

Proverbs 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

Analysis

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence and find knowledge of witty inventions. The Hebrew 'ormah' (prudence/shrewdness) and 'mezimmah' (discretion/thoughtful plans) describe practical competence. Wisdom isn't merely abstract truth but practical skill. The 'knowledge of witty inventions' indicates creative problem-solving. Godly wisdom produces both moral character and practical effectiveness. Faith and functionality unite in biblical wisdom.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature valued practical competence - agricultural skill, political acumen, craft mastery. Biblical wisdom includes these but grounds them in fearing Yahweh. Bezalel received divine wisdom for tabernacle construction (Exodus 31:3). Solomon's wisdom produced both moral insight and practical solutions (1 Kings 4:29-34). True wisdom integrates spiritual truth with practical skill.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your faith inform practical competence rather than remaining abstractly religious?
2. What 'witty inventions' or creative solutions might wisdom provide for current challenges?
3. In what areas do you separate 'spiritual' wisdom from 'practical' skill, and how might they integrate?

Interlinear Text

חִכְמָה וְתִּבְרְעָמָה שְׁכַנְתִּי בְּכַמָּה אָנִי
H589 I wisdom H2451 dwell H7931 with prudence H6195 knowledge H1847 of witty inventions H4209

אִמְצָא:

and find out

H4672

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:26 (Parallel theme): For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.

Proverbs 1:4 (Parallel theme): To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Colossians 2:3 (Parallel theme): In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Psalms 104:24 (Parallel theme): O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Ephesians 1:11 (Parallel theme): In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

1 Chronicles 28:19 (Parallel theme): All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

Ephesians 1:8 (Parallel theme): Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Ephesians 3:10 (Parallel theme): To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

1 Kings 7:14 (Parallel theme): He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.