

Seek Knowledge

God commands His children to learn and seek knowledge. The seeking of knowledge is a time consuming proposition, as in the case of prayer, we are to be personally involved in a consistent and constant manner. (*Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,* Proverbs 2:2-7, New American Standard Bible). We are to look for knowledge everywhere, always attentive to God's guidance and learning opportunities. God has created each of us with a hunger for wisdom. This hunger is so ingrained that denying this desire to learn is considered foolishness. (*Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? Proverbs 1:20-22,* New International Version).

Learning can be secular or spiritual. Godly wisdom and biblical knowledge will benefit our earthly existence. The secular rewards of knowledge acquisition can vary from gaining specific work related skills, to a college degree, to the simple joy of learning something new. (*Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers. Rather, he delights in the teachings of the LORD and reflects on his teachings day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams- a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He succeeds in everything he does.* Psalm 1:1-3, GOD'S WORD® Translation). Our drive to learn and know is God driven by the Holy Spirit (*But God has given us the revelation of these things through his Spirit, for the Spirit makes search into all things, even the deep things of God.* 1 Corinthians 2:10, Bible in Basic English).

God's plan is that we not drift through life but approach life with purpose, preferably His purpose. Knowledge combined in a relationship with His guidance is commonly known as wisdom. Wisdom is the key to living a Godly existence and a richly abundant life (You will make clear to me the way of life. Psalm 16:11a, *Bible in Basic English; My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.* John 10:10, New Living Translation). The discipline and wisdom gained from seeking biblical, cultural, and scientific knowledge is encouraged as a child of God (If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:5, New Living Translation).

To ignore this command is to risk the very quality of our earthly life. (*My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.* Hosea 4:6, New International Version). Unquestionably, we are to learn all we can while on this earth.

God has stated in no uncertain terms that we are created in God's image. (*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.* Genesis 1:26a, New Living Translation). Our Lord is comprised

of one deity in three distinct personalities. (*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD*, Deuteronomy 6:4, King James Bible; *No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him*. John 1:18, American King James Version; *But when the Father sends the Advocate as my (Jesus) representative--that is, the Holy Spirit--he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I (Jesus) have told you*, John 14:26, New Living Translation) We therefore are created as triune beings comprised of body, spirit, and soul. (*May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete....* 1 Thessalonians 5:23a, New American Standard Bible) Our earthly body is the capsule we use on this planet to house the soul and spirit (*While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life*. 2 Corinthians 5:4, New Living Translation).

The spirit is our most direct means of communication and connection with God. Our spirit is a conduit for God's will, power, and direction to His children (*Life is spiritual. Your physical existence doesn't contribute to that life. The words that I have spoken to you are spiritual. They are life*. John 6:63, GOD'S WORD® Translation; *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you*. Romans 8:11, New Living Translation; *The Spirit is witness with our spirit that we are children of God*. Romans 8:16, GOD'S WORD® Translation; *But I truly am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin*. Micah 3:8, English Revised Version).

When we complete our earthly journey we will get a new heavenly body but we will keep our spirit (conduit) and soul (emotions, mind, and will). God stipulates that as His children through the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will have everlasting life (*And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News*. 2 Timothy 1:10, New Living Translation).

The wisdom we gain is something one gets to keep forever. The only thing from this earth we get to take with us to eternity is knowledge. Memories, relationships, wisdom, personal data, and general facts kept "alive" by our mental faculties will go with us to heaven. Any item that relies purely on the physical will be lost. Drink in life and its goodness. Live fully, love deeply, and learn broadly. The true treasures collected during your earthly journey -- memories, relationships, knowledge -- will be with you for eternity.

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