

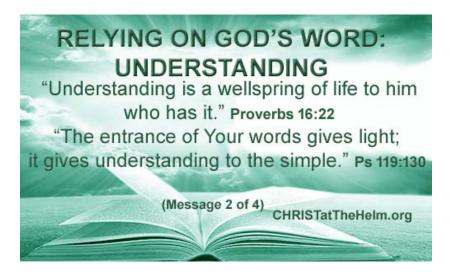
Knowledge is defined as skills acquired by a person through experience or education, and being acquainted with facts, truths, or principles from study or investigation. In other words, knowledge can never be simple hearsay, but rather requires research through reliable sources.

Pro 1:7 says, "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Therefore, anyone acting on feelings, emotions or anger are setting themselves up for a trap that will have negative impact on their lives. Pro 1:22 adds, "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge."

Clearly, we have the responsibility with God to acquire the knowledge of His Word so we can live according to His will and what we profess to believe in. That's why Pro 2:6 gives us the source of knowledge; "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Through Hosea God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Clearly, the lack of knowledge is a trap that can have a destroying effect on our faith.

How much time and effort do we invest studying and acquiring God's knowledge through His Word?



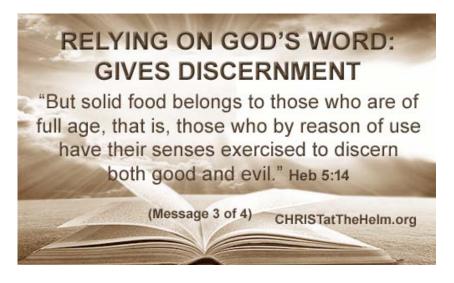
Understanding is defined as the ability to mentally grasp knowledge through a mental process, so as to draw intelligent concepts as a result. In simple words, understanding can only be acquired through knowledge based on facts. As the featured scriptures say, it becomes a source of life to whoever acquires it.

The pitfalls however from not acquiring understanding are defined in Eph 4:18: "Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

Actually, ignorance of God's Word, just as in the laws of the land, is no excuse, and as well is a sure way to find ourselves in serious trouble. Why? Simply because in allowing ourselves to be swayed by the world and not find out what God's laws are, we in fact reject God's laws.

2Tim 3:16 gives us the path to understanding; "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Furthermore, Pro 3:5 adds: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

Are we committed and faithful in drawing understanding through the study of the Word of God?



Discernment is defined as the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure, resulting in giving a person the ability to judge well. In reality, it is the result of acquiring knowledge and draw understanding from it, thus giving us the ability to discern right from wrong, situations needing action, as well all of life's decisions we must make in light of God's Word.

The reason Paul said in 1Cor 2:14, "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned." Therefore, without the Word of God's knowledge and understanding, we can find ourselves deceived and fooled by the world. As 1John 4:1 states, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Then, what's our solution? "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb 4:12)

Can we say like Solomon in 1Kings 3:9, "Give your servant a discerning heart to distinguish between right and wrong?"



Wisdom is defined as the soundness of actions or decisions made from experience, knowledge, and good judgment. Obviously, it is the result of drawing knowledge from a reliable source, understanding its principles, and being able to discern what the truth is, so we can be wise and direct our lives accordingly.

That's why Proverbs 10:23 says, "To do evil *is* like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom." As well Paul said in Col 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom," in essence telling us that our only secure source for wisdom is found in God's Word.

The reason as well Paul added in Eph 5:15-17, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Conversely, 1Cor 3:19 states, "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness." In essence, the world's wisdom leads to spiritual death, while God's wisdom leads to eternal life.

Will we choose the deceiving, opinionated and foolish wisdom of the world, or will we avail ourselves of the wisdom of God in His Word?