

Understanding—According to Your Word

Introduction: **Psalm 119:169, “Let my cry come before You, O Lord, give me understanding according to Your word.”**

FOUR ASPECTS OF UNDERSTANDING

- God-Given Insight:

Understanding is often presented as a gift from God:

Example: Sons of Issachar, **1 Chronicles 12:32, “...men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.”**

- Application of Knowledge:

It's not just about knowing facts (knowledge):

1) Need to be prudent:

2) Need to be skillful:

Example: Abigail, **1 Samuel 25:3, “...and she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance.”**

- Discernment and Judgment:

Understanding involves the ability to discern between good and evil:

Hebrews 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

Example: Joseph, **Genesis 50:20, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”**

- Spiritual and Moral Dimensions:

Biblical understanding encompasses both the intellectual:

Example: Solomon, **1 Kings 3:9, “Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?”**

Characteristics of Understanding:

1) It is required for:

Deuteronomy 1:13, "Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you."

Ezra 8:16, "Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leaders; also for Joiarib and Elnathan, men of understanding."

2) It is a witness:

Deuteronomy 4:6, "Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"

3) It recognizes and welcomes:

2 Chronicles 26:5, "He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper."

4) It is needed in order to be:

Nehemiah 8:2, "So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month."

5) It comes:

**Job 32:8, "But *there is* a spirit in man,
And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding."**

6) It distinguishes us:

**Psalms 32:9, "Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule,
Which have no understanding,
Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle,
Else they will not come near you."**

7): It enables us to:

**Psalms 119: 34, "Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;
Indeed, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart."**

**Verse 73, "Your hands have made me and fashioned me;
Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments."**

**Verse 104, "Through Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way."**

**Verse 125, "I *am* Your servant;
Give me understanding,
That I may know Your testimonies."**

8) It enables us to:

**Psalm 119:144, "Your statutes are always righteous;
give me understanding that I may live."**

9) It is necessary in order for us:

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

10) It produces a:

**Proverbs 15:14, "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge,
But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."**

11) It welcomes:

**Proverbs 19:25, "Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary;
Rebuke one who has understanding, *and* he will discern knowledge."**

12) It helps to:

Conclusion: