

INTRODUCTION

*“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...”
(1 Corinthians 14:1, NIV, emphasis added)*

- God has called us to eagerly desire (from the Greek word *zēloō*, meaning to pursue with zeal) the spiritual gifts He gives, but this call is in the context of walking in His love (*agape*) as defined in 1 Corinthians 13.

*“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.”
(1 Corinthians 12:1, emphasis added)*

- It’s God’s desire that we not be ignorant (*agnoeō*) of the gifts that He gives us, but to grow in them and understand what they are, and that it is His Holy Spirit who releases them.

I. WHAT IS THE GIFT OF WISDOM?

A. Gift of Wisdom (Hebrew: *hākmâ*, Greek: *sophia*): The God-given quality of skill, intelligence, perception, shrewdness, and ability to direct, counsel, or execute matters and works of craftsmanship, relationship, governance, administration effectively according to God’s created order both naturally and spiritually

B. While the word “wisdom” is used in varying capacities throughout Scripture, this gift is referring to wisdom from God, not supposed “wisdom” as the world sees (1 Cor. 2)

*“6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.”
(1 Corinthians 2:6-7, emphasis added)*

*“¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”
(James 3:13-17, emphasis added)*

II. VARYING APPLICATIONS OF THE GIFT OF WISDOM

A. Wisdom has a great multitude of expressions and applications

- i. **Craftsmanship/Creativity** (Exodus 28:3, 31:3, 31:6, 35:26, 35:31, 35:35, 36:1-1; 1 Kings 7:14, 10:4, Prov. 3:19, Jer. 10:12, 51:15)

“...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability [wisdom] and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship” (Exodus 31:3, emphasis added)

“The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens” (Proverbs 3:19, emphasis added)

- ii. **Governance/Judgement/Relationships** (Deut. 4:6, 34:9; 1 King 3:28, 5:12, 10:8; 2 Ch. 1:10-12, 9:7; Dan. 1:10, Acts 6:3)

“God answered Solomon, “Because this was in your heart, and you...have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. (2 Chron. 1:11-12, emphasis added)

- iii. **Time Stewardship** (Psalm 90:10, Eph. 5:16, Col. 4:5)

“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.” (Colossians 4:5)

- iv. **Spiritual Understanding/Godly Living** (1 Cor 2, James 3)

“And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.” (1 Corinthians 2:13)

- v. **Teaching/Evangelism** (Acts 6:10; 1 Cor. 2; Col. 1:28, 3:16, 4:5)

“⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some...rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.” (Acts 6:10)

III. HOW TO GET THIS GIFT

- A. Ask God - God has the gift of His wisdom stored up for us and is ready and willing to give it to those who seek Him and ask for it...

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (James 1:5)

“⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright” (Proverbs 2:6-7)

- B. Receive impartation by learning from those who have it

“¹ My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you ² making your ear attentive to wisdom...wisdom will come into your heart” (Proverbs 2:1-2, 10)

- C. Worship God, read and obey God’s Word, and study His Creation

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (Proverbs 9:10)

“Keep them and do them [God’s commands], for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” (Deut. 4:6, emphasis added)

“The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;” (Proverbs 3:19)