

Purposeful living for Christ is the reason why, when making plans for our life, we must seek discernment so we honor God and avoid the deceptions of the world.

Proverbs 12:15 says: "The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel *is* wise."

Proverbs 13:16 adds: "Every prudent *man* acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open *his* folly."

Paul in Hebrews 5:14 pointed out: "Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong."

Why must we seek knowledge and discernment?

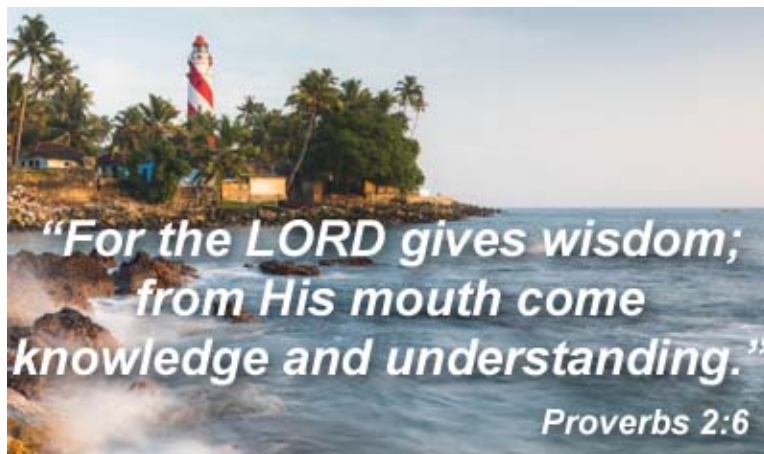
Romans 8:6-7: "For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

Jesus' words in John 5:30 illustrate this: "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

Finally, Jesus said in Mat. 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Do I seek knowledge and discernment in making plans, so I live to honor and follow Christ as Lord?

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How must we make decisions in life so as to honor God and follow Christ?

Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established."

Colossians 3:16: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."

James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

And our source of knowledge and wisdom is:

Psalm 119:105: "Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Why?

Psalm 127:1: "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."

Proverbs 16:9: "We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps."

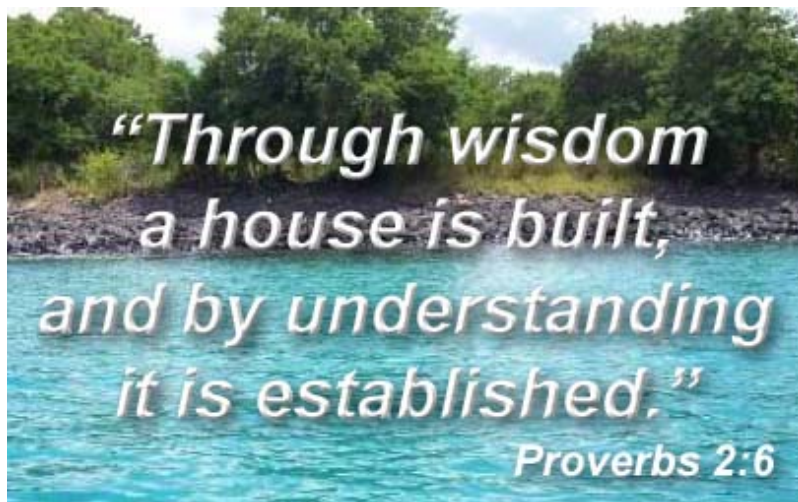
James 3:17: "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

The reason Joshua 1:8 says, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Do I seek wisdom and discernment for making decisions in my life through Christ and his Word?

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Why must we seek God's will and discernment when making plans for our life?

Ephesians 2:10: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ."

How must we trust God?

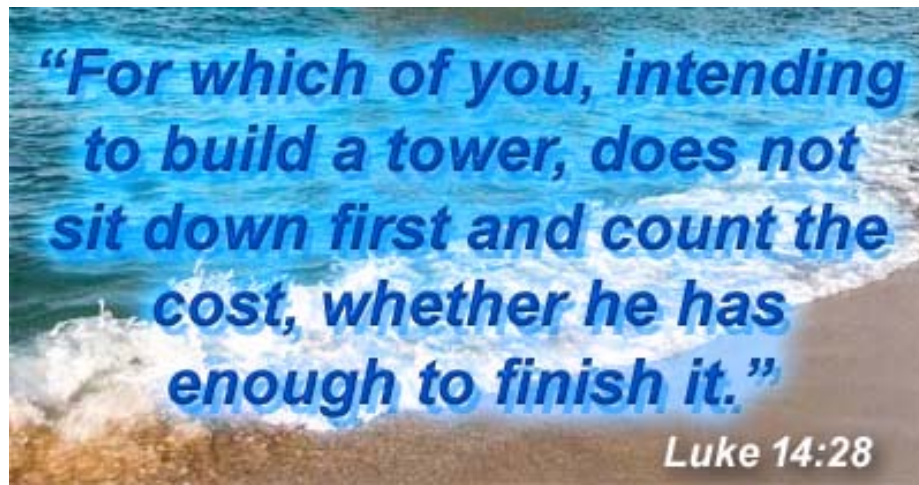
Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Do I understand the ultimate purpose of seeking and trusting God to direct me in my life's decisions?

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How must we seek knowledge, understanding, wisdom and discernment so we follow God’s plan for our life?

Mat. 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Mat. 7:7-8: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Col. 2:6-7: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

1Thess. 5:17-18: “Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

Col. 3:23-24: “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Finally, a word of caution:

1Peter 5:8: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Is my heart set on following Christ in all aspects of my life?

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Why must we trust God to guide, sustain and strengthen us, if we surrender our lives to follow Christ?

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Psalms 32:8: "The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose."

1John 5:14: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Psalms 37:23-24: "The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds *him with* His hand."

The very reason why the apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Do I trust God in Christ, and seek His guidance and discernment for my life?

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