



A BETTER WORD

FROM OLD TO NEW TO YOU

8 Themes That Run Through the Whole Bible | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The Wisdom of God Given to Us

Proverbs 1:7; 8:22–31; 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; Matthew 7:24–27

THE BIG IDEA

True wisdom — being genuinely skilled at life — originates with God, is fully embodied in Jesus Christ, and is gained by those who fear the Father and follow the Son.

SERMON SUMMARY

Wisdom is more than intelligence or information — it is the capacity to judge rightly in matters of life and conduct; skilled living. In the Old Testament, wisdom originates with God himself. Before the world was made, wisdom was with him (Proverbs 8:22–31). He is the author of perceptive wisdom (seeing reality clearly), action-related wisdom (living rightly), and communicating wisdom (passing it on). The starting place for all of this is Proverbs 1:7: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” God doesn’t just possess wisdom — he communicates it to his people as a gift for faithful, skilled living.

In the New Testament, the picture becomes even more complete: Jesus himself is the embodiment of divine wisdom. “Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24). The greatest universities and financial centers of the world train you in the wisdom of the world — but that wisdom cannot lead you to God. True wisdom comes through recognizing your weakness and need for a Savior, not through accumulating strength. In Matthew 7, Jesus says the wise person is the one who hears his words and does them — building on a foundation that no storm can destroy. Wisdom is gained by those who fear the Father and follow the Son.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Proverbs 8:22–31 personifies wisdom as present with God before creation. What does this poetic image communicate about the nature of wisdom? If God created everything in perfect wisdom, what does this mean for how we approach our own need for wisdom?
2. The Old Testament describes three types of wisdom: perceptive (seeing reality clearly), action-related (conducting yourself rightly), and communicating (teaching others wisely). Which of these comes most naturally to you — and which do you most need to develop right now?
3. 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 says the message of the cross is “foolishness to those who are perishing.” How does Christ crucified specifically confound the wisdom of the world? What does the cross reveal about God’s way of doing things that no worldly wisdom would ever anticipate?
4. Proverbs 1:7 says, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” What does it mean practically to “fear the Lord” — not as terror, but as reverence and honor? How does this posture open the door to wisdom, while self-sufficiency closes it?

5. Matthew 7:24–27 says that building on Jesus’ words is the mark of the wise person. In what area of your life — marriage, parenting, finances, work, or relationships — do you most need to apply the foundation of his words right now? What would it look like to actually build on that rock in that specific area?
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LIVING IT OUT

Everyone wants to be skilled at life — to navigate the lefts and rights and ups and downs with stability and purpose. The world offers its version of wisdom through degrees, networks, experience, and strategy. But none of it leads to the wisdom that makes you truly good at life in God’s terms. That wisdom begins with a posture of reverence before God, and grows as you surrender to Jesus and obey his word.

Heart Check: Is the foundation you’re building your life on right now — your career decisions, your relationships, your sense of security — built on the rock of Jesus’ words, or on the shifting sand of the world’s wisdom? What would have to change for you to build differently?

This Week: Choose one area of your life where you need wisdom right now — a decision, a relationship, a habit. Go to God’s word specifically for that area. Spend 15 minutes reading and praying through one relevant passage. Then do what it says, even if it runs against the grain of the world’s advice.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
— **Proverbs 1:7**

Ask God to show you where self-sufficiency or worldly wisdom is crowding out true wisdom in your life. Confess the places where you’ve been building on sand. Ask him to give you a growing reverence for him — the posture that opens the door to the wisdom only he can give.

Your Prayer:

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