

Knowledge of God

Proverbs 2 tells us how to find the " *Knowledge of God* "

1. Bible *knowledge* , *understanding* and *wisdom* have certain attributes that are the same and some attributes that are different. We find these words in verses [2](#) , [3](#) , [5](#) , [6](#) , [7](#) , [9](#) , [10](#) and [11](#) of Proverbs 2. Where this chapter says that we just have to listen to God to receive *wisdom* , it tells us to actively seek *knowledge* and *understanding* .
 1. Many people believe the religious definition of the ' *knowledge of God* ' . That is: they believe that having the ' *knowledge of God* ' means that a person can quote Bible verses and give you the address of those verses within the Bible. True Bible *knowledge of God* ([Proverbs 2:5](#)) is a visible change in the physical life of the person (who has *knowledge of God*) due to the spiritual working of *the LORD* .
 1. [Genesis 2:9, 17](#) is the first place that we find *knowledge* and that is *the tree of knowledge of good and evil* . [Exodus 31:3](#) is the next place and there we learn that Bible *wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge* come from *the spirit of God* . This is one of the first places where we learn about the attributes which are shared by *wisdom, and understanding, and knowledge* . Of course, *knowledge* is the result of ' *knowing* ' . Therefore, the Biblical usage of *know* and *knew* are also related to the Biblical definition of *knowledge* .
 2. Genesis 3:5 is the first place in the Bible where we see *know* and [Genesis 3:7](#) is the first place in the Bible where we see *knew* . [3:7](#) says *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons* . There is no doubt about there being a visible change in the physical lives of Adam and Eve due to a change in their spiritual life.
 3. The next place that we see *knew* is [4:1](#) which says *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD* . Again, we see a visible change in the physical lives of Adam and Eve due to the spiritual working of *the LORD* .
 4. Without belaboring the point, people should understand that true Bible *knowledge of God* is a visible change in the physical life of the person due to the spiritual working of *the LORD* .
 2. Bible *understanding* provides the meaning of what is said or written. The first place that we find *understanding* in the Bible is [Genesis 11:7](#) which says *Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another s speech* . The listener could not get the meaning of what was said. The next place is [Genesis 41:15](#) where *Pharaoh said unto Joseph...I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it* . So, we see that Bible *understanding* is what allows us to *interpret it* . As we see from this section of Genesis and [1 Corinthians 2](#) and [3](#) and other places, it takes God personally working through the person to give a true interpretation of the Bible. Just like the *knowledge of God* , Bible *understanding* requires God working through the personal relationship that He has with the person. However, where God is applying the *knowledge of God* to the person's life, Biblical *understanding* is the result of God applying that *understanding* to the Bible itself. That is, the Spirit of God uses the Bible to *interpret* the Bible and when He does the person receives Biblical *understanding* .
 3. Bible *wisdom* gives us the ability to apply Bible knowledge and Bible understanding to the events and circumstances of life. The first place that we see *wisdom* is [Exodus](#)

[28:3](#) where God said that it took *wisdom* to make the garments for the priests. The second time is [Exodus 31:3, 6](#) where we again see that it takes *wisdom* to make the parts of the Tabernacle. While it took *wisdom* to do these jobs, the people with Bible *wisdom* did not necessarily have the greatest Bible *knowledge* or Bible *understanding*. The main spiritual gift of most preachers is *wisdom*, so that they can do the work of God. While most people believe that they also have the greatest Bible *knowledge* and Bible *understanding*, that is not always true.

