philosophers, as well as the epistemology used by science, medical researchers, politicians, and others.

Finally, we will consider what effect a biblical epistemology will have on our way of living, of making decisions, of teaching, of preaching, of interpreting Scriptures, and of leading small groups within the church.

HOW TO RECEIVE REVELATION KNOWLEDGE AS YOU COMPLETE THE EXERCISES IN THIS BOOK  
 An example of revelation knowledge is when you are reading the Bible and a verse leaps off the page, hits you between the eyes, and God says, "This is for you right now." These are precious experiences for the believer. However, for many, they do not happen often enough. There are seven things I do which allow me the privilege of receiving revelation knowledge every time I read the Bible. Truth and insights leap off the page and an understanding of how they are to adjust my life permeates my spirit and soul. I love this experience and hunger for it every time I read the Scriptures. That is why I prepare myself by doing the following seven things. Prayerfully reflect on these steps and determine which ones you do and don't use. Make sure you use all of them as you complete the exercises in this book, as well as during your regular devotional times.

7:6), and confess any sin in your life, so you are not cut off from ongoing revelation (Is. 59:1,2; I Jn. 1:9).

2. LORD, GRANT ME A TEACHABLE ATTITUDE: Revelation is given to those who maintain an attitude of humility, and it is withheld from the proud and the arrogant. So keep an open, humble attitude before God, allowing Him the freedom to shed greater light on any ideas you currently hold and to alter them as He sees fit (Jas. 4:6; II Pet. 1:19).

3. LORD, I WILL NOT USE MY FACULTIES MYSELF: You can do nothing of your own initiative but only what you hear and see by the Spirit (Jn. 5:19,20,30). You do not have a mind to use, but a mind to present to God so He can use it and fill it with anointed reason and divine vision (Prov. 3:5-7; Rom. 12:1,2). If you use your mind yourself, it is a dead work (Heb. 6:1,2).

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Biblical Meditation</h2>	
<p style="margin: 0;">RESULTING IN ILLUMINATION, REVELATION KNOWLEDGE, ANOINTED REASONING</p>	
<p style="margin: 0;">Do NOT Do THIS: LEFT-BRAIN</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">BUT Do THIS: WHOLE-BRAIN/HEART</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>STUDY/RATIONAL HUMANISM</b></p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>MEDITATION/DIVINE REVELATION</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have unconfessed sin</li> <li>2. Have a pre-conceived attitude</li> <li>3. Be independent: "I can..."</li> <li>4. Read quickly</li> <li>5. Rely on reason and analysis only</li> <li>6. Read without specific purpose</li> <li>7. Take credit for insights</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be washed by Jesus' blood</li> <li>2. Have a teachable attitude</li> <li>3. Pray: "Lord, show me"</li> <li>4. Slow down, ponder, muse</li> <li>5. Combine anointed reason, flowing pictures, music &amp; speech</li> <li>6. Read with focused purpose</li> <li>7. Glorify God for insights</li> </ol>

4. LORD, I PRAY THAT THE EYES OF MY HEART MIGHT BE ENLIGHTENED: Slow down as you read, mulling the text over and over in your heart and mind, praying constantly for God to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph. 1:17,18; Ps. 119:18).

5. LORD, I PRESENT THE ABILITIES TO REASON AND TO IMAGINE TO YOU TO FILL AND FLOW THROUGH BY YOUR SPIRIT: Meditation involves presenting your faculties to God for Him to fill and use. These include your left-brain reasoning capacities as well as your right-brain visual capacities. Look for the river of God (i.e. "Spirit flow") to guide and fill

both hemispheres, granting you anointed reasoning and dream and vision (Jn. 7:37-39). Music can assist you, as can muttering, speaking, and writing as you go through the discovery process (II Kings 3:15).

THE SEVEN STEPS OF BIBLICAL MEDITATION EXPLAINED:

1. LORD, CLEANSE ME BY YOUR BLOOD: Since receiving divine revelation is at the heart of biblical meditation, you must prepare yourself to receive from the Holy Spirit by repenting and being cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. You must be obedient to previous revelations from God (Matt.

6. LORD, SHOW ME THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM I AM FACING: Focused attention brings additional energies of concentration of heart and mind, which



help release revelation. For example, note the difference between a ray of sunlight hitting a piece of paper, and sunlight going through a magnifying glass to hit a piece of paper. The focused energy creates a ray so concentrated that the paper bursts into flames. When you have a hunger to master a new understanding and discipline, that hungry and searching heart will cause you to see things you would not normally see (Matt. 5:6).

7. THANK YOU, LORD, FOR WHAT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME: Realizing that the revelation came from the indwelling Holy Spirit, give all the glory to God for what has been revealed (Eph. 3:21).

### ANOTHER GREAT AID TO "SEEING": WRITING OUT SCRIPTURE

When you write or type out a verse, you discover words which you otherwise might have missed. Therefore, I write out verses which I know are key truths for my life. I pray over them, diagram them, analyze them, meditate on them. That is why I have written many of my books. I write so I can learn, so I can put truths I am understanding in my own words and in a framework which is meaningful for me.

The following is the law which God gave for new kings who had just been crowned and were coming to sit upon their throne for the first time:

"Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests" (Deut. 17:18).

Since we are kings and priests, are we to do any less (I Pet 2:9)? Let us make the writing out of Scriptures an important part of our lives.

### LAMAD STANDARDS FOR SPIRIT-ANOINTED SMALL GROUP SHARING (CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY)

Following are some recommendations for increasing the anointing which is present during a small group study of this (or any) course.

1. BEGIN BY BUILDING SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY THROUGH A TIME OF PRAISE, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER, WELCOMING THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE TEACHER. You may use either an anointed worship leader or an anointed cassette

or CD. As a group, enter God's presence in praise and worship, and conclude the worship time with a prayer for the Holy Spirit to grant revelation knowledge among the students during your time together (Eph. 1:17,18). Never grieve the Holy Spirit by not honoring and welcoming Him as your Teacher.

2. SINCE PERSONAL GROWTH IS OFTEN DIFFICULT, BUILD EMOTIONAL OPENNESS AND INTIMACY WITH A HUG BREAK. Have a short time of mingling and sharing hugs one with another. This touching breaks down walls, and builds intimacy among the group, allowing the members to share more deeply during the guided self-discovery discussion time which will follow.

3. CAPTURE EVERYONE'S HEART AND ATTENTION WITH A STORY. The group leader should introduce the discussion by painting a picture of a real-life situation which involves the topic being explored in that meeting, and relating it meaningfully to the group, showing that either a right or a wrong understanding and application of the topic at hand will have a significant effect on each individual's life (Matt. 13:34). In this book, you will find a story suitable for sharing at the beginning of each chapter. Begin the sharing by reading this story, and then having group members share their memory verses, insights, answers to the discussion questions, and written weekly summaries.

4. SET THE PACE BY MODELING OPEN, HONEST SHARING. The leader may choose to share an anointed insight God gave him through the week's assignment and how this met a real-life need or dilemma he was facing. The group will not share their lives any more deeply than the leader shares his.

5. INVOLVE ALL GROUP MEMBERS IN A SHARING OF REVELATIONS. Go around the group and have members read verses on which God gave them revelation insight. Have them share what God has spoken to them from these verses and what practical difference it makes in their lives. Draw out the timid students by calling on them to share, and limit the naturally talkative.

6. HAVE AN ANOINTED TEACHING ELEMENT AND/OR FILLER EXERCISE IN CASE DISCUSSION LAGS. The anointed teaching should be something God has freshly revealed to the teacher concerning either the



lesson completed for this class or the one assigned for the coming week, and which he senses will be meaningful and relevant to the lives of the students. This can come early in the group meeting. The filler exercise is something which would be interesting and beneficial to the students but which won't be tragic if it is missed. This can come nearer the end of the meeting.

7. CLOSE WITH A TIME OF JOURNALING\* AND/OR MINISTRY, WHERE YOU PRACTICE AND APPLY THE TRUTH IN THE CLASSROOM. This allows students a chance to record directly from God what He wants to speak to them, and to receive prayer and the laying on of hands by the group to meet their individual needs. End with a prayer of thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit for His presence during the meeting.

#### \* JOURNALING

Journaling is the writing out of your personal dialogue with God. It is one of four keys to recognizing the Lord's voice within your heart which is taught in *Dialogue with God* and *Communion with God* by Mark and Patti Virkler. Following is a summary of the teaching of these books. Use these four keys when you come to the journaling exercises at the end of each chapter of this book.

#### FOUR KEYS TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The age in which we live is so married to rationalism and cognitive, analytical thought that we almost mock when we hear of one actually claiming to be able to hear the voice of God. However, we do not scoff, for several reasons. First, men and women throughout the Bible heard God's voice. Also, there are some highly effective and reputable men and women of God alive today who demonstrate that they hear God's voice. Finally, there is a deep hunger within us all to commune with God, and hear Him speak within our hearts.

