

# The Pillars of Wisdom



by Dale Rumble

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There is a tendency in many Christians to equate spirituality with biblical knowledge about the Lord and His ways. They put forth more effort in filling their mind with concepts of the kingdom, than in stretching their hearts to possess the reality of truth. This leads to a “pigeon-hole” mentality, in which such Christians develop theological compartments in their mind to store various truths; from these compartments they can quickly extract the truth that is pertinent to a situation and expound with great eloquence upon it. However, the Lord is bringing forth a people whose lives will demonstrate the wisdom of God. Spirituality relates to how much we become like Him, not how well we can explain Him. This tract has been written to point out those basic principles, or pillars of wisdom, upon which true spirituality is established within us.

*Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars.  
(Proverbs 9:1)*

I often shudder when I look back over my life and consider some of the doctrinal stands and “Christian actions” I took, which were done in a state of sincere ignorance. Fortunately, most of these occurred when I was still a young Christian, and knew very little about the ways of the Lord. Nevertheless, even today there are many times, when concerned about the correctness of certain things brought before me, I am unsure of the position to take. I have learned that the answer is not simply picking some scripture that seems appropriate and following it blindly. I also recognize that the Lord can provide a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom that will be the answer I need. While we must never neglect these two particular gifts of the Spirit, I believe the Lord wants us to come to a place of greater maturity where we can walk day by day in the wisdom of God. There are seven supporting principles, or pillars inferred in Proverbs 9:1, that undergird spiritual wisdom. If I desire to walk in wisdom, I must appropriate these pillars (or principles), so that they become supports for the decisions and conduct of my life.

## *He is our Wisdom*

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The starting point, and the primary pillar, is to know the *source of wisdom*. It is important to see my spiritual ignorance, but it is even more important to recognize where the supply exists that can satisfy that need.

*But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus who became to us wisdom from God . . . (1 Corinthians 1:30)*

*Christ . . . the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24)*

*. . . in whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3)*

I must recognize that it is *not* by my natural knowledge or ingenuity that I will know the ways of God. The wisdom of this world is foolishness to Him, and it is not within the capacity of human logic to anticipate His thoughts or know His mind. Because He does not want His children to remain in ignorance, He has given us the Holy Spirit, so that we may know those things freely given to us in Himself. I must realize that all the wisdom I will ever need, for any situation, can be found in Him. His supply is infinitely greater than my need. Nevertheless, it is hidden, and must be sought through seeking Him; as I discover His glory and beauty I will also discover His wisdom. The credentials for receiving are twofold. First, I must *seek*—

*But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

Secondly, it is *Him*, not wisdom that I am to seek. I must recognize that what I need is not facts about Him, it is coming to see things as He sees them, and to know Him in new ways. In ways where my body, soul and spirit will mature together; where there will exist a balance between natural things (job, family, etc.) and the spiritual aspects of my life. I will learn to maintain a sound relationship between the scriptures and new revelations or experiences I embrace; I will not major on some doctrinal side issue and thereby become separated from the mainstream of life-flow in the body of Christ. When the enemy of our soul cannot lead us astray into some obvious heresy, he will attempt to develop in us an unhealthy over emphasis on some truth. Spiritual wisdom will always be a sign post pointing us to a united, holy church made up of complete, wholesome individuals, who can bring the kingdom of God into affairs of the world. It will guide us toward the unity that Jesus prayed for, and away from all endeavors that would split His people into small superspiritual groups. As I seek Him, these are the avenues I will be led by His wisdom. My IQ may determine the capability of my mind, but only my heart attitude will limit my knowing Him. Just as Jesus increased in wisdom over the entire period of His youth, so I will grow also; not in sudden leaps of inspiration, but by a steady diligence in applying my heart to seek and know Him better.

## Obedience

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The second pillar of wisdom which we will consider, is the principle of *obedience*. To obey what I know to be correct, is not only a pillar of wisdom, it is also good common sense.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments . . . (Psalm 111:10)*

I can only expect to receive more wisdom from God if I use what I have and obey what I already understand. Surely there is nothing so foolish as deliberate disobedience to the known will of God. In contrast, simple obedience without questioning or complaining, is an expression of profound wisdom. The wisdom of God is seen in Christ through His willingness to lay down His life and do the will of His Father. To have the mind of Christ, is to have both the wisdom and the willingness to do His will. Wisdom is not just knowing what to do, or understanding the philosophy of why something should be done; it must be consummated by doing it. To seek wisdom and understanding without a heart turned toward obedience, will not produce wisdom in our life, even though our mind becomes filled with knowledge. The wisdom of obedience is what transforms a revelation into truth in one's life.

