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**What are the Seven Pillars of Wisdom in Proverbs 9:1****Dr Graham McLennan retired Dental Surgeon.****Chairman National Alliance of Christian Leaders (NACL)****On the 11th February I sent out in the NACL email what I considered to be the seven pillars of wisdom in Proverbs 9:1.Since then I have been asked to expand on it.** **Our nation, media and our political and education system certainly needs this at this crucial time in our history!**[As Solomon prayed for wisdom and discernment](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Kings+3%3A5-15&version=NIV) **pray our leaders will do likewise.****Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.** [Proverbs 9:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+9%3A1&version=NIV)**Wisdom is supreme-so get wisdom. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.** [James 1:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A5&version=NIV)**So I turned my mind to understand,    to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of thingsand to understand the stupidity of wickedness    and the madness of folly.** [Ecclesiastes 7: 25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes%207%3A25&version=NIV)**Please read** [Proverbs Chapter I](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/1.htm)**,** [2](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/2.htm)**,** [3](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/3.htm)**,** [4](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/4.htm)**,** [5](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/5.htm)**,** [6](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/6.htm)**,** [7](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/7.htm)**,** [8](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/8.htm)**,** [9](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/9.htm) **(Also by scrolling to the right.)**[Job 28](https://biblehub.com/niv/job/28.htm)**Get Wisdom at any cost.** [Proverbs Chapter 4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%204&version=NIV)**Get wisdom, get understanding;    do not forget my words or turn away from them.Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;    love her, and she will watch over you.The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.    Though it cost all you have, get understanding.Cherish her, and she will exalt you;    embrace her, and she will honour you.She will give you a garland to grace your head    and present you with a glorious crown.”Listen, my son, accept what I say,    and the years of your life will be many.I instruct you in the way of wisdom    and lead you along straight paths.When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;    when you run, you will not stumble.Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;    guard it well, for it is your life.Do not set foot on the path of the wicked    or walk in the way of evildoers.Avoid it, do not travel on it;    turn from it and go on your way.  We should apply these Seven Pillars of Wisdom to our lives especially connecting them to building our character along with the fruit of the Holy Spirit such as** [love](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love)**,**[joy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joy)**,**[peace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace)**,**[patience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patience)**,**[kindness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindness)**,**[goodness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good)**,**[faithfulness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faithfulness)**,**[gentleness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentleness)**,** [self-control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-control)**found in** [Galations 5 :22/23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%205&version=NIV) **Many character qualities are available with definitions including**[here](https://atii.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/characterqualities.pdf) **(7x7!) and explained** [here](https://iblp.org/programs/daily-success/program-overview/character-qualities)**.  Our character goes with us into our eternal life so it It is important to** [establish character](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%3A+1-5&version=NIV) **such as perseverance, attentiveness, integrity, decisiveness, boldness, initiative, obedience, thoroughness, diligence, truthfulness, alertness, self-control (read Proverbs 5 and 7 above!), responsibility, resourcefulness, benevolence, availability, meekness and so on.  Most people are employed on the basis of skill and dismissed on the basis of lack of character!So after that short introduction on building character we need to understand what a pillar of wisdom is.A** [pillar](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pillar) **is foundational, without it the structure will collapse. The first edition of Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English language has over 140 biblical references to** [Pillar(s)](http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Pillar)**. In “a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night”,** [Numbers 14:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers%2014%3A14&version=NIV) **means leadership, guidance and safety. Webster a descendent of the Pilgrim Governor William Bradford wrote his dictionary during a time when the home, church and school in the USA were established on a biblical basis. *“Noah Webster based his work extensively on the King James Version of the Bible, so that not only the words but also the values of the early nineteenth century are reflected in the definitions. As Webster wrote, "In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed. . . . No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary in language almost two centuries old can still be** [purchased online](https://www.bookdepository.com/Websters-1828-American-Dictionary-of-the-English-Language-Noah-Webster/9781434103963?redirected=true&selectCurrency=AUD&w=AF45AU96G2DRGYA8VRPS&pdg=pla-295092701166:cmp-6919946397:adg-82581721111:crv-389775188388:pos-:dev-c&gclid=CjwKCAiAmrOBBhA0EiwArn3mfMjX4WSgnQ6ZkOJBf6pIx7tmlusBzPL5uEIDmx00XfR3rM7qcpsv0BoCHO4QAvD_BwE) **from which the above is quoted.****My copy is courtesy of Rosalie Slater from the American Christian History Institute who we stayed with in California many years ago.And of course the** [number seven](https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/7.html) **means completeness and perfection both physically and spiritually The Scriptures teaches us that *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom and knowledge (precepts) of the Holy One is understanding* as recorded in** [Proverbs 9:10](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnacl.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Df680825dfbd216c491d7b6366%26id%3D796a41426b%26e%3D0fbe345680&data=04%7C01%7Cbfarley%40vision.org.au%7C074a7f7aecf24fe7049808d8d2333d66%7Cca5a7d58b1a84ce192e2f2c8975d821e%7C0%7C0%7C637490464830429395%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=03SLXd4IvJwZ23