As a born-again, Bible-believing Christian, I struggled unsuccessfully for years to hear God's voice. I prayed, fasted, studied my Bible and listened for a voice within, all to no avail. **There was no inner voice that I could hear!** Then God set me aside for a year to study, read, and experiment in the area of learning to hear God's voice. During that time, God taught me **four keys that opened the**

**door to two-way prayer.** I have discovered that not only do they work for me, but they have worked for many thousands of believers who have been taught to use them, bringing tremendous intimacy to their Christian experience and transforming their very way of living. This will happen to you also as you seek God, utilizing the following four keys. They are all found in Habakkuk 2:1,2. I encourage you to read this passage before going on.

KEY #1 - God's voice in our hearts sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Therefore, when I tune to God, I tune to spontaneity.

The Bible says that the Lord answered me and said...(Hab. 2:2). Habakkuk knew the sound of God's voice. Elijah described it as a still, small voice. I had always listened for an inner **audible** voice, and surely God can and does speak that way at times. However, I have found that for most of us, most of the time, God's inner voice comes to us as **spontaneous thoughts, visions, feelings, or impressions.** For example, haven't each of us had the experience of driving down the road and having **a thought come to us** to pray for a certain person? We generally acknowledge this to be the voice of God calling to pray for that individual. My question to you is, "What did God's voice sound like as you drove in your car? Was it an inner, audible voice, or was it a spontaneous thought that lit upon your mind?" Most of you would say that God's voice came to you as a spontaneous thought.

So I thought to myself, "Maybe when I listen for God's voice, I should be listening for a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Maybe spirit-level communication is received as spontaneous thoughts, impressions, feelings, and visions." Through experimentation and feedback from thousands of others, I am now convinced that this is so.

The Bible confirms this in many ways. The definition of *paga*, the Hebrew word for intercession, is "a chance encounter or an accidental intersecting." When God lays people on our hearts for intercession, He does it through *paga*, a chance encounter thought, accidentally intersecting our thought processes. Therefore, when I tune to God, I tune to chance encounter thoughts or spontaneous thoughts. When I am poised quietly before God in prayer, I

have found that the flow of spontaneous thoughts that comes is quite definitely from God.

KEY #2 - I must learn to still my own thoughts and emotions, so that I can sense God's flow of thoughts and emotions within me. Habakkuk said, "I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart..." (Hab. 2:1). Habakkuk knew that in order to hear God's quiet, inner, spontaneous thoughts, he had to first go to a quiet place and still his own thoughts and emotions. Psalm 46:10 encourages us to be still, and know that He is God. There is a deep inner knowing (spontaneous flow) in our spirit that each of us can experience when we quiet our flesh and our minds.

I have found several simple ways to quiet myself so that I can more readily pick up God's spontaneous flow. Loving God through a quiet worship song is a most effective means for me (note II Kings 3:15). It is as I become still (thoughts, will, and emotions) and am poised before God that the divine flow is realized. Therefore, after I worship quietly and then become still, I open myself for that spontaneous flow. If thoughts come to me of things I have forgotten to do, I write them down and then dismiss them. If thoughts of guilt or unworthiness come to my mind, I repent thoroughly, receive the washing of the blood of the Lamb, and put on His robe of righteousness, seeing myself spotless before the presence of God.

As I fix my gaze upon Jesus (Heb. 12:2), becoming quiet in His presence, and sharing with Him what is on my heart, I find that two-way dialogue begins to flow. Spontaneous thoughts flow from the throne of God to me, and I find that I am actually conversing with the King of Kings.

It is very important that you become still and properly focused if you are going to receive the pure word of God. If you are not still, you will simply be receiving your own thoughts. If you are not properly focused on Jesus, you will receive an impure flow, because the intuitive flow comes out of that upon which you have fixed your eyes. Therefore, if you fix your eyes upon Jesus, the intuitive flow comes from Jesus. If you fix your gaze upon some desire of your heart, the intuitive flow comes out of that desire of your heart. To have a pure flow you must

first of all become still, and secondly, you must carefully fix your eyes upon Jesus. Again I will say, this is quite easily accomplished by quietly worshipping the King, and then receiving out of the stillness that follows.

KEY #3 - As I pray, I fix the eyes of my heart upon Jesus, seeing in the spirit the dreams and visions of Almighty God.

We have already alluded to this principle in the previous paragraphs; however, we need to develop it a bit further. Habakkuk said, "I will keep watch to see," and God said, "Record the vision" (Hab. 2:1,2). It is very interesting that Habakkuk was going to actually start looking for vision as he prayed. He was going to open the eyes of his heart, and look into the spirit world to see what God wanted to show him. This is an intriguing idea.

I had never thought of opening the eyes of my heart and looking for vision. However, the more I thought of it, the more I realized this was exactly what God intends me to do. He gave me eyes in my heart. They are to be used to see in the spirit world the vision and movement of Almighty God. I believe there is an active spirit world functioning all around me. This world is full of angels, demons, the Holy Spirit, the omnipresent God, and His omnipresent Son, Jesus. There is no reason for me not to see it, other than my rational culture, which tells me not to believe it is even there and provides no instructions on how to become open to seeing this spirit world.

The most obvious prerequisite to seeing is that we need to look. Daniel was seeing a vision in his mind and he said, "I was looking...I kept looking...I kept looking" (Dan. 7:1,9,13). Now as I pray, I look for Jesus present with me, and I watch Him as He speaks to me, doing and saying the things that are on His heart. Many Christians will find that if they will only look, they will see. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. It is as simple as that. You will see a spontaneous inner vision in a manner similar to receiving spontaneous inner thoughts. You can see Christ present with you in a comfortable setting, because Christ is present with you in a comfortable setting. Actually, you will probably discover that inner vision comes so easily you will have a tendency to reject it, thinking that it is just you. (Doubt

is Satan's most effective weapon against the Church.) However, if you will persist in recording these visions, your doubt will soon be overcome by faith as you recognize that the content of them could only be birthed in Almighty God.

God continually revealed Himself to His covenant people using dream and vision. He did so from Genesis to Revelation and said that, since the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, we should expect to receive a continuing flow of dreams and visions (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus, our perfect example, demonstrated this ability of living out of ongoing contact with Almighty God. He said that He did nothing on His own initiative, but only that which he **saw the Father doing, and heard the Father saying** (Jn. 5:19,20,30). What an incredible way to live!

Is it actually possible for us to live out of the divine initiative as Jesus did? A major purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection was that the veil be torn from top to bottom, giving us access into the immediate presence of God, and we are commanded to draw near (Heb. 10:19-22). Therefore, even though what I am describing seems a bit unusual to a rational twentieth century culture, it is demonstrated and described as being a central biblical teaching and experience. It is time to restore to the Church all that belongs to the Church.

Because of their intensely rational nature and existence in an overly rational culture, some will need more assistance and understanding of these truths before they can move into them. They will find this help in the book *Communion with God* by the same author.

**KEY #4** - Journaling, the writing out of our prayers and God's answers, provides a great new freedom in hearing God's voice.

God told Habakkuk to record the vision and inscribe it on tablets...(Hab. 2:2). It had never crossed my

mind to write out my prayers and God's answers as Habakkuk did at God's command. If you begin to search Scripture for this idea, you will find hundreds of chapters demonstrating it (Psalms, many of the prophets, Revelation). Why then hadn't I ever thought of it?

I called the process "journaling," and I began experimenting with it. I discovered it to be a fabulous facilitator to clearly discerning God's inner, spontaneous flow, because as I journaled I was able **to write in faith for long periods of time**, simply believing it was God. I did not have to test it as I was receiving it, (which jams one's receiver), because I knew that when the flow was over I could go back and test and examine it carefully, making sure that it lined up with Scripture.

You will be amazed when you attempt journaling. Doubt may hinder you at first, but throw it off, reminding yourself that it is a biblical concept, and that God is present, speaking to His children. Don't take yourself too seriously. When you do, you become tense and get in the way of the Holy Spirit's movement. It is when we cease **our labors** and enter His rest that God is free to flow (Heb. 4:10). Therefore, put a smile on your face, sit back comfortably, get out your pen and paper, and turn your attention toward God in praise and worship, seeking His face. As you write out your question to God and become still, fixing your gaze on Jesus, who is present with you, you will suddenly have a very good thought in response to your question. Don't doubt it, simply write it down. Later, as you read your journaling, you, too, will be amazed to discover that you are indeed dialoguing with God.

Some final notes. No one should practice this without having first read through at least the New Testament (preferably, the entire Bible), and being submitted to solid, spiritual leadership. All major directional moves that come through journaling should be submitted before being acted upon.



# Foundation Stone #1

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## THE GOAL OF KNOWING

*"To know God's thoughts through the Spirit"*

# Chapter One

## “Truth” Biblically Speaking

This chapter is drawn from the 235 verses in the King James Version of the Bible which have the word “truth” in them.

### THE STORY

I have often argued over “truth” with other Christians. They have verses which back up their position. I have verses which back up my position. They quote their verses; I quote mine. I try to change their minds; they try to change my mind. We argue back and forth. Sometimes we become angry and hostile toward one another. I assume I am right. They, of course, assume they are right. I assume that whoever can think and reason most clearly holds the correct position on the point being argued. I challenge their thinking processes and their underlying presuppositions. In frustration, we part. They have their truth. I have my truth. God has His truth, which, of course, we both believe we have. Something is definitely wrong. What is truth, anyway?

### GREEK VERSUS HEBREW KNOWING: DETACHED KNOWLEDGE VERSUS PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

In our culture, we tend to think of knowing as simply “acquiring detached knowledge.” When the Bible speaks of knowing, it speaks much more in terms of “personal encounter” than of simply “detached knowledge.” *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Vol. II* by Colin Brown deals with this distinction for several pages under its treatment of the word “knowledge” (*ginosko* - pages 390-406). In summary, it states that “While the Greeks were concerned with detached knowledge and a speculative interest in the metaphysical nature of things, the Old Testament regards knowledge as something which continually arises from personal encounter. When the Old Testament makes statements about God and creation, we should not regard them as ontological deductions, but as declarations of faith in response to God’s revelation.” (page 396)

Therefore we need to be aware that, while for the Greeks and the rational Westerner, knowledge may

be simply detached and logical, for the Hebrew and the Christian, knowledge is much more than that. It is spiritual revelation from God and a personal encounter with truth. It demands participation, involvement, and responsiveness. It is life-changing.

### YADAH AND GINOSKO - BIBLICAL WORDS FOR KNOWING

The idea of an intimate relationship with truth is powerfully conveyed by the two primary words for “know” in the Bible, *yadah* in the Hebrew language, and *ginosko* in the Greek. These two words are counterparts of each other, and are used extensively throughout the Old and New Testaments. In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament), *ginosko* is used as the Greek translation of *yadah*. Both of these words are used to describe the intimacy of a love relationship between a man and his wife. Thus, they are words that go beyond simple objective knowledge to an intimacy and a personal acquaintance with that which you know. The senses may contribute to *ginosko* knowledge, however it goes much deeper. It involves a spiritual understanding, a comprehension of what your senses are perceiving.

### WHAT OR WHO IS TRUTH?

Obviously, an earnest Christian desires to know “truth.”

Pilate asked the question any Greek, or any contemporary Westerner, might ask: “**What** is truth?” (Jn. 18:37,38). Jesus did not answer him, perhaps because truth is not a “what.” It is not a pile of information which can be held and examined as putty in one’s hands.

Jesus had already answered Pilate’s question earlier when He said, “**I Am**...the truth” (Jn. 14:6). Truth was embodied in a Person. Perhaps it could more accurately be stated that truth is embodied in the Spirit which indwells that Person, for Jesus called the indwelling Holy Spirit “the Spirit of truth” (Jn. 14:16,17). Jesus said that this indwelling Holy

Spirit would “guide us into all truth” (Jn. 16:13), that His anointing would teach us all things, and is true and is no lie (I Jn. 2:27).

Jesus said that His life actually bore witness unto the truth, and that everyone that is of the truth would hear His voice (Jn. 18:37).

The above verses clearly teach that truth is something which arises out of the voice of the Spirit (Jesus) within. Truth is not so much a “head thing” as it is a “heart thing.” It is arrived at through a subjective inner experience, which may be related to an external experience which precipitates the revelation of truth within the heart and life of the individual.

An example of an external catalyst which may precipitate the discovery of truth is the Holy Scriptures. “Thy word is true,” declared the Psalmist (Ps. 119:160). So, meditating on Scriptures is an avenue to come to truth, especially if one’s heart is true (Ps. 51:6) and prayerful (Ps. 119:18; Eph. 1:17,18). Then God may reveal truth from His Holy Scriptures into the heart. However, if one’s heart is wicked and one’s attitude is arrogant, one may read Scriptures without coming to truth. So the fact that Scriptures are truth does not mean that everyone who reads or uses Scriptures will necessarily come to the truth. Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, and he did so with Scripture (Lk. 4:9-11). Clearly, every use of Scripture is not necessarily a revelation of living truth for the situation at hand.

Other external catalysts which can be combined with spiritual revelation and result in truth include the stars (Matt. 2:2), the Spirit-anointed counsel of others (Prov. 11:14) and visions of angels (Lk. 2:9).

#### BIBLE MEDITATION ON TRUTH

Following are a few of the 235 references to truth in the King James Version of the Bible. Write out each one, and record what God reveals to you concerning truth. Memorize at least one verse on truth through which God is speaking powerfully to you. Come to your group meeting prepared to share this verse and the revelation of what it means to you.

For further insight, do a concordance search on the word “truth” and note your observations and conclusions.

God’s Word is true. (Psalm 119:160)

What is God’s Word called? (II Timothy 2:15)

What are the results of abiding in God’s Word? (John 8:31,32)

Jesus is Truth. (John 14:6)

God’s Spirit is Truth. (John 14:17)

Of Whom does the Spirit of Truth testify? (John 15:26)

What does the Spirit of Truth do? (John 16:13)

How is one sanctified? (John 17:15-19)



God leads us into truth. (Psalm 25:5)

GROUP ACTIVITIES

GROUP LEADER: Follow the pattern for "Spirit-anointed Small Group Sharing" given in the introduction of this book.

The need for a true heart. (Psalm 51:6)

1. Share your memory verse from this week's meditation, what God revealed to you from this verse, and the practical difference it will make in the way you live your life.

How does God make us know wisdom? (Psalm 51:6)

2. Have each group member share verses he has memorized and what God is speaking to him from these verses.

Truth comes through revelation in the heart (Psalm 119:18; Ephesians 1:17,18; John 16:13; I John 2:27).

3. Have each one share other insights he has received and questions he has from this meditation.

4. Discuss: When God's Spirit leads us into truth, are we speaking of "spiritual truths" only, or all truth, both "secular" and "sacred"? Does God have the truths of all aspects of the universe within Him? Will He reveal them to those who seek Him with a true and righteous heart? Can a Spirit-filled Christian expect to receive divine revelation and truth within his heart and spirit for issues at the work place, as well as issues he faces while ministering to people?

God's truth endures. (Psalm 100:5)

5. Discuss: How is the biblical definition of truth different from the definition of truth you have been using in your life?

Who does God hear? (Psalm 145:18)

6. Discuss: How is the biblical definition of truth different from the definition of truth used by your culture, the medical profession, a philosopher, a scientist?

Who hears Jesus' voice? (John 18:37)

7. Journal and ask God what He wants to speak to you concerning truth. Record your journaling below and come prepared to share your journaling with the group.

How is the truth to be spoken? (Ephesians 4:15)

JOURNALING AND NOTES:

# Chapter Two

## “Wisdom” Biblically Speaking

### THE STORY

Have you ever met a person who was very wise, and yet had little or no formal education? Have you ever met a person who had lots of schooling and yet you did not sense that he had true wisdom? How can this be? Is not wisdom a result of education and schooling? Can't I assume that the more I learn, the wiser I will become? Or is that a faulty assumption?

Is there more than one kind of wisdom? If so, what are the differences between them? Is there a difference in how they are received? Is there a difference in how they are expressed? Are all kinds of wisdom good?

As a teacher, is it right to assume that if I teach my students good, reasoned knowledge, they will become wise? Or would that be man's wisdom and thus counter-productive?

What does the Bible teach about wisdom? There are approximately 234 verses in the King James Version of the Bible with the word “wisdom” in them. On the pages that follow, I have listed many of these verses under various sub-titles. I would like you to prayerfully read these verses, asking God for a “spirit of revelation” as He shows you how He views wisdom. You may find that God's view of wisdom is very different from yours, and therefore, may dramatically change the approach you will use to acquire wisdom.

### YOUR ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING VERSES

As you study the verses below, circle each occurrence of the word “wisdom.” Pray and meditate over each verse. Make notes in the margins and underline key phrases which provide you with insights concerning any aspect of wisdom as taught in Scripture.

Picture in your mind what each verse is saying, and how that applies to your life (I Chron 29:18).

### WHAT IS WISDOM?

1. Something God lays up for the righteous

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly (Proverbs 2:7).

2. The principle thing

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding (Proverbs 4:7).

3. Words from the mouth of God

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).

### WHAT IS THE PROOF OF WISDOM?

If one says he has wisdom, how do we know it is true wisdom?

“Wisdom is justified of all her children” (Luke 7:35).

