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Seek Wisdom

2: 1-5

A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.

Proverbs Chapter 2 is one long teaching of **a father to his son**. Indeed, it is as if **the father** took a deep breath and uttered the contents of the entire chapter in one long sentence. For ease of reading, however, I have broken **the chapter** into three files: **Seek Wisdom (2:1-5)**, **ADONAI Gives Wisdom (2:5-11)**, and **Protection from Wicked People (2:12-22)**. The chapter urges the son to actively pursue wisdom, which is associated with the father's words, so he may discover the fear of **ADONAI** with all of its practical and ethical benefits. Such **wisdom** will save the son from all kinds of trouble in life, including the danger represented by **the immoral woman**. **The chapter** ends with the declaration that those who are upright, or innocent (presumably because they had heeded **the father's** words and found **the fear of ADONAI**), will be allowed to stay in the Land, but those who do not (described as those who are **wicked/faithless**) will be driven from the Land.⁴⁵



The father again makes an appeal: **My son**, this is the second teaching from **the**

father (see [Aj - Proverbs for the Youth](#)), **if you listen to what I say, and store up my commands within you (2:1 NLT)**. “Take my teaching seriously,” is what every dedicated teacher asks of a student. **The father** desires that **his son** do more than merely **listen to what he has to say**, not to have only an open mind, but to **store up his commands within him**. **Solomon** had embraced **the Torah of ADONAI** and made it **his** own by faith and obedience as well as **his** teaching. Three steps are necessary for those who wish to receive his words and become wise. First, the person must be willing to receive or hear instruction from another person who is **wiser**. Second, the person must value **wisdom** as more precious than **silver or hidden treasure**. Third, as we will see in future **proverbs**, the person must act on those **wise** teachings. It is not enough for a person to merely listen and learn; he or she must also obey if he or she is to become **wise**.

It is essential that we receive **God’s** sayings, that we absorb them on a regular basis and allow them to find lodging in our minds. Few things affect our world more detrimentally than ongoing biblical ignorance. At the same time, we cannot overestimate the positive impact of Scriptural knowledge on a society. We need only to look to the founding of the United States of America.

Many scholars question whether the Founding Fathers were professing believers as our evangelical churches today would define the term “Christian.” Regardless, the vast majority at least maintained a Christian world view, held **God** in high esteem, revered the Bible as authoritative, knew **God’s Word** well, and adopted its precepts as their moral foundation. All of these are undeniable. Their knowledge of biblical wisdom led them to first think deeply and then make decisions based on principles rather than pragmatism. In fact, their scriptural knowledge made capitalism and democracy possible.⁴⁶

If you tune your ears to Lady Wisdom (see [Am - Lady Wisdom’s Rebuke of the Foolish](#)), **and turn your heart toward understanding (2:2 Hebrew)**. One hears with **the ear**, but **the father** requires more of **the son** than simply the act of **listening**. **The heart** represents what we would call the basic personality of a person. Once **wisdom** is properly valued, both **the ear** and **the mind** are captivated by it. **Wisdom** in this sense means “skill” and refers to the quality that enables a person to live life skillfully, avoiding the world’s countless traps and pitfalls. **Understanding** refers to one’s mind, specifically the intellectual discipline required to gain **wisdom**. **ADONAI** calls **His** people to work toward a deep understanding of **His Word** and to apply that **Word** to **their** lives. These things lead to **wisdom**.⁴⁷

If we read this verse correctly, we must also **tune** our **ears** to **the discipline** of **Ha'Shem** (see the commentary on **Hebrews Cz - God Disciplines His Children**), and cultivate an open heart before **Him**. The Bible repeatedly warns that we are naturally inclined to selfishness, shortsightedness, and shallow thinking. The English term **fool** appears no less than sixty-two times in the book of **Proverbs** alone. In no uncertain terms **God** urges us to remain closely connected to **Him**. **The fear of ADONAI is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding. For through wisdom your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life (9:10-11)**. When establishing plans, making decisions, or solving problems, what practical steps do you follow as you seek divine **wisdom**? Is this standard operating procedure for you or carried out only in case of emergency?⁴⁸

If you call out for Lady Wisdom and ask for understanding (2:3 NLT). The father desires the son to take the next step in the search for **Lady Wisdom**. This suggests one must desire **wisdom** – in order to obtain it. For the least bit of indifference will leave one without the fullness of **her wisdom**. **The son** is not only to be open to **Lady Wisdom's** influence as **it** comes to **him**, but **he** is also to pursue **it** actively. Yet, this verse also reminds us that true **wisdom** comes only from **ADONAI**, and all we need to do is ask **Him** to give it to us: **If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you (James 1:5 NIV)**.⁴⁹

Perhaps the single most overlooked discipline in the life of a believer – and among the most difficult – is consistent prayer. Prevailing prayer. Ongoing, unceasing prayer. Don't misunderstand. I'm not suggesting we should simply spend more time in prayer. Increasing the number of minutes talking to **God** should not become our focus. Instead, let us cultivate a mind-set oriented to prayer and a lifestyle that includes a sustained, running conversation with **the Lord** throughout the day. Plagued with worry? Let that prompt you to unload your concerns before **ADONAI**. Discouraged by conflict? Share it with **Messiah** and ask for **His** intervention. Perplexed with a problem? Ask **Yeshua** to give you insight, **understanding** and discernment. Don't save up your problems and questions for a long session later in the day. Talk with **God** moment by moment as you experience life.⁵⁰

With a sense of increasing urgency, **the father** says: **and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure (2:4 NIV)**. Verse 3 urges **the son** to use **his** voice to **call out to Lady Wisdom**, while **verse 4** encourages **him**

to take action. Part of the seeking is an act of faith: **But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in ADONAI alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind (James 1:6 NLT).** Although the search for **Lady Wisdom** is described in terms of **understanding**, the search should have the persistence of a search **for silver** or **hidden treasure**. This points to the value of the object being sought. Throughout **Proverbs**, **Lady Wisdom** is often compared favorably to precious metals (**3:14-15** for example).⁵¹

We're talking diligence and effort here! The saying calls us to seek **God's wisdom** as if we are digging for **silver** or to search for **hidden treasure**. This is no superficial game! It's an earnest, diligent pursuit of the mind of **Messiah!** While we don't have to earn **His** favor - and we can be sure that **He's** not withholding insight to make us work harder - we must nevertheless cultivate a desire for **His wisdom** that's no less intense than our natural desire for wealth.

Verse 5 brings us to the climax. If **the son** follows the instructions of **the father** in **verses 1-4**, **then he** will understand **what it means to fear ADONAI** (see **Ai - The Fear of Wisdom is the Beginning of Knowledge**), **and you will discover the knowledge of God (2:5 ESV).** Cultivating a desire for divine **wisdom** begins with the decision to make **it** a priority and to begin pursuing **it**. **Yeshua** said: **Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21 NIV).** It's a biological principle that you will increasingly value whatever you make a habit of pursuing. Knowledge of **ADONAI** comes through having a close and personal relationship with **Him**, which is available to everyone through **Yeshua**. Those who are redeemed by **the blood** of **Messiah** are redeemed and continue to walk in obedience with **His Word**.

What most often prompts you to pray? For what do you typically ask? There's nothing wrong with asking **ADONAI** to change your circumstances, but prayer has the potential to change you - your perspectives and values, attitudes and desires. Right now, think of a difficult situation and ask **the Lord** how **He** wants you to think or behave differently in response.⁵²

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for being the most Wise, Wonderful, and Loving **Father** that ever could be! How great that you are a **God** nearby, not far away (**Acts 17:27**). How very special that **You** promise to live within those who believe in **You**. **Yeshua** answered and said to him: **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our***

dwelling with him (John 14:23).

How wonderful it is to have the privilege to talk/pray to **You** 24/7- every day of the year! It is so great to be able to call upon **You** when there is a crisis or a problem that needs fixing, as David did so often, and **You** heard and stepped in to help. **But know that ADONAI has set apart the godly for His own. ADONAI will hear when I call to Him (Psalm 4:3).**

Amazing that though you are watching over all that happens in the entire world, you also are ready and available to listen to me! **ADONAI will hear when I call to Him. "Then you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you" (Jeremiah 29:12). Now this is the confidence we have before Him - that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have the requests we have asked from Him (First John 5:14-15).**

Thank **You** for **Your** Great **Wisdom** and Steadfast Love that hears and answers my prayers when I call out to **You**, seeking **Your** wisdom. **But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all without hesitation and without reproach; and it will be given to him. (James 1:5).** In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** Resurrection. Amen