**Wisdom and Knowledge to Govern**

2 Peter 1:3-9

**Introduction:**

[Proverbs 24:3-4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2024%3A3&version=MSG)

It takes **wisdom** to build a house and understanding to set it on a firm foundation; It takes **knowledge** to furnish its rooms with fine furniture and beautiful draperies.

**What is Knowledge?**

“Facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.”

**What is Wisdom?**

“The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise”

“the [soundness](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=f78427f5824e21a0&sca_upv=1&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS897US897&sxsrf=ADLYWIKe5KfQhNsk68-BmyBo8uU_CRp9PQ:1721035325837&q=soundness&si=ACC90nxMSPeZfdJJjQgDsdZJuFuJV5-lVnC9WXtNU6jSw8F1AfBBoRDrNPQChJtPQytQXMBXd1u-Iq0uclfu2UEnqZcYKKxS-e_zEq3n4FhgDRqQDuI876E%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiU9feZ3KiHAxX3kYkEHR6XBhUQyecJegQIMBBQ) of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment.”

* Proverbs 4:7-9 – Wisdom
* James 3: 13-18 - Wisdom
* Hosea 4:6 - Knowledge

Note: Christ is the Wisdom and the power of God:1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

**What Does it Mean to “Govern”?**

1. **Conduct** the policy, actions, and affairs of (a state, organization, or people)
2. Control, **influence**, or regulate (a person, action, or course of events):

**Note:**

For those created in Christ Jesus (referred to as: Believers/Christians/Born again), we are truly destined to govern ourselves and whatever niche God assign unto us, according to the design of God from the beginning of creation. (Isiah 9:6-7, Genesis 1:26-28, Revelations 5)

Jesus said we are the light of the world, we are the salt of the world – we are designed to bring the best out of this world we live in, by bringing the best out the people God created for himself.

**The Christian’s Challenging Opportunities**

All over the world, once or twice a week, men and women go into a church or a Christian worship center to fellowship. There are usually different activities experienced during the fellowship times depending on the local church/fellowship center norms and or culture. Biblical teaching however is arguably a common practice during the time of fellowship in a church or in a Christian worship center.

The Christian’s hope is that the lessons learned from these ongoing biblical teachings would help individuals grow in the knowledge of God, and consequently translate into a **good, successful, and fulfilling life** that is well pleasing unto God.

One critical component that will help make this aspiration happen is **God’s wisdom and knowledge to govern**.

 Sometimes, Christians get frustrated when all the beautiful blessings and promises learned about God do not match with their day-to-day real-life experience or when the “**good, successful, and fulfilling life**” hoped for seems unrealistic. This often leads to second-guessing their decision for God, and regrettably some might even jettison their faith in God, confusing it to be a myth!

Below are some biblical verses to ponder as we go into this lesson!

**Biblical Truth**

1. Proverbs 13:12**:** Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around. (MSG)
2. **Numbers 23:19:** God is not a man; he will not lie. God is not a human being; his decisions will not change. If he says he will do something, then he will do it. If he makes a promise, then he will do what he promised. (ERV)
3. **Hebrews 6:18-20:** 13-18 When God made his promise to Abraham, he backed it all the way, putting his own reputation on the line. He said, “I promise that I’ll bless you with everything I have—bless and bless and bless!” **Abraham stuck it out** and got everything that had been promised to him. When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they’ll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee—God can’t break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. 18-20 We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to **grab the promised hope with both hands** and **never let go.** It’s an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up his permanent post as **high priest for us**, in the order of Melchizedek. (MSG)
4. John 16:31-33**:** Jesus answered them, “Do you finally believe? In fact, you’re about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I’m not abandoned. The Father is with me. I’ve told you all this so that **trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured**, **deeply at peace**. **In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties**. **But take heart! I’ve conquered the world**.”