*We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)*

## Our Destiny and Call in God

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My inheritance in God has been hidden by His wisdom in the *purpose* He has ordained for the church, both in this age and the age to come (Ephesians 1:5-12). If I understand this, then it is great wisdom for me to seek my call and destiny in these purposes as they are revealed to me in scripture. The wisdom that conceived these purposes is also available to establish me in them. Our life is not ordered by chance. I am sure that most of us have encountered times of trial in our life, in which we didn't know what to do or where to turn. When we sought Him with all our heart, in time, we saw that our circumstances were an ordered pattern of events woven by the Lord for our good. They were intended to build understanding and character in our life as we went through them. For example, the testing of our faith can produce steadfastness (James 1:3). If we are completely committed to the will of God, we will have great peace by recognizing that the flow of

our life will only encounter whatever the wisdom of God has ordained for our good, and for His glory. All things work together for good if we love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

It is a marvelous thing to realize that His purpose for our life was ordained even before the world was made. Knowing our weaknesses and strengths, the wisdom of God daily sets before us the foreordained circumstances and options whereby we can choose to embrace and fulfill that purpose. Every creative and redemptive act of God has been born in His wisdom, which undergirds all that He brings to pass. The following verses are the personal testimony of wisdom as she speaks to us concerning this form the beginning of time:

*The Lord possessed me (wisdom) at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. From everlasting I was established from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there was no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs bounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed, when He set for the sea its boundary, so that the water should not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the Earth; then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in the world, His earth, and having My delight in the sons of men. (Proverbs 8;22-31)*

Can you imagine, the wisdom of God rejoicing in all that was planned for each of His children before we were created? How dare we believe that the Lord doesn't know, or care what is happening to us! Nothing occurs in our lives by chance; God doesn't react to unexpected circumstances, for He foreknows all things. Since the steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord, I must also learn not to react, but to act, and walk through my circumstances in the wisdom of God. Each such circumstance has a purpose.

*He has made everything appropriate in its time . . . (Ecclesiastes 3:11)*

We are to see our life as a tiny instant in time, during which we have the privilege to enter into the great stream of events that have been occurring over the centuries. These events have all been designed to the consummation

mation of His eternal purpose among men, which purpose is hidden in scripture, and has my call and destiny woven into it.

*. . . that the God of our Lord Jesus, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. (Ephesians 1:17-18)*

If I am to fulfill my call in these purposes, I must seek for the wisdom and understanding necessary to walk it out. What I discover will destroy confidence in my abilities and way of doing things. I will find that the wisdom of His ways is centered in the word of the cross.

*For the word of the cross . . . to us who are being saved is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

*. . . the Lord knows the reasoning of the wise that they are useless. (1 Corinthians 3:20)*

*. . . I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside. (1 Corinthians 1:19)*

“Christ crucified,” is the wisdom of God! All that I will ever need, and all that I am called to be, is made available to me through His cross. It requires a childlike faith and commitment to walk in such wisdom. I must lay aside carnal reasoning and vain imaginations of what I can do and be, and with an open receptive heart seek to have His mind. I am to receive the word of God much like a little child receives food from its mother.

*. . . the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (Psalm 19:7)*

*. . . from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)*

What I understand from scripture, what I experience by walking through the circumstances of my life, and what I learn from the bonds of relationships with His children, have all proceeded from the wisdom of God to fulfill His purpose in my life. I begin to see myself, not so much as an individual, but as a small, yet vital part of a living whole. I am a member of the body of Christ. In myself alone I am nothing; in Him I inherit all things, and in His body lies the path to that inheritance.

## *Willing to Yield*

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Redemption involves change; for this reason to be *willing to yield or change* is a pillar of wisdom.