Record below what you believe the above verse to mean.

Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom (James 3:13).

WHERE DOES WISDOM ORIGINATE? DOES IT RESIDE IN OUR HEARTS OR OUR MINDS?

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (James 1:5).

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2).

As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams (Daniel 1:17).

Daniel answered and said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter" (Daniel 2:20-23).

I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee (Daniel 5:14).

And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office (Exodus 28:3).

And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 31:3).

And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee (Exodus 31:6).

And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair (Exodus 35:26).

And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 35:31).

Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work (Exodus 35:35).

Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded (Exodus 36:1).

And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it (Exodus 36:2).

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9).

And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment (I Kings 3:28).

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore (I Kings 4:29).

And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart (I Kings 10:24).

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets (Proverbs 1:20).

Is wisdom alive? Could the above verse be referring to the Spirit of God Who is calling out to us to hear and to receive the wisdom He has to offer us? If so, does that mean wisdom is alive calling from within the heart of the believer, and that I need to learn to hear His call and respond to it?

If this is true, then, as a teacher, I need to lead my students into a spiritual sensitivity to the Spirit of God, and know God will be confirming and revealing truth in the classroom.

When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul (Proverbs 2:10).

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him (Ephesians 1:17).

In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

RECORD BELOW YOUR SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS SECTION OF VERSES

IS WISDOM A PRODUCT OF THE MIND OR THE HEART?

The Bible always connects wisdom with the heart, not the mind. That is interesting, since in the western culture, we are more likely to connect wisdom with the reasoning of the mind.

EXAMINING TWO KINDS OF WISDOM - GOD'S AND MAN'S

One reason we desire to know truth is so that we can offer wise, godly solutions to the issues and problems which we encounter in life. So let's look at what the Bible says about the two kinds of wisdom.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy (James 3:13-17).

LIST THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GODLY WISDOM

LIST THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EARTHLY WISDOM

So we see there is a wisdom which comes from God and there is a wisdom which is from the earth, the senses and the devil. We need to distinguish what these two types of wisdom are and how they are

both received, so we can be careful to only receive the wisdom which comes from above.

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom (Proverbs 23:4).

WHAT OR WHO WAS THE BASIS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S WISDOM?

For he saith, "By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped." Shall the ax boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood (Isaiah 10:13-15).

Were Nebuchadnezzar's great accomplishments based on his wisdom, as he thought, or was it because God had chosen to use him? What does this teach us personally? Record your answers below.

IF YOU REJECT THE BIBLE, WHAT WISDOM IS IN YOU?

The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them? (Jeremiah 8:9).

ARE WE TO GLORY IN OUR WISDOM?

Thus saith the LORD, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight," saith the LORD (Jeremiah 9:23,24).

WHAT DOES GOD DO WHEN WE BECOME PROUD OF OUR WISDOM?

With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom and by thy traffic hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; “Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness” (Ezekiel 28:4-7).

EXAMINING PAUL’S TEACHING ON TWO TYPES OF WISDOM

**“Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”**

Paul

Paul has much to say about two very different types of wisdom, the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God. Perhaps this is because, in Paul’s early years, he was trained in the wisdom of man, which actually led him to attack and persecute the Church of Jesus Christ. Only after a revelatory experience of God on the Damascus road, and three years alone with God in the Arabian desert, did Paul return with the wisdom of God. Paul then became a campaigner for the Church of Jesus Christ. One man, two totally opposite lives, two kinds of wisdom. Perhaps he is an expert on the matter and should be listened to closely. Perhaps no one in the Bible details for us so completely these two types of wisdom, what we must avoid, and what we must pursue.

In the passage below, circle the words “wise” and “wisdom.” Put notations in the margin of anything you learn about man’s wisdom or God’s wisdom.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understand-

ing of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (I Corinthians 1:17-31).

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit



searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:1-16)

If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness And again, **The Lord knoweth the**

**thoughts of the wise, that they are vain** Therefore let no man glory in men For all things are yours (I Corinthians 3:18-21, emphasis mine)

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ (I Corinthians 12:8-12).

These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence (Colossians 2:23).

SUMMARY NOTES: Record below what you have seen concerning the two types of wisdom. List as many differences as you can find between God's wisdom and man's wisdom. Note differences in origin, way received, content, and fruit.

What camp would you consider yourself more in - the Jews who need a sign, the Greeks who seek after wisdom, or the believer who preaches Christ crucified? Delineate to the best of your ability what each of these three camps is about, and why you put yourself into the camp you did.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GOD'S WISDOM?**  
How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! (Proverbs 16:16).

The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom (Proverbs 10:21).

The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds persuasiveness to his lips (Proverbs 16:23).

But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist (Luke 21:12-15).

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake (Acts 6:10).

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps (Proverbs 16:9).

Record below a summary of the benefits of God's wisdom.

**WHO CANNOT RECEIVE DIVINE WISDOM?**  
A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth (Proverbs 14:6).

Why can't a scorner receive God's wisdom?

#### ASSIGNMENT

1. Complete all of the above meditations, recording notes and summaries, and circling and underlining key words in the verses.
2. Memorize a verse through which God is speaking mightily to you. Be prepared to share this verse, along with what God revealed to your life from it, and the practical differences it will make in the way you live.

3. Journal, asking God what He wants to share with you about His wisdom, man's wisdom, and where you are in this process.

4. Come to your group meeting prepared to share each of the above.
5. For further insight, do a complete concordance search on the word "wisdom."

#### GROUP ACTIVITIES

GROUP LEADER: Follow the pattern for group meetings and moderating discussions given in the introduction of this book, "Spirit-anointed Small Group Sharing." Start by reading the story which introduces this chapter, then moderate a lively discussion as you and the group share together your memory verses, insights, revelations, journaling and the ways you are changing.

#### MY SUMMARY, EPISTEMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, OF WISDOM

GOD'S WISDOM - A SPIRIT, NOT A HEAD THING:

Wisdom is not a "mind thing." In the Bible, it is never located in the mind. Instead, it is located in the heart. And wisdom is not a "thing," not an accumulation of thoughts and ideas. Wisdom is, instead, a spirit (Is. 11:2). It is the "spirit of wisdom," which the Bible mentions over and over. What spirit is wisdom? I believe it is the Spirit of God, operating within the heart of the believer, granting him divine ideas, divine creativity, and divine perspective. That is why the world does not receive it, for they look not to God or to their hearts to receive wisdom (Jn. 14:16,17). They look to

themselves. They look to the learning of their own minds. Always learning but never able to come to the spirit of truth (II Tim. 3:7).

**GOD'S WISDOM COVERS ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE:** This wisdom of God is fitting for all aspects of life. Since God is the Creator and Sustainer of this world, He is well able and very willing to reveal His secrets of the universe to His children for their benefit (Prov. 3:32). He grants them the wisdom to rule, to engage in specific crafts and skills, and to perform effectively in each and every area of life (I Kings 3:28; Ex. 35:35).

**THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS GOD'S WISDOM TO US:** This wisdom is resident in the Holy Spirit Who indwells man's spirit (I Cor. 6:17). This is God's wisdom freely given to the one who is humble in heart and open to receive, and who prays for a spirit of revelation to be his (Jas. 1:5; Eph. 1:17,18).

Wisdom is alive and is calling out to us, because God is alive and is calling out to us (Prov. 1:20). So I must learn to listen to the God of wisdom Who resides within my heart and spirit (Eph. 3:17a).

**I MUST AVOID MAN'S WISDOM:** I must avoid man's approach to wisdom, which is to focus on the mind's acquiring and marshaling of information. This often results in pride. Pride cuts one off from God's flow of grace, since God resists the proud, and pride causes divisions among brethren (Jas. 4:6). If my attitude has become proud, I know I am into man's wisdom and not God's (Jas. 3:13,14). If my wisdom is causing petty divisions among the brethren, then it is man's wisdom and not God's (Jas. 3:15,16).

As a teacher who is seeking to lead his students to wisdom, I must prayerfully consider these truths, to see how they would instruct me in my work. I must take pains to ensure that I lead my students into God's wisdom, rather than man's wisdom.

**TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED "WISDOMS":** Paul insists that man "knows" through the Spirit Who indwells him (I Cor. 2:11,12). Christians have the Spirit of God within them, and the Holy Ghost teaches them, comparing spiritual with spiritual, giving them the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:12,13,16). This is not received by natural men, because they have the spirit of the world in them (I Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3). If you are carnal, as evidenced by envying, strife and divisions, you cannot be addressed as a spiritual person. You must first see that everything comes from God (Jn. 1:3). The wisdom of this world is utterly opposed to the wisdom that comes from God (Jas. 3:13-18). Therefore we must be careful to avoid man's wisdom and to receive God's wisdom.

