

The Beginning of Wisdom

Two parents watch as their son heads off on his first 'official' date. One thinks aloud to the other, "I could tell at the beginning of summer that this was a budding romance."

What was it that the parents saw? What marked the beginning of the romance?

- Was it when their son passed his driving test?
- Was it when their son hit a home run early in the baseball season?
- Was it when he went fishing with the guys?

These questions are clearly out of place. Driving, baseball, and fishing have nothing to do with a budding romance; there is no real connection.

We could make a list of possible signs that would indicate the beginnings of a young romance. We know what it looks like when a guy and a gal are sweet on each other. We also know that before the 'beginning' signs, there is . . . No real romance.

Now, think about another beginning, the beginning of *wisdom*. That might sound a bit odd at first, but God makes a clear declaration of wisdom and its beginning:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom....

—Proverbs 9:10

Is that what you expected?

Wisdom is more often related to knowledge and study and investigation?

While these may be related, they are not the beginning.

Do you want to be wise? I am not asking about the wisdom of the world, but true spiritual wisdom; wisdom that applies to our physical lives, yet also impacts our lives spiritually. Throw out your perceptions of wisdom and start again with the simplicity of God's declaration.

Wisdom begins, not with experience, not with accumulated knowledge, and not with intelligence. True wisdom, has a beginning point, but that beginning point is not focused on anything you or I have accomplished or learned or accumulated. Rather, wisdom has a starting point that is marked by one's attitude and response toward God.

The signs of 'budding' wisdom are marked by one's *awe and reverence toward God*. A person who stands in awe of God will listen to God's revelation and take His word seriously.

Where will you find wisdom?

There are many voices in our society and in our world. It is as if each voice calls for you to drink deeply of its wisdom. But God calls out:

*For the Lord gives wisdom;
From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

—Proverbs 2:6