4. We see that Biblical *wisdom, and understanding, and knowledge* all require the Spirit of God working through the personal relationship that God has with all saved. We see that religion provides wrong definitions for these words. Therefore, we need to be sure that the definition which we use matches what is actually found in the Bible. Finally, we see that one of the main differences between Biblical *wisdom, and understanding, and knowledge* is what the Spirit of God is applying the Word of God to. With Biblical *knowledge*, the Spirit of God applies the Word of God to the person's personal life to bring forth visible spiritual fruit that could only come from God. With Biblical *wisdom*, the Spirit of God applies the Word of God to the ministry (work) that God has given the person to do with our main example being God working through a preacher to bring forth spiritual fruit from the ministry. With Biblical *understanding*, the Spirit of God applies the Word of God to the Bible itself in order to render a true *interpretation* of the Bible.
2. [Proverbs 2:1-5](#) gives us the attitudes that we need to have in order to receive Bible *knowledge*, *understanding* and *wisdom* from God. [Ezekiel 12:2](#) condemns those who close their mind and will not receive instruction from God. In the gospels we hear Jesus say that His instructions are for those with the correct attitude ([Matthew 11:15](#); [13:9](#), [43](#); [Mark 4:9](#), [23](#); [7:16](#); [Luke 8:8](#); [14:35](#)). We have several steps here that have to be taken in the order given.
 1. God says to *receive my words* ([2:1](#)). That means that we must accept what we are taught from the Bible, not just in your head, but into our heart with the intention of having God change our life with His Word.
 2. *hide my commandments with thee* ([2:1](#)): Keep commandments from God's Word in your heart, live by them and don't let anyone or anything steal them away.
 3. *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom* ([2:2](#)): If you do the prior two things you will be able to hear God speak *wisdom* to you, but you still have to listen for the *wisdom*.
 4. *apply thine heart to understanding* ([2:2](#)): You have to work hard (*apply thine heart*) to get Bible *understanding*. Find every place that the Bible talks about a subject and meditate on them until you know how different pieces of Bible knowledge fit together and you know in your heart, not just in your head.
 5. *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge* ([2:3](#)): The *Yea* means ' *I really mean this* '. Pray and ask God for His *knowledge* every time you start to read the Bible (James 1:5). Ask God to show you the same truth in several places in the Bible so that you understand the Bible subject from more than one angle.
 6. *and liftest up thy voice for understanding* ([2:3](#)): Pray aloud for *understanding*. This is not the same as ' *silent prayer* '. The *and* means this is added onto, or only comes after receiving Bible *knowledge* from God. No one can connect pieces of Bible *knowledge* together (receive *understanding*) until after they receive the pieces of Bible *knowledge*.
 7. ([2:4](#)) *If thou (you personally) seekest (search diligently with lots of effort) her (knowledge and understanding) as silver (more functional than gold), and searchest for her as for hid treasures (by faith in the promise, keep looking after others quit)* : This all takes a lot of effort and doing things God's way. However, if we do it God's way, then we will get the results promised by God.
3. Result 1 = *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD* ([2:5](#)): Please see the study called [The Fear of the Lord](#). It basically shows us that *the fear of the LORD* is there to help us to

stop our sinning and to avoid the consequences of sin in our life and the lives of those that we affect. We can not increase our relationship with anyone, including God, while we continue to deliberately offend them (by sinning). Also, deliberately offending people, including God, isn't the best way to get them to do good things for us.

4. Result 2 = *and find the knowledge of God* ([2:5](#)): Again, the *and* means this is added unto *the fear of the LORD* . We can receive the '*knowledge of religion*' without '*stopping our sinning*' but we receive these things from God as a direct result of '*stopping our sinning*'. The two help us to build our personal relationship with God. All of the promises in the rest of this Proverb are dependent upon our receiving these two things from God. Many people won't receive these things because they refuse to meet God's requirements.
5. The colon in [Proverbs 2:6](#) makes *wisdom* (from God) equivalent to *knowledge* and *understanding* (from God). This makes *knowledge* and *understanding* subsets of *wisdom* . After we put forth the effort required to receive *knowledge* and *understanding* then God adds *wisdom* on top.
6. Result 3 = *he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly* ([2:7](#)). A *buckler* is a small shield that is easy to keep with you all of the time for personal safety. God will protect us personally attacks from the devil even while everyone around us is falling if we do what God tells us to do in this Proverb (*them that walk uprightly*).
7. Result 4 = *He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints* ([2:8](#)) God is the one Who *keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way* . (God preserves the Bible). While we are on His *paths* and doing things His *way* , He will also direct our judgments and our decisions about how to go in life so that we also are *preserved* .
8. Result 5 = *Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee* ([2:11-20](#)) after *wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul* . Notice the colon at the end of [2:11](#) that makes [2:10-11](#) equivalent to [2:12-15](#) and to [2:16-17](#) . God will help us to avoid the two main sources of trouble and things that can result in a miserable life, slavery and death. Notice that Proverbs [2:18-19](#) warn that there is no recovery from certain sins. Therefore, we must avoid them, but to do so we must *walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous* ([2:20](#)).
9. Result 5 = *For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it* ([2:20-21](#)). We will pass on an inheritance if we obey this Proverb. God won't destroy all of our life's work. However, the *wicked* and the *transgressors* of [2:21](#) include God's people (not just the lost) who refuse to obey this Proverb. Remember, this was written to God's people. While the lost may read it, the major audience is those people who claim to be saved.