**THE OUTFLOW OF SPIRIT WISDOM:** In conclusion, it seems clear that God's wisdom is given to those who follow God's ways, entrust themselves to God's Spirit, and are able to live out of their hearts rather than their heads. It flows from the Spirit of Almighty God, into man's spirit and heart, out through his mind in anointed reasoning, and through his lips with persuasive Spirit-anointed speech (I Cor. 6:17; Prov. 16:23).

God's wisdom in one's heart comes as peace, discernment, unrest, and other inner forms of guidance including pictures, thoughts, feelings, etc. (Col. 3:15). We receive by the Spirit words of wisdom and words of knowledge (I Cor. 12:8).

**FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT:** This summary demands that I gain further insight into living tuned to my heart/spirit. How is my heart sensed? How is the wisdom of God within my heart sensed? How is that different from the sensation of gaining man's wisdom in my mind? What inner postures draw me near to God so that I can receive His spirit of wisdom on a continuous basis? Or, is the spirit of wisdom present within me regardless of my inner life, devotion, and holiness? These are questions we shall explore in later chapters.

# Chapter Three

## “Wise” Biblically Speaking

The King James Version of the Bible has 247 verses with the word “wise” in it. These verses form the foundation of this chapter.

### THE STORY

Roger Miller has been a close friend of mine for 20 years. I have looked to him as one of the three people to whom I have submitted myself for counsel during all these years. He has given me extremely wise advice on many, many occasions. Roger has never been to Bible school, never received a college degree, and has worked as a dairy farmer essentially all his life. When I ask him a question, he is not in a hurry to answer, but gets back to me in a day or two, after having driven around the fields for hours and milked a herd of cows a few times.

Now, I have three college degrees: Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctorate. How is it that Roger has such a wise heart that he can be my counselor and give me insight? How does he get this insight on the tractor and in the milking parlor?

What is a wise heart, anyway, and how does one get it?

### CATECHISM STYLE

This chapter is set up in a catechism style, which is a series of questions and answers used for teaching principles of religion. In this chapter, the answers will be Scripture verses. As you meditate on (i.e. imagine) the Scripture verses closely, you will discover the answer to the question, as well as much more.

Circle the word “wise” in each verse, and underline or highlight any phrases which answer the related question. Note additional insights you discover in the margin next to the verses. Prayerfully reflect on each verse, asking God to show you everything He desires concerning being wise.

WHO PUTS WISDOM IN A WISE HEART? DOES IT APPLY FOR ALL AREAS OF LIFE? IS WISDOM A SPIRIT?

And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office (Exodus 28:3).

And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee (Exodus 31:6).

Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded. And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it (Exodus 36:1,2).

HOW DID SOLOMON RECEIVE HIS WISDOM?

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 (I Kings 3:12).

WHAT CAN THE TESTIMONY OF GOD ACCOMPLISH?

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7).

WHO CAN GIVE WISDOM TO THE SLUGGARD?

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise (Proverbs 6:6).

WHAT DOES A WISE MAN DO?

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to

a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning (Proverbs 9:8,9).

The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall (Proverbs 10:8).

Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction (Proverbs 10:14).

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels (Proverbs 1:5).

HOW MUCH TALKING DOES THE WISE MAN DO?  
In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise (Proverbs 10:19).

WHO WILL SERVE THE WISE?  
He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart (Proverbs 11:29).

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF BEING A COMPANION OF THE WISE?  
He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed (Proverbs 13:20).

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise (Proverbs 12:15).

WHO WILL NOT GO TO THE WISE MAN?  
A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise (Proverbs 15:12).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A WISE MAN?  
The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death (Proverbs 13:14).

A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident (Proverbs 14:16).

The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly (Proverbs 14:24).

The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame (Proverbs 14:35).

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness (Proverbs 15:2).

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health (Proverbs 12:18).

The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it (Proverbs 16:14).

The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds persuasiveness to his lips (Proverbs 16:23 NASB).

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength (Proverbs 24:5).

The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools (Proverbs 3:35).

WHAT MAKES THE WISE MAN ASHAMED?  
The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them? (Jeremiah 8:9)

WHAT ARE WE NOT TO GLORY IN?  
Thus saith the LORD, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches" (Jeremiah 9:23).

WHAT ARE WE TO GLORY IN?  
"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight," saith the LORD (Jeremiah 9:24).

WHAT DID DANIEL GLORY IN?  
Daniel answered and said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast



now made known unto us the king's matter" (Daniel 2:20-23).

WHAT DOES GOD DO WHICH MAKES JESUS GLAD?  
At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matthew 11:25).

WHO PROFESS THEMSELVES TO BE WISE BUT ARE FOOLS?  
For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools (Romans 1:20-22).

IN WHOSE EYES SHOULD ONE NOT BE WISE?  
Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! (Isaiah 5:21)

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil (Proverbs 3:7).

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him (Proverbs 26:12).

Be not wise in your own conceits (Romans 12:16).

WHAT SHOULD WE NOT BE WISE CONCERNING?  
For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would

have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil (Romans 16:19).

WHAT IS NOT WISE?  
For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise (II Corinthians 10:12).

(Does school grading violate this scriptural principle?)

WHAT IS ONE THING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES CAN DO?  
And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 3:15).

WHAT ARE SOME WORSHIP LINES WE CAN RECITE OR SING UNTO GOD?  
Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen (I Timothy 1:17).

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen (Jude 1:25).

- ASSIGNMENT
1. Memorize at least one verse from this chapter through which God is speaking mightily to you.
  2. For further insight, do a concordance search on the word "wise."

3. Write up your own personal summary of what the Bible has to say about being wise. Record the revelations God gives you. Draw conclusions and record how these conclusions are different from your earlier beliefs concerning what it means to be wise. What impact do these conclusions have on your life, on the way you seek to learn, and on the way you teach others, including your children, your students, etc.?

4. Journaling exercise: “God, what do You want to say to me concerning being wise?” Record your journaling below.

### GROUP ACTIVITIES

Follow the pattern for group activities given in the front of this book (i.e. Spirit-anointed Small Group Sharing). Have each one take turns sharing his answers to the assignments above.

### MY SUMMARY, EPISTEMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, OF BEING WISE

MAN IS A VESSEL: It seems to me that the original sin was to choose **self-actualization** through seeking to establish **self-knowledge**, rather than finding **full actualization** by living out of the **divine revelation** of Almighty God (Gen. 3). God has created mankind as an empty vessel (Rom. 9:21), to be filled by His Spirit (Eph. 5:18). We are always and only to be living out of the flow of God's Spirit within us (Gal. 5:16). God's Spirit will give us all the wisdom of God for all the issues we face in life. We can simply turn to our hearts and ask God, and the answer is there.

ACCESSING DIVINE WISDOM: The Bible is clear that it is God Who puts wisdom in the wise heart (Ex. 36:1,2; I Kings 3:12), and that this wisdom covers all aspects of life (Ex. 35:25,26). We limit ourselves greatly by not learning to come to our hearts and discover the wisdom of God there. I suggest that "great teaching" is to teach how to come to the indwelling Holy Spirit and from Him receive revelation for all of life (I Jn. 2:20,27).

OUTER STIMULI CAN BECOME TEACHING AIDS: It appears God can teach us through several physical, material things. For example, an "ant" can teach a sluggard, if the sluggard can see and learn (Prov. 6:6). The testimonies of God's works can teach man, if man will believe and not be a scorner (I Sam. 17:46,47). Walking with the wise (and picking up their spirits) can be a method God uses to make us wise (Prov. 13:20).

GOD IS THE MOVER AND SHAKER: God stirs up one's heart to take wise actions and do wise things (Ex. 35:25,26). So, again, learn to listen and act upon the stirrings of your heart.

STAYING IN THE ANOINTING: When we speak out of our hearts, an anointing of wisdom rests upon our words (Prov. 16:23). The wisdom we have comes from God, not self, so don't become proud. Remain humble so God's Spirit can continue to flow within you. Becoming wise on your own results in man's wisdom and pride. Receiving wisdom from the indwelling Holy Spirit keeps one humble and reliant on the One Who fills him. Avoid becoming wise on your own (Rom. 12:16). It is counter to the purposes of God, and comparable to the sin Adam and Eve committed in the Garden of Eden, which cut them off from God.

# Chapter Four

## “Knowledge” Biblically Speaking

There are 172 verses in the King James Version of the Bible with the word “knowledge” in them.

### THE STORY

“I want to acquire knowledge. I have a hunger and thirst for knowledge. Teach me. Instruct me. Let me learn.”

These words are a delight for any teacher to hear, to have a student who has such a passion to learn. So what will I teach him? What facts and information will best prepare him for life? What is the knowledge which I want to pass on to this hungry student?

