SKILLFUL AND GODLY WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING!

KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

Dear Partner, November 2026

Read that title again. Notice what it DID NOT SAY. It did not say, *"A principal thing."* It said *"'THE' principal thing."* Let's read the next statement in Proverbs 4:7, in the *Amplified Bible Classic Edition,* very carefully: "With all you have gotten, get understanding." Wait a minute! How do we do the first part of that verse—Proverbs 4:7, *AMPC?* The answer to that is in the Second Covenant in James 1:5-7, *AMPC:*

5 If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, *and it will be given him.*
6 Only it must be in Faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind.
7 For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from The LORD.

"Well, Brother Copeland, what would a double-minded person be like in this case?"

The same as in any other "Faith question:" "I know the Bible says that, but I still don't know what to do."

OK. If you needed food, where would you go? Where the food is, right? Where did we find out that "skillful and godly wisdom is the principal thing"? It was in Proverbs 4:7. So that's the "wisdom store." Let's look at Proverbs 1:1-3 in the *AMPC:*

1 The proverbs (truths obscurely expressed, maxims, and parables) of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
2 That people may know *skillful and godly Wisdom and instruction,* discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight,
3 Receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, righteousness, justice, and integrity.

Now let's go to the godly part of this question in 1 Corinthians 1:26, *AMPC:*

26 For [simply] consider your own call, brethren; not many [of you were considered to be] wise according to human estimates and standards, not many influential and powerful, not many of high and noble birth.

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Now why would our heavenly Father do that? Because He had then, and has now, a far better plan. Remember how the word *instruction* was used in Proverbs 1:2-3? That opens the door to the question: Who is going to be the instructor? Let's continue in 1 Corinthians 1:29-31, *AMPC:*

29 So that no mortal man should [have pretense for glorying and] boast in the presence of God.
30 But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made *our Wisdom from God,* [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin].
31 So then, as it is written, Let him who boasts and proudly rejoices and glories, boast and proudly rejoice and glory in The LORD.

Read that again out loud and shout! Think about it—there are 31 lessons in Proverbs alone (remember Proverbs 1:1-3). And now we have Jesus as our personal Instructor on Faith in the New Covenant in Mark 11:20-25. Let's go to Colossians 1:8-10 in the *AMPC:*

8 Also he has informed us of your Love in the [Holy] Spirit.
9 For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray and make [special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will *in all spiritual wisdom* [in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things—
10 That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of The LORD, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition].

Now stop and take time to meditate on each one of these verses from Proverbs 3:1-3, *AMPC:*

1 My son, forget not my law or teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;
2 For length of days and years of a life [worth living] and tranquility [inward and outward and continuing through old age till death], these shall they add to you.
3 Let not mercy and kindness [shutting out all hatred and selfishness] and truth [shutting out all deliberate hypocrisy or falsehood] forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart.

Now meditate on the teaching in verse 3. It has Jesus written all over it. "…Mercy and kindness [shutting all hatred and selfishness]." The first half of that one proverb is obviously Jesus!

Then go to 1 Corinthians 1:26, which we already read, along with verses 27-28, in the *AMPC:*

> 26 For [simply] consider your own call, brethren; not many [of you were considered to be] wise according to human estimates and standards, not many influential and powerful, not many of high and noble birth.
> 27 [No] for God selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame.
> 28 And God also selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is lowborn and insignificant and branded and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to nothing the things that are.

Then go to verse 30 in the *AMPC:*

> 30 But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, *Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge* of the divine plan of salvation *previously hidden,* manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin].

Now let's go back to verse 29, *AMPC:*

> 29 So that no mortal man should [have pretense for glorying and] boast in the presence of God.

Let's look at 1 Corinthians 2:5, 7:

> 5 That your Faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
> 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

Notice, the wisdom *was* HIDDEN—not *from* us, but for us—*for our glory!*

Now 1 Corinthians 12:1:

> 1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

About spiritual gifts: What are the first two gifts? Verse 8, *AMPC,* says, *"A message of wisdom,* and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge and understanding." Remember, Jesus has been *made unto us* Wisdom. He is our Wisdom. Wisdom is in us. Then read verse 11, *AMPC:*

> 11 All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.

"By one and the same Holy Spirit." Or, as Jesus said in John 16:7, *AMPC:*

7 However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you]. (See also John 14:17.)

Then verse 9 should make a "soul winner" *out of* every believer who is a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, Son of the living God, because He has given all of us the power of attorney to use His Name.

Let's go now to Mark 16:15-20, *AMPC:*

15 And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race].
16 He who believes [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is baptized will be saved [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] will be condemned.
17 And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages;
18 They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.
19 So then The LORD Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of God.
20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while The LORD kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied [it]. Amen (so be it).

As you sow your BLESSING seed this month, remember Ephesians 4:16. We believe we receive1 million joints, or Partners, here in the United States alone!

Remember, God Loves you! We Love you, and Jesus is LORD!

Love,

Ken

PS. 23 PS. 112 Eph. 1:16-23 1 Thess. 5:23
PS. 91 PS. 118 Eph. 3:14-20 Rom. 15:13
PS. 103 ISA. 54 Col. 1:9-11 Rom. 15:29
Zech. 9:11-12



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