

GET SMART!



Like the crackling of thorns in a fire,
so is the laughter of fools. This too
is meaningless. (*Ecclesiastes 7:6*)

I saw all that God had done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his effort to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it all.

(Ecclesiastes 8:17)

SMART – clever, bright, astute,
intelligent, quick, shrewd, ingenious

WISE – discerning, perceptive,
sensible, enlightened, erudite

How do we test “smarts”?

IQ, school tests, dissertations,
demonstrations, residencies, etc.

Wisdom The Bible's definition or usage of the word "wisdom" always assumes humility (toward God) and morality (toward people).

A person may have impressive knowledge yet still reject God. The Bible never describes such a person as “wise”.

- **doubting** God's existence
- **disregarding** God's authority
- **discarding** God's rules

The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.” (*Psalms 53:1*)

You make me glad by your deeds,
O Lord. I sing for joy at the works
of your hands. How great are
your works! How profound are
your thoughts! The senseless
man does not know, fools do not
understand. (*Psalms 92:4-5*)

A fool finds pleasure in evil
conduct ... (*Proverbs 10:23*)

In Bible terms, such person is “senseless” or “foolish”, and this description is based on their **pride** and **stubbornness** rather than intelligence.

Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear. “Should you not fear me?” declares the Lord. “Should you not tremble in my presence?” ... These people have stubborn and rebellious hearts ... They do not say to themselves, “Let us fear the Lord our God ...”

(Jeremiah 5:21-24)

“Fools hate knowledge.”

(Proverbs 1:22)

- They do not **value** the knowledge they have.
- They cannot **connect** knowledge and behavior.
- They refuse to **surrender** to the authority of their knowledge.

Fools despise wisdom and discipline

(Proverbs 1:7)

Fools have no desire to get wisdom

(17:16)

A fool finds no pleasure in understanding.

But they delight in airing their own
opinion.

(18:2)

A wise person sees danger and takes
refuge, but the foolish keep going and
suffer for it.

(22:3)

**Wisdom is supreme; therefore
get wisdom. Though it cost all
you have, get understanding.**

(Proverbs 4:7)

Wisdom conveys the urge or need to “Be right with God.” In this sense, wisdom is supreme over all other virtues.

*Wisdom could be defined as the desire to possess all other virtues.

PURSUE WISDOM ...

1. Ask God
2. Study your life experiences
3. Listen to good teachers
4. Receive the “correction” of others

Be **willing** to pay the price needed to gain wisdom

Wisdom is expensive. But it is **worth** the expense and the pursuit, whatever that includes.

Buy the truth and do not sell it.
Get wisdom, discipline, and
understanding. (*Proverbs 23:23*)

GET SMART!