HOW TO WORK THROUGH THE VERSES BELOW  
Meditate prayerfully on the verses below, asking God for a spirit of revelation. Look for answers to the questions posed above each verse. Circle the key word in the verse (i.e. knowledge). Then highlight the answer the verse provides for the question. Underline any additional insights you have, and make notations as desired in the margin next to the verse.

Choose a verse to memorize on which God is giving you revelation insight. Write it on a 3X5 card, carry it with you, and memorize it, pondering its application to your life.

### THE FIRST USE OF THE WORD “KNOWLEDGE” IN THE BIBLE

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9).

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Genesis 2:17).

What is this tree? How is it expressed in your life? Why does it cut one off from God, causing him to die?

WHERE DOES KNOWLEDGE COME FROM? DOES IT COVER ALL AREAS OF LIFE?

And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 31:3).

And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 35:31).

Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? (II Chronicles 1:10).

And God said to Solomon, “Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king” (II Chronicles 1:11).

Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like (II Chronicles 1:12).

As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams (Daniel 1:17).

WHO ELSE CAN TEACH KNOWLEDGE?

And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers (II Chronicles 30:22).

WHAT IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE?

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowl-

edge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7).

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 1:29).

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding (Proverbs 9:10).

("Fear" can be more properly translated as "reverence.")

WHAT ARE THE KEY THINGS ONE MUST DO TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE?

So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee (Proverbs 2:2-11).

List the things one must do to acquire knowledge:

WHAT DO WISE MEN DO?

Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction (Proverbs 10:14).

WHAT DO PRUDENT MEN DO THAT FOOLS DON'T DO?

A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness (Proverbs 12:23).

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness (Proverbs 15:2).

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so (Proverbs 15:7).

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness (Proverbs 15:14).

He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit (Proverbs 17:27).

MAKE A LIST:

The wise and prudent vs. The fool

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WISE IS INSTRUCTED?

When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge (Proverbs 21:11).

WHAT IS GOD'S POSITION IN ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERMINING THE WORDS OF THE TRANSGRESSOR?

The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor (Proverbs 22:12).

CAN A WISE ONE BE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING ANOTHER RECEIVE KNOWLEDGE? WOULD GOD STILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS IN ANY WAY?

Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge (Proverbs 22:17).

And He changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding (Daniel 2:21).

WHAT ARE SOME RESULTS OF HAVING KNOWLEDGE?

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength (Proverbs 24:5).

WHERE DID JESUS GET HIS KNOWLEDGE FROM?

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2).

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN CONCERNING PEOPLE AND KNOWLEDGE? SHOULD WE PRESS FORWARD INTO THIS PLAN AS PART OF OUR LIVES' VISION?

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9).

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

PRIESTS WHO DO NOT TEACH THE LAW OF GOD CAUSE WHAT TO HAPPEN IN THEIR HEARERS? ARE YOU RECEIVING BIBLICAL TEACHING REGULARLY?

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children (Hosea 4:6).

For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts (Malachi 2:7).

WHAT TWO THINGS DID GOD WANT MORE THAN WHAT TWO OTHER THINGS?

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings (Hosea 6:6).

Two things God wants

1.

2.

Two things not so important

1.

2.

WHAT MIGHT THE LEARNED DO THAT MAKES GOD UPSET WITH THEM?

Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered (Luke 11:52).

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DO NOT RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE?

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (Romans 1:28).

WHAT KNOWLEDGE DOES THE LAW GIVE?

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20).

WHAT MUST BE COUPLED WITH ZEAL IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE?

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge (Romans 10:2).

WHAT FRUIT DOES THE WRONG KIND OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCE?

We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth (I Corinthians 8:1).

WHAT CAN THE SPIRIT GIVE US?

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit (I Corinthians 12:8).

WHAT PRODUCES KNOWLEDGE WITHIN US?

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:6).

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him (Ephesians 1:17).

WHAT IS THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY TO BRING US TO A KNOWLEDGE OF?

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for

the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

I believe this is talking about coming to a knowledge of Who Jesus is within the believer and how one connects with the goodness and anointing of this indwelling Christ. Should that be the goal of ministry? Might the knowledge of how to live in the Spirit be the emphasis in the New Testament, while the knowledge of the Law be the emphasis in the Old Testament (Rom. 8:2-9,11,13,14; Gal. 5:18)? What does this say about the content of our teaching?

PAUL SET EVERYTHING ASIDE FOR ONE KIND OF KNOWLEDGE, WHICH PETER ALSO PURSUED. WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS THAT?

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ (Philippians 3:8).

In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen (II Peter 3:18).

WHY WOULD SOME HAVE THIS PROBLEM?

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth...(II Timothy 3:7-9).

#### ASSIGNMENT

1. Memorize at least one verse from this chapter. It should be a verse concerning which God is giving you revelation.
2. Complete all written exercises, including circling key words in verses, highlighting answers in verses and putting notes of insights in margins next to the verses.
3. Write out a summary below concerning knowledge biblically speaking.



4. Journaling: “Lord, what would You like to say to me concerning knowledge, especially as it relates to my life?”

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Follow the model for group activities as found in the introduction of this book.

1. Have each group member share verses he has memorized and what God is speaking to him from these verses.
2. Have each person share other insights he has received and questions he has from this meditation.
3. Have individuals share their summaries.
4. Have people share their journaling.
5. Minister to one another and to the Lord as directed by the Spirit.

MY SUMMARY, EPISTEMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, OF KNOWLEDGE

The first reference to knowledge is the tree of knowledge of good and evil from which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat, and which was instrumental in the fall of mankind (Gen. 2:9). Obviously, from this story, the wrong kind of knowledge cuts one off from God and brings a curse. This kind of knowledge must be strictly avoided. This wrong kind of knowledge is that which "I" come up with ("You can be like God, knowing good and evil."), rather than being knowledge which comes from the revelation of God within my heart (Gen. 3:5). "My" knowledge is a "dead work" (Heb. 6:1,2). Anything which starts and ends with my brain is a dead work. Anything which starts and ends with the moving of God in my heart is a living work.

God grants revelatory knowledge to the heart which is prepared with reverence and a passion to learn (Prov. 1:7), and which is seeking God earnestly (Prov. 2:2-11), praying (Eph. 1:17) and believing

(Pro. 14:6). Therefore, learning involves both God and man working together in harmony. Each one has a responsibility.

MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY: To prepare his heart before God by being reverent, being a diligent seeker, and praying in faith.

GOD'S RESPONSIBILITY: To reveal Himself/truth to those who seek Him with their whole hearts.

CRUCIAL, CRUCIAL, CRUCIAL

AS A TEACHER, I must create the environment for this dualistic dynamic to take place continuously in the classroom in order for true learning to occur.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL, I must make it a point to prepare my heart as I come to learn.

Knowledge is a spirit - the Spirit of God - operating within the heart of the believer (Is. 11:2). God intends to cover the earth with this kind of knowledge (Hab. 2:14). I shall believe God can and will accomplish this and cooperate with Him in every way He asks me to.

MY JOURNALING

Lord, what do You want to speak to me concerning knowledge?

Mark, I have shown you very clearly from Scripture a biblical foundation for your experience in discovering truth. Yes, it comes from Me. However, to receive it, you earnestly seek Me and seek Me out in a particular area which is set before you. And I give you revelation in that area. You knew this was right. You have done this for many years. Now you have a solid biblical base to both teach and live this. That is My gift to you from this chapter. Enjoy! (Memorize Prov. 1:7; 2:2-11).

# Chapter Five

## “Know,” “Known,” and “Knoweth” Biblically Speaking

There are 1089 verses in the King James Version of the Bible which have the words “know,” “known,” or “knoweth” in them. This chapter is based on these verses.

### THE STORY

“I know I’m right!” screams the beleaguered soul.

How do I *know* that I know? How do I know that what I believe is right? So many people “know” so many opposing things. They can’t all be right; some *have* to be wrong. How do I know that what I “know” is right? Or can’t I know for certain?

Is knowing a head activity or a heart experience? Does it come from my mind or from my spirit? Is all my knowing limited in this lifetime? Will full knowledge come in the next life?

What do you think?

### HOW TO MEDITATE ON THE VERSES BELOW

Meditate prayerfully on the following verses, asking God for a spirit of revelation. Look for answers to the questions posed above each verse. Circle the key word in the verse (i.e. know, known, or knoweth). Then highlight the answer the verse provides for the question. Underline any additional insights you have and make notations as desired in the margin next to the verse.

Choose a verse to memorize from which God is giving you revelation insight. Write it on a 3X5 card, carry it with you and memorize it, pondering its application to your life.

### WHAT IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR KNOWING THE TRUTH?

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and

the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31,32).

### HOW IS ETERNAL LIFE DEFINED?

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

The word “know” in this verse is *ginosko* in the Greek, and means an intimate knowing - as a man would know his wife.

