



## Discovering Your Design:

*Preparing Christ's followers to change the world*

## WISDOM

**DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO SPEAK A MESSAGE WHICH WILL DEFEND THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, OR GIVE INSIGHT AND GUIDANCE TO THE CHURCH FOR A PARTICULAR NEED.**

- Wisdom's focus is on living rightly before God
- 1 Corinthians 12:7 reminds us that wisdom is connected to the gift of knowledge and teaching and an understanding of God's Word cf. 2 Timothy 3:15; Colossians 1:28
- This gift is different from the general wisdom given to all Christians in that it is more commonly found and used in the person who has this gift

**Biblical References:** 1 Corinthians 12:8, cf. Luke 21:15

**Contribution:** this gift builds up the body by applying God's truth to situations and decisions, helping people know how to glorify God.

**Biblical Examples :** Jesus, Matthew 13:54; Stephen, Acts 6:10; Paul, Acts 22-26

**Characteristics** - People with this gift:

- apply spiritual truth to specific situations - providing godly insight
- will show it by their good life, and by deeds done in humility. (James 3:13)
- will be sought out by others
- "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." (James 3:17)
- since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, people with this gift will live lives in obedience to God's Word which is at the heart of fearing God (cf. Psalm 128:1)
- understand that God is the source of true wisdom and continue to ask Him for it (cf. Js 1:5)

**Cautions:**

- remember your own insufficiency - "until we discover and are sensible of our own folly, we are fit neither to receive nor to use this spiritual wisdom" (Owen, 457).
- watch out for pride

**Christian Responsibility:** we are all called to seek wisdom. Paul in Ephesians 1:17 says keep asking God for wisdom. James tells us if we lack it to ask God for it and He will generously give it to us (cf. James 1:5).