

THE SIX-STEP WISDOM PROCESS™

Preface

As children of God we need to learn how to think like Christ. We need to learn how to think biblically, how to use godly wisdom in life.

Tested by thousands of people and hundreds of teams, the six-step W.I.S.D.O.M. Process offers a surprisingly simple and profoundly powerful way to think. Today we are drowning in data and starving for wisdom. We “Google” for information on any topic, but we cannot find wisdom for life’s complex challenges. This simple process can guide you to wisdom. You will find that you can use the WISDOM process for issues you face in ordinary life.

Role of Prayer

We access the guidance of God’s Spirit through prayer and the Word of God. God wants us to use our minds to study his Word to gain his revealed life direction. The Bible tells us, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him”* James 1:5. Your decision process should be covered with prayer. Paul prayed like this for the Colossians, *“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”* Colossians 1:9 (see also James 1:1-5; Ephesians 1:15-17). In answer to your prayers, the Spirit will shape your desires, then you will have the mind of Christ. Rather than prayer being a specific step in the W.I.S.D.O.M. Process, it should be threaded throughout the process.

The WISDOM process

W Work the issue: What is really at stake here?

Prepare your heart and mind before engaging God's Word. Take a moment to pray about the issues. Consider how the Lord may want to impact you. Bring your questions to the study of God's Word.

I Investigate Scripture: What does God say?

God's Word is our authority for life. It is our guide for belief and behavior. Our lives must be grounded in the Word of God. It is our only source of absolute, divine truth. We have no other source that we can look to with complete trust and confidence. Spend time prayerfully and carefully considering what the biblical text is saying.

S Seek counsel: What do wise people say?

After studying the Scripture for ourselves, it is wise to seek the counsel of others. In Proverbs Solomon says there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors. Wise people listen to advice (Prov. 12:15;13:10;19:20). We provide you with a giving guide, sermons and information about Movement to Multiply.

D Develop your response: What do I think?

We learn best when we actively engage. Write down a draft response. What do you believe God is directing you to give?

O Openly discuss: What do we think together?

Life transformation is increased when we sharpen each other in dynamic discussion. In a marriage, talk about how God is directing each of you and pray that he will unite you in your response. With children, engage them in the conversation. In a group encourage and challenge each other to respond to God. Together, prepared believers led by the Holy Spirit will often generate a synergism in which ideas and wisdom multiply beyond what any individual could produce.

M Move to action: What will I/we do?

Christ calls us to obey all His commands (Matthew 28:20). The point of Bible study is not simply knowledge, but obedience. We are studying God's Word to be more and more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, to grow to maturity. The Bible tells us that hearing the word without acting on it is like building a house on sand, while acting on the truth is like building a house on rock (Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-25). We are in the business of building houses on rock! Our time wrestling with God should lead us to move to action in the Spirit's power.