**Diagnosing Chrisitan’s challenges (**James 1:2-4, Matthew 5:11-12**)**

* When we experience difficulties – what is our diagnosis?
	+ Wrong diagnosis will lead to wrong treatment!
* Christian’s challenges encapsulate opportunities!
* Embrace challenges with a grateful heart?
	+ Jesus and the man blind from birth – this is for the glory of God
	+ Jesus raised Lazarus from death – father I thank you for you hear me always!
	+ Joseph – family problem, work problem (Potiphar’s house, in prison), at Pharao’s palace

**We are created by God in Christ Jesus to Govern**

King Solomon:

Let’s explore the story of the wisest King that ever lived according to the scriptures – King Solomon.

**Give me wisdom and knowledge to govern**

1. [2 Chronicles 1:8-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%201%3A8&version=MSG)

Solomon answered, “You were extravagantly generous with David my father, and now you have made me king in his place. Establish, God, the words you spoke to my father, for you’ve given me a staggering task, ruling this mob of people. Yes, give me **wisdom** and **knowledge** as I come and go among this people—for who on his own is capable of leading these, your glorious people?”

1. [2 Chronicles 1:11-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%201%3A11&version=MSG)

God answered Solomon, “This is what has come out of your heart: You didn’t grasp for money, wealth, fame, and the doom of your enemies; you didn’t even ask for a long life. **You asked for wisdom and knowledge so you could govern well my people over whom I’ve made you king**. Because of this, you get what you asked for—**wisdom** and **knowledge**. And I’m presenting you the rest as a bonus—money, wealth, and fame beyond anything the kings before or after you had or will have.

* **The key here is**:
	+ Solomon’s heart is focused on God’s desire.
	+ Solomon recognized that God made him king.
	+ Solomon recognized the people are God’s object of affection.

**Building on what we have**

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“**Everything that goes into a life** of pleasing God has been miraculously **given** to us by getting to know; personally, and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also **given** terrific **promises** to pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.”

5-9 So don’t lose a minute in building on what you’ve been **given**, **complementing your basic faith with** good character, **spiritual understanding**, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. **With these qualities** active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. **Without these qualities** you can’t see what’s right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books. (MSG)

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**3**Jesus has the power of God. And his power has given us everything we need to live a life devoted to God. We have these things because we know him. Jesus chose us by his glory and goodness, **4**through which he also gave us the very great and rich gifts that he promised us. With these gifts you can share in being like God. And so, you will escape the ruin that comes to people in the world because of the evil things they want.

**5**Because you have these blessings, do all you can to **add to your life these things**: to your faith add goodness; to your goodness add knowledge; **6**to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add patience; to your patience add devotion to God; **7**to your devotion add kindness toward your brothers and sisters in Christ, and to this kindness add love. **8**If all these things are in you and growing, you will never fail to be useful to God. You will produce the kind of fruit that should come from your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**But those who don’t grow in these blessings are blind. They cannot see clearly what they have. They have forgotten that they were cleansed from their past sins. (Easy to Read version)

Add to your basic Faith:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | versions |
| Virtue | **knowledge** | temperance | patience | godliness | kindness | charity | KJV |
| good character | **Spiritual understanding** | alert discipline | passionate patience | reverent wonder | warm friendliness | generous love | MSG |
| goodness | **Knowledge** | Self-control | Patience | Devotion to God | kindness | love | ERV |

**Conclusion:**

1. Do you know that Wisdom and Knowledge happen to be in the forefront of Spiritual Gifts?
	* they are listed before the gift of Faith, before the gift of working miracles, before speaking in tongues….?
2. Do you also know that we can ask for the gift of Wisdom and Knowledge if we are created in Christ Jesus?
	* 1 Cor 12: 4-114-1**1**God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. **Each person is given something to do that shows who God is**: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:
3. wise counsel
4. clear understanding
5. simple trust
6. healing the sick
7. miraculous acts
8. proclamation
9. distinguishing between spirits
10. tongues
11. interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.

**Application of the knowledge/wisdom of God to govern**

1. Acquire relevant knowledge/skill
2. Apply the knowledge/skill to create something – product or service
3. Be God’s focused – Be People’s focused.