### WHAT INNER POSTURE CAN HELP ME SENSE GOD?

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth (Psalm 46:10).

### WHAT IS ONE WAY GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO PROPHETS?

And he said, “Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream” (Numbers 12:6).

### WHERE DOES GOD MAKE US TO KNOW WISDOM?

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom (Psalm 51:6).

### WHERE HAS GOD PUT HIS LAW SO WE CAN KNOW IT?

“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days,” saith the LORD, “I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them,” saith the LORD: “for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:33,34).

WHAT IS ONE WAY OF KNOWING WHAT IS IN A PERSON'S HEART?

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh (Matthew 12:33,34).

WHAT CAN CAUSE ONE NOT TO KNOW, HEAR, OR SEE WHAT THE LORD IS SPEAKING?

He answered and said unto them, “Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, ‘By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive.’ For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear” (Matthew 13:11-16).

WHEN GOD ENLIGHTENS US, WHAT TWO THINGS DO WE KNOW?

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18).

THE SPIRIT WITHIN KNOWS

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God (I Corinthians 2:11,12 NASB).

- Who knows the thoughts of a man?
- Who knows the thoughts of God?

- What Spirit indwells the Christian?
- What does that Spirit do?

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:13-16).

- What are we to speak?
- What are the three responses of the natural man to things of the Spirit?
- Why does the natural man respond so badly to the things of the Spirit?
- Whose mind does the Christian have?
- Where within the Christian is the mind of Christ?

IS OUR KNOWLEDGE COMPLETE AT THIS TIME?

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part (I Corinthians 13:9).

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known (I Corinthians 13:12).

HOW DID PAUL DISCOVER THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST'S LIFE WITHIN?

How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit (Ephesians 3:3-5).

Where was Paul when he received this revelation of “Christ within” (Gal. 1:16-18)?

HOW CAN WE KNOW ALL THINGS?

But ye have an unction anointing from the Holy One, and ye know all things (I John 2:20).

Describe how you sense this anointing which causes you to know.

WHAT IS ONE WAY WE CAN KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS?

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (I John 3:14).

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love (I John 4:8).

WHAT DID JESUS KNOW IN THIS VERSE?

And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? (Mark 5:30).

- What does this teach us about being able to sense spiritual impressions?

WHAT WAS ONE REASON THAT LUKE WROTE HIS GOSPEL?

It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed (Luke 1:3,4).

WHAT IS THE WORKMAN TO BE DILIGENT TO KNOW?

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds (Proverbs 27:23).

## ASSIGNMENT

1. Memorize at least one verse from this chapter. It should be a verse concerning which God is giving you revelation.
2. Complete all written exercises, including circling key words in verses, highlighting answers in verses and putting notes of insights in margins next to the verses.
3. Write your summary of knowing biblically speaking.

4. Journal: "Lord, what do You want to say to me about knowing, especially as it relates to my life?"

#### GROUP ACTIVITIES

Follow the model for group activities found in the introduction of this book.

1. Have each one share verses he has memorized and what God is speaking to him from these verses.
2. Have each one share other insights he has received and questions he has from this meditation.
3. Have people share their summaries.
4. Have people share their journaling.
5. Minister to one another and to the Lord as directed by the Spirit.

#### MY SUMMARY, EPISTEMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, OF KNOWING

Knowing is to come from God; from the sanctuary of His presence (Ps. 73); from the Tree of Life (Gen. 3:22); from the Holy Spirit within (I Cor. 2:11,12); from the anointing of the Spirit (I Jn. 2:20); and from vision (Num. 12:6). There is no Scriptural indication that knowledge is to come from the mind.

It comes from God through the heart. This is different from the typical Westerner's view of knowing.

We are to still our hearts before God (Ps. 46:10), and have prepared hearts of humility, not glossed over with pride and vanity (Matt. 13:14-16). Since true knowing is given as a gift through the indwelling Spirit (I Cor. 2:11,12), there is no room for pride or vanity.

The natural man cannot discern true knowledge (I Cor. 2:14,16), so it is critically important to ensure that my students and I are spiritual men and women. This must be defined and taught, and it must be ensured that each is spiritually attuned, for without that, no true spiritual knowing will ever occur.

We can know through a variety of ways, including recognition of the acts of God in history (I Sam. 17:46), observation of a person's words (Matt. 12:33,34), careful examination of life around us (Prov. 27:23), and clear reports (Lk. 1:1-4).

Since God cut man off from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, we now only know in part (I Cor. 13:12). This fact ought to keep us humble.

# Chapter Six

## “Understand” and “Understanding” Biblically Speaking

There are 266 occurrences of the words “understand” and “understanding” in the King James Version of the Bible. This chapter is built upon those verses.

### THE STORY

Have you ever tried to make another person understand something, but you just couldn't get through? Perhaps you were trying to help them see some insight from Scripture and they couldn't *get* it, and perhaps even argued against it. You marshaled all the reasons why your understanding was valid and correct, but they just didn't see or agree with what you had seen. In frustration, you muttered something to the effect, “And God uses the foolishness of preaching to communicate His gospel!” and gave up, and walked away. Why can't people understand?

### HOW TO MEDITATE ON THE VERSES BELOW

Meditate prayerfully on the following verses, asking God for a spirit of revelation. Circle the key word in the verse (i.e. understand or understanding) and highlight the answer the verse provides for the question. Underline any additional insights you have and make notations as desired in the margin next to the verse.

Choose a verse to memorize from which God is giving you revelation insight. Write it on a 3X5 card, carry it with you and memorize it, pondering its application to your life.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE HEARS AND DOESN'T UNDERSTAND?

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side (Matthew 13:19).

### IF YOU HEAR AND UNDERSTAND, WHAT HAPPENS?

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (Matthew 13:23).

### WHAT WAS JESUS' PLEA TO THE MULTITUDES?

And he called the multitude, and said unto them, “Hear, and understand” (Matthew 15:10).

### WHAT WAS JESUS' FRUSTRATION WITH THE DISCIPLES?

And Jesus said, “Are ye also yet without understanding?” (Matthew 15:16).

Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? (Matthew 16:9).

How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? (Matthew 16:11).

### WHAT WAS JESUS' PLAN FOR THOSE THAT WERE WITHOUT?

And he said unto them, “Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them” (Mark 4:11,12).

### WHAT COULD CAUSE ONE TO REASON WITHOUT PERCEPTION?

And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, “Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake



the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up?” They say unto him, “Twelve” (Mark 8:17-19).

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF REASON WITHOUT PERCEPTION? WHAT CAUSED THE PSALMIST TO FINALLY PERCEIVE? **(READ PSALM 73:1-20)**

When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight until I came into the sanctuary of God: Then I perceived their end (Psalm 73:16,17).

WHAT DID THE DEPTH OF JESUS’ UNDERSTANDING CAUSE?

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers (Luke 2:47).

WHAT WAS ONE REASON JESUS SPOKE IN PARABLES?

And he said, “Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand” (Luke 8:10).

WHAT HELPS US UNDERSTAND?

Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures (Luke 24:45).

WHY COULD THE PHARISEES NOT UNDERSTAND JESUS?

Jesus said unto them, “If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:42-44).

WHY COULD THE GREEKS NOT UNDERSTAND?

Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them (John 12:39,40).

WHAT WILL BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT?

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the

power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent (I Corinthians 1:18,19).

IS PRAYING IN TONGUES DESIGNED TO BENEFIT ONE’S UNDERSTANDING? IF NOT, WHAT IS PRAYING IN TONGUES DESIGNED TO BENEFIT?

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also (I Corinthians 14:14,15).

WHAT CAN PRAYER CAUSE TO HAPPEN TO THE EYES OF OUR UNDERSTANDING?

I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:17-20).

WHAT REVELATION OF A MYSTERY DID PAUL RECEIVE, WHICH HE HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND?

How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit (Ephesians 3:3-5).

WHAT FIVE THINGS CHARACTERIZE THE WALK OF THE GENTILES?

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart (Ephesians 4:17,18).

IS GOD'S PEACE UNDERSTANDABLE TO MAN?

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

WHAT KIND OF UNDERSTANDING CAN WE PRAY TO BE FILLED WITH?

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).

WHAT CAN THE SPIRIT OF GOD GIVE?

And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 31:3-5).

And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 35:31).

Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded (Exodus 36:1).

IS UNDERSTANDING A HEAD OR HEART EXPERIENCE? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

“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?” And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 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; 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” (I Kings 3:9-12).

IS UNDERSTANDING A GIFT FROM GOD?

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt (I Kings 4:29,30).

HOW DID DAVID UNDERSTAND THE DESIGN OF THE TEMPLE?

“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern” (I Chronicles 28:19).

WHAT CAN A PRIEST DO?

