

How Do We Grow in Wisdom from Above?

1. Through a right relationship with God.

We have to recognize that wisdom from above is found in the context of relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.

Christ is the embodiment of God's wisdom. His character and actions put the wisdom from above on display for us as an example to follow.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Colossians 2:2-3 Christ *Himself*, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2. Through obedience to God's will which is revealed in His Word.

We grow in wisdom, our ability to think and behave and judge righteously through our obedience to God's instructions. There's an inseparable link between wisdom and obedience and foolishness and disobedience. Just as our sin corrupts our thinking, our obedience to the will of God revealed in Scripture refines it.

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; His praise endures forever.

3. Through rejecting the wisdom of this world.

We need to avoid the wisdom and counsel of those in the world who reject Christ. (Talk radio, self-help, TV, etc.)

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God.

4. Through sincerely seeking God's wisdom for our trials.

James exhorts us to seek God's wisdom in the midst of our trials and assures us that God hears and answers our prayers for wisdom. Wisdom, that is for how we might please Him by walking by faith, (that is walking in obedience to the instructions and promises in His word even if they run counter to our natural inclinations) when we find ourselves in seasons of temptation. Remember that God ordains trials to produce endurance in us. And endurance in walking by faith leads to maturity in our Christian character. So we're to:

James 1:2-8 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

"Doubting" in v.6 is not failing to believe that God will give you wisdom, but doubting that God's wisdom, His counsel is best. The one who doubts seeks God's wisdom as *an* option, not *the* option. The doubter seeks God as an advisor, not as his Lord.

5. Through humbly receiving counsel.

Proverbs 13:10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife, But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.

Who are the godly men and women in your life? Who are the men and women who are characterized by good deeds done in the gentleness of wisdom from above? Seek their counsel when you need counsel. When other brothers and sisters seek to admonish and reprove you, receive it.

6. Through seeking peace and reconciliation in relationships where there is conflict.

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.