

# Proverbs 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

## Analysis

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Crying out for knowledge employs the language of desperate prayer. The Hebrew 'qara' and 'nathan' (cry/lift voice) are used elsewhere for urgent petitioning of God. This shows that gaining wisdom is fundamentally a spiritual exercise requiring dependence on God's revelation, not merely intellectual effort.

## Historical Context

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Crying aloud was the typical posture of prayer in ancient Israel, both in temple worship and personal devotion. This public earnestness contrasts with merely private, internal seeking.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How fervently do you pray for spiritual understanding compared to material needs?
2. What would change if you sought God's wisdom with the same urgency as other desires?

## Interlinear Text

תַּחַת | לְבִנְהָא תַּחֲכָה לְבִנְהָא אֶם כִּי  
H3588 H518 **after knowledge** Yea if thou criest for understanding and liftest up  
H998 H7121 H8394 H5414

קָוָלָב:

thy voice

H6963

## Additional Cross-References

**James 1:5** (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

**Proverbs 3:6** (Parallel theme): In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

**Psalms 119:169** (Parallel theme): Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.

**Psalms 119:125** (Parallel theme): I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

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