*But the wisdom from above is . . . reasonable (willing to yield) . . . (James 3:17)*

Since our ways and thoughts, are by nature centered on ourselves, a necessary mark of wisdom on our part is an inner willingness to yield and change our ways. We need to become like willows, bending in the direction that His Spirit blows in our life. This aspect of wisdom is what keeps us from falling into the ruts of religious tradition. To be willing to change requires a tender heart for it is not simply a change in our intellect or thought pattern that is required, but a change in our inner man.

*Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. (Psalm 51:6)*

To have a great knowledge without a redeemed heart by which to exercise it, is to be seen as one who is ignorant. Spiritual growth always involves pain and change; how can I profess to have wisdom, if I am not able to adapt to the new things the Lord brings into my life. What is happening in the church today is a new thing, and we must be a people of change or we will settle down, and in the end backslide.

*Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? (Isaiah 43:19)*

Our religious humanity always seeks out the correct orthodox structure and procedure for how to govern our life, or how the church should function. We seek assurance of our faith in the stability of things running smoothly accordingly to some fixed standard. The wisdom of God says, “be prepared to change, for where there is spiritual growth, there will of necessity be change.” The traditionalist is content; the proud intellectual will not be shown, only the humble are wise enough to change and flow in the renewal and building of the church.

## *Purity*

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As long as we are being changed, we can expect to see a mixture of our ways and His. As we grow, this mixture should disappear, for one characteristic (or pillar) of spiritual wisdom is that it is *pure*; it will not mix with philosophical concepts or carnal reasoning.

*But the wisdom from above is first pure. . . without hypocrisy.  
(James 3:17)*

I have found from experience, that if I counsel someone without prayer or without being in close communion with the Lord, the result is often a mixture of what I think to be correct, plus some applicable scriptures and perhaps a word from the Lord. The result seldom brings life, and can be confusing to the recipient. Wise counsel should be sharp and to the point; for that reason wisdom from above prompts us to be silent until we have a definite word to speak. In this way our words can be pure. One reason the Christian church is in the spiritual state it is today, has been the mixing of spiritual wisdom with political intrigues and promotional techniques from the world. The result is confusion. God cannot honor a mixture, and He seeks to separate His church into the purity of His ways. Spiritual growth requires this separation in our life. Out motives, ministry, counsel and words are to increasingly reflect an ascension from human strategies and reactions to only the prompting of His life. Coals from the altar of His wisdom are needed to purge intellectualism and tradition from our ministry. The word of God is to become a sharp sword experientially in our life, separating soul from spirit in our understanding and conduct. Separation of the spiritual and soulish is part of the purification that the Lord works in His church, so that she will be without spot or blemish and fit for Himself as a bride. Finally, it is purity of motive, from a pure heart that will establish purity of ministry. His word is very pure (Psalm 119:140), and so are we to be as ministers of it.

*. . . and everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself,  
just as he is pure. (1 John 3:3)*

## *The Visibility of Wisdom*

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Wisdom is often thought of as simply knowing what is correct or true. However, another characteristic, or pillar of wisdom is that it is manifested in deeds and character. It can be seen as well as heard.

*Who among you is wise . . . ? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. (James 3:13)*

*But the wisdom from above is . . . peaceable, gentle . . . full of mercy and good fruits . . . (James 3:17)*

A man who is reputed to be wise, but who lives and acts like men of the world, is a contradiction; godliness is an expression of wisdom.



*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise.  
(Ephesians 5:15)*

Wisdom is not only knowing what to say, but also how to give expression in a way, so that words will more readily be received as benefit to the hearers.

*The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable . . . (Proverbs 15:2)*

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

Wisdom is often found not as much in the words of the wise, as it is in the gentle quality of their character. Even silence can be the fruit of wisdom in some circumstances; and too much talking is always foolishness.

*. . . wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. (Matthew 11:19)*

What we are speaks louder than what we say!

To be “heavenly minded with no practical release of such knowledge into the affairs of one’s every day life is not wisdom. It is always wise to hold our own self in low esteem, and to honor other members of the body. Selflessness is an expression of wisdom.

*. . . Do not be wise in your own estimation. (Romans 12:16)*

When we act in ignorance, the consequences of what we do points to that ignorance. In the same way, when we build wisely in the kingdom, what we establish will demonstrate the wisdom of God.

*. . . as a wise masterbuilder I laid a foundation . . . (1 Corinthians 3:10)*

The church that the Lord is building today will be an external expression of His wisdom, for only by the wisdom of grace can this glorious church be built out of the material the Lord has to work with. There is nothing good in any one of us; yet when we are bonded together in His love and begin to relate to one another as members of one body, we can become a corporate expression of Christ to the world. Thus, wisdom is manifest in losing our independence, and becoming dependent upon the Lord and the flow of His life through our brothers and sisters in His body. Our submission and the laying down of our lives for others is a visible expression of wisdom. This is the cement that holds together the living stones of His house. Because of the greatness of His wisdom, God is tolerant toward us in our state of limited understanding. As our character is enriched in wis-

dom, we too will become more tolerant of others in Christ who perhaps do not understand what we do. This too is a reflection of wisdom.

Wisdom is visible in those who exercise self restraint, and who rule over their own spirit.

*A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man hold it back. (Proverbs 29:11)*

*He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. (Proverbs 17:27)*

*. . . But he who restrains his lips is wise. (Proverbs 10:19)*

Finally, we should understand that the end result of all ministry is to make visible the wisdom of God through the church. He is going to show His handiwork in the church, to all rulers in the earth and all authorities in heavenly places. All that He has purposed to do will, in the end, glorify Him and reveal His wisdom to the universe.

*To me . . . this grace was given, to preach . . . the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:8-10)*

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## *Wisdom and Growth*

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There is no one who doesn't come short in some area of his life. It is not a sin to have needs; it is a sin when we are content to remain in our state of need. The last and seventh pillar that we will consider is that wisdom always brings an increase and growth in virtue. Spiritual wisdom is our road map in the kingdom of God. When we follow her direction we will always end up in a state of greater abundance.

*. . . a wise man will hear and increase in learning . . . (Proverbs 1:5)*

*. . . reprove a wise man and he will love you. Give instructions to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning. (Proverbs 9:8-9)*

*Wisdom strengthens a wise man . . . (Ecclesiastes 7:19)*

*. . . we have not ceased to pray . . . that you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that*

*you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:9-10)*

Our ministry in the church will grow and prosper if we exercise our gifts in the wisdom that God has given us. Unless wisdom is a carburetor of our ministry (i.e. how, when and what to speak) we will not necessarily bring life to others even though what we say is altogether correct. We must recognize that although we can teach out of what we know, we will only impart out of what we are. There must be character qualifying our words.

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you; with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)*

*The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life . . . . (Proverbs 13:14)*

Proverbs 9 speaks of wisdom building her house. In reality, it is Christ, the Wisdom of God, calling to us in these verses to understand how the Masterbuilder would conform each of us to His image, and build us together in His house. Hear the essence of His call:

- I am the fountainhead of all wisdom, seek Me.
- Be wise and obey what you learn.
- You will find that your call and destiny has been prepared by My wisdom.
- Be wise, and willing to yield and change.
- Let Me separate your carnal ways from My wisdom. Do not let them become a mixture in you.
- Let My wisdom be visible in your walk and relationship with others.
- My wisdom will always lead you into an increase of My virtues and ways; your growth will flow out of this wisdom.

Job asked the question:

*“Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?” (Job 28:20)*

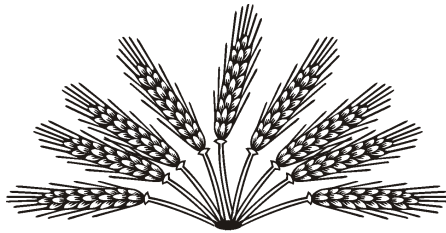
Elihu answered Job correctly:

*I thought age should speak, and increased years should teach wisdom. But it is a spirit in man, and the breath (spirit) of the Almighty*

*gives them understanding. The abundant in years may not be wise . . . (Job 32:7-9)*

It is proper to respect the wisdom and balance from those who have known Christ for many years. However, we are not to be a people who move only according to the word of white-haired sages. Neither must we be old to have wisdom. The ministry of Jesus was based on the spirit of wisdom and revelation that rested upon Him (Isaiah 11:2). As children of God we are to walk under the same anointing. We are to open our spirit to Him so that He might give us understanding, and establish our steps in the principles of His wisdom.

(All scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible)



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