

Don't look for God in the spectacular, but in the sober.

- Wisdom is filled with sobriety.
- But do not confuse sobriety with insecurity or stubbornness.
- Sometimes fear communicates in the name of being sensible.
- God can speak to you directly, but you do not need Him to communicate to you that way all the time.

If you want to hear from God, start moving in the direction He's walking.

- What direction is that?: wisdom.
- If you find wisdom, you find Him.
- **Proverbs 8:22-36** - ²²“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. ²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, ²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. ²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man. ³²“And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. ³⁴Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. ³⁵For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, ³⁶but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.”

Wisdom is not limited to the Christian community.

- **Proverbs 9:10** - ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
- While the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, some people start in the middle of wisdom and benefit from it.
- **Matthew 5:44–45 (ESV)** - ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
- **Proverbs 29:13 (ESV)**: ¹³The poor man and the oppressor meet together; the Lord gives light to the eyes of both.

How to Hear from God – Part 5

Dr. Joshua D. Smith

April 11, 2022

- There is some measure of light that we call can see regardless of faith, status or background.
- The world can access the branches of wisdom, but not its roots
- So, we see this curious sight: Christians have the root, but the world has the fruit (not of the Spirit, but of wisdom).

Wisdom has benefits, even if you are not a Christian.

- **Proverbs 3:13-18 - 13** Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

If you're looking to hear from God, at least take advantage of the wisdom that is common to everyone.

- **Proverbs 1:5 (ESV):** 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,
- **Proverbs 4:7 (ESV):** 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.
- By pursuing wisdom and acting wisely you're already doing much of what God would tell you directly.
- Proverbs tells us that wisdom is not just in the spiritual domain and not just in the practical domain, but also in the non-Christian domain.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but it is not all you have to do to acquire it.

Commit to your growth and then when God needs to tell you something directly, He will.

- Start down the path of maturity and He will coach you along the way.
- So much of what God would tell you is what you would come to terms with anyway if you just matured:
 - Spiritually
 - Emotionally
 - Socially
 - Intellectually
 - Physically
 - Financially
 - Professionally

- Recreationally
- Culturally

It's easier to teach people who are teachable.

Become teachable.

Two sources of common wisdom/light:

- Creation
 - **Romans 1:18–20** (ESV) - ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
 - Observing creation
 - Observing human behavior and its outcomes
 - Listening to proven individuals who make wise statements about creation, about human behavior and about its outcomes
- Conscience
 - **Romans 2:14–16** (ESV) - ¹⁴For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.