The Levites caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading (Nehemiah 8:7,8).

WHAT DOES A FOOL NOT UNDERSTAND?

O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this (Psalm 92:5,6).

WHAT WAS THE PSALMIST'S PRAYER?

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law...teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works...Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart...Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments...I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies...Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word (Psalm 119:18,26,27,34,73,125,169).

WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation (Psalm 119:99).

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts (Psalm 119:100).

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way (Psalm 119:104).

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FOLLOWING VERSE MEANS?  
The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple (Psalm 119:130).

HOW LARGE IS GOD'S UNDERSTANDING?  
Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite (Psalm 147:5).

WHAT WILL A MAN OF UNDERSTANDING DO?  
A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings (Proverbs 1:5,6).

WHAT DOES AN INTENSE SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING LET YOU FIND? WHERE DOES UNDERSTANDING COME FROM?  
So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:2-6).

WHAT CAN UNDERSTANDING DO?  
Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things (Proverbs 2:11,12).

He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace (Proverbs 11:12).

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly (Proverbs 14:29).

WHAT IS CONTRASTED TO LEANING ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING? WHICH ONE IS TO BE DONE?  
Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways

acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:5,6).

WHAT DOES A TEACHER WANT HIS STUDENTS TO ATTEND TO?  
My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding (Proverbs 5:1).

WHAT CAN HEARING REPROOF OFFER YOU?  
He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding (Proverbs 15:32).

WHAT IS THE COMPARATIVE VALUE BETWEEN UNDERSTANDING AND SILVER?  
How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! (Proverbs 16:16).

WHAT IS UNDERSTANDING CALLED?  
Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly (Proverbs 16:22).

WHAT DO PEOPLE WHO SEEK THE LORD UNDERSTAND?  
Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things (Proverbs 28:5).

WHAT DID THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING UPON JESUS CAUSE?  
And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2,3). (Note: Understanding is considered a spirit.)

WHAT DOES A FOOLISH PERSON WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING HAVE  
Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not (Jeremiah 5:21).

FROM WHERE DID DANIEL GET HIS WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING?  
Daniel answered and said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he

removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Daniel 2:20,21).

WHAT DID THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN DANIEL PRODUCE?

I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee (Daniel 5:14).

WHO MADE DANIEL TO UNDERSTAND?

And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.” So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, “Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision” (Daniel 8:16,17).

Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision” (Daniel 9:21-23).

WHO WILL NOT UNDERSTAND?

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand (Daniel 12:10).

WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR THE BELIEVER?

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life (I John 5:20).

#### ASSIGNMENT

1. Memorize at least one verse from this chapter. It should be a verse concerning which God is giving you revelation.
2. Complete all written exercises, including circling key words in verses, highlighting answers in verses and putting notes of insights in margins next to the verses.
3. Write out a summary below concerning understanding biblically speaking.

4. Journaling: “Lord, what would You like to say to me concerning understanding, especially as it relates to my life?”

#### GROUP ACTIVITIES

Follow the model for group activities as found in the introduction of this book.

1. Have each group member share verses he has memorized and what God is speaking to him from these verses.
2. Have each one share other insights he has received and questions he has from this meditation.
3. Have people share their summaries.
4. Have people share their journaling.
5. Minister to one another and to the Lord as directed by the Spirit.

#### MY SUMMARY, EPISTEMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, OF UNDERSTANDING

Contrary to what the Western world is most likely to believe, “understanding” is a spirit. It is something that God gives. It is contrary to the wisdom and understanding of the world. God must open the heart to true understanding. God can also close the heart, or man can harden his heart so that he cannot receive the understanding of the Holy Spirit. God’s understanding begins and ends in the revelation, power, and anointing of Almighty God. It takes into account God and His power here on this earth and in the lives of mankind. Man’s understanding does not do this, which is why it is diametrically opposed to God’s understanding. Therefore, a teacher who is offering his students divine understanding must be opening their hearts to the revelation, power, illumination, and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

# Chapter Seven

## Living as Jesus Did: "A Spirit-anointed Lifestyle"

### THE STORY

Has God "pictured" what Truth looks like by sending His Son Jesus to model it before our eyes? When I see something in a picture is it easier to grasp than mere ideas? Is a picture truly worth a thousand words? When God gave Abraham a picture of the truth of what He was going to do through his life, "Abraham believed" (Gen. 15:5,6).

Is it possible to live as Jesus lived? Or, since He was the Son of God, did He possess special powers? Or, if He did have special powers, did He lay them down when He came to earth (Phil. 2:5-8)?

I believe that Jesus came to earth and showed us a picture of how God wants **us** to live. Jesus lived and ministered out of the anointing of the Holy Spirit within Him. The New Testament tells us that as believers we, too, are to live and walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). Perhaps this is what education is to be training us to do.

### HOW TO MEDITATE ON THE VERSES BELOW

Meditate prayerfully on the following verses, asking God for a spirit of revelation. Look for answers to the questions posed above each verse. Circle the key word in the verse (i.e. Spirit, spiritual). Then highlight the answer the verse provides for the question. Underline any additional insights you have and make notations as desired in the margin next to the verse.

Choose a verse to memorize from which God is giving you special revelation insights. Write it on a 3X5 card, carry it with you, and memorize it, pondering its application to your life.

### WHAT WAS THE SOURCE OF JESUS' LIFE?

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall

not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked (Isaiah 11:2-4).

### AS JESUS MATURED, IN WHAT DID HIS STRENGTH INCREASE?

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him (Luke 2:40).

### WHO LED JESUS INTO THE WILDERNESS?

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness (Luke 4:1).

### WHAT NEW REALITY IN THE SPIRIT DID JESUS HAVE WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE WILDERNESS?

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about (Luke 4:14).

### WHO DID JESUS DECLARE EMPOWERED HIS MINISTRY?

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:18-21).

### WHEN JESUS MINISTERED, WHOSE LEAD WAS HE FOLLOWING?

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and



showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel" (John 5:19,20).

WHAT DID JESUS PRAY FOR BELIEVERS?

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you (John 14:16-18).

WHAT WILL THE HOLY SPIRIT DO FOR US?

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you (John 16:13-15).

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED?

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16).

WHO IS A SON OF GOD?

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE SPIRIT?

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Galatians 3:2).

IF WE BEGAN OUR WALK IN THE SPIRIT BY USING FAITH, HOW DO WE CONTINUE OUR WALK IN THE SPIRIT?

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (Galatians 3:3).

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE AND WALK?

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

WHO ARE WE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GRIEVE?

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

\* List ways one might grieve the Holy Spirit.

WHAT ARE WE NOT TO QUENCH?

Quench not the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19).

WITH WHAT UNDERSTANDING ARE WE TO BE FILLED?

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).

WHAT WILL WALKING BY THE SPIRIT OVERCOME?

This I say then, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

WHAT WILL LIVING BY THE SPIRIT FREE US FROM?

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law (Galatians 5:18).

AS WE MINISTER BY THE SPIRIT, WHAT WILL FOLLOW OUR MINISTRY?

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Romans 15:19).

WHAT WILL ACCOMPANY OUR SPIRIT-ANOINTED MINISTRY?

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power (I Corinthians 2:4).

ASSIGNMENT

1. Memorize at least one verse from this chapter. It should be a verse concerning which God is giving you revelation.
2. Complete all written exercises, including circling key words in verses, highlighting answers in verses and putting notes of insights in margins next to the verses.



3. Write a summary concerning a Spirit-anointed lifestyle biblically speaking.

4. Journaling: “Lord, what would You like to say to me concerning living as a Spirit-anointed individual?”

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

Follow the model for group activities as found in the introduction of this book.

1. Have each group member share verses he has memorized and what God is speaking to him from these verses.
2. Have each one share other insights he has received and questions he has from this meditation.
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4. Have group members share their journaling.
5. Minister to one another and to the Lord as directed by the Spirit.

MY SUMMARY, EPISTEMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING,  
OF LIVING SPIRIT-ANOINTED

My vision is that we live and walk as Jesus lived and walked - by the leading, anointing, and wisdom of

the indwelling Spirit of God. Training should make us more aware of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence and how to allow Him to flow freely through us in anointed manifestations. We thus demonstrate Christ to the world in which we live.

I constantly hold the picture of living in the Holy Spirit-anointing, as Jesus lived, before my eyes. I will press on until I fully appropriate that lifestyle. And all my training of others comes out of that picture, also.

Without a vision the people perish (Prov. 29:18). If you do not have this vision to press into, what vision will you have? Some have a vision of being defeated at the hands of the antichrist. Some have a vision of lack and sickness and despair. However, I have a picture that the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, and that the church will fulfill the commission Jesus gave her, to disciple all nations (Hab. 2:14; Matt. 28:19,20). That is the vision and picture and story I want to participate in.