

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#6) God Gives Wisdom to Those Who Listen 2:1-9

Verses 1-5: The word "if" often is connected by conditions that must be met in order for a "then" to state a blessing or benefit. Since "the fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge" ([Proverbs 1:7](#)), then it is absolutely essential to obtain knowledge. "Fear" here refers to "respect, awe, reverence" of the Lord. Without respect for the One who possesses the knowledge, the student will not learn! To "understand the fear of the Lord," and "find the knowledge of God" ([Proverbs 2:5](#)), a person must meet the following conditions:

1. **Verse 1** - "receive my words"; "treasure my commands";
2. **Verse 2** - listen to wisdom; apply yourself to "understanding";
3. **verse 3** - "cry out for discernment"; speak out for "understanding";
4. **Verse 4** - to "seek" wisdom as one goes after "silver"; or "search" for wisdom as one would dig for "buried treasure".

Learning is not automatic, nor by osmosis, but comes only by effort and application, just as the Apostle Paul wrote in [2 Timothy 2:15](#). Knowledge requires the infusion of God's Truth, exercising of the mind, and diligent evaluation of action.

Verses 6-9: "God gives wisdom..." through the following means:

- (1) "From His mouth," comes "every word" ([Matthew 4:4](#); [Deuteronomy 8:3](#)) which He has written for us to know ([1 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [2 Peter 3:1-2](#));
- (2) "knowledge," or accumulation of data from all sources, including the Word of God ([Colossians 1:9-10](#));
- (3) "understanding," is comprehension of what is learned ([Luke 24:44-47](#); [1 John 5:20](#)).

God "stores up sound wisdom" for the "upright" who will increase their faith; God "is a shield," or defense for those who "walk uprightly" in obeying the Truth; God "guards the paths of justice," by showing Divine balanced decisions; God "preserves the way of His saints," which is following Christ ([Acts 18:25-26](#); [Acts 24:14](#)).

"Then," and only then, can a person "understand," or fully grasp: "righteousness," or the upright way; "justice," or honesty with God's Law; "equity," or evenness of application to all; "every good path," which always leads to the right thing to do or say. This list in **2:9** may be close to the "weightier matters" in God's Law, addressed by Jesus Christ ([Matthew 23:23](#)).

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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Thought: "A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel" **Proverbs 1:5.**

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