

Expert or Apprentice?

Solomon wrote about wisdom...again and again:

**For wisdom will enter your heart,
And knowledge will be pleasant to
your soul.**

--Proverbs 2:10

This statement is an explanation of a *result*. It gives the very clear indication of *transformation*. Transformation is not about possessing wisdom as if to suggest that at one time a person did not have wisdom. Rather, the contrast is in the person who has wisdom, but will later *possess it in their heart*. They possess knowledge now, but it will be *pleasant to their soul*. The transformation is from merely possessing wisdom to *internalizing* that wisdom into one's heart.

Consider an illustration: The difference between an expert and an apprentice is the transformation from *possessing* knowledge and skill to that knowledge and skill *becoming a natural part* of the individual. An apprentice, though successful, may have to stop and think; he may struggle through tasks. The expert performs a task effortlessly, seemingly with no thought, as if he was born with the knowledge and skill.

Knowledge and skill are embedded deep within the expert so that we describe them as "second nature." Yet, they become *second nature* only after years of careful observation and experience.

What about wisdom and knowledge?
Before thinking about our 'efforts' we would do well to recognize the source of wisdom and knowledge.

**For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and
understanding.
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk in
integrity.**

--Proverbs 2:6-7

God's wisdom and understanding are not for just anyone. It is not by breadth of experience, depth of study, or sheer strength of will that man attains wisdom. God is the source. He gives; and He gives to the upright.

Yet, Man does have a part, after all, God does not simply pour his wisdom into a person's head while he sleeps. Consider man's part in attaining the wisdom offered by God as described in Proverbs 2:

- **Receive** my sayings (v. 1);
- **Treasure** my commandments (v. 1);
- **Make** your ear **attentive** (v. 2);
- **Incline** your heart (v. 2);
- **Cry** for (v. 3);
- **Lift** your voice for (v. 3);
- **Seek** as for silver (v. 4);
- **Search** as for hidden treasure (v. 4).

God offers true wisdom. We can prepare ourselves by being upright. Then we must **pursue** wisdom. The result is the difference between the apprentice and the expert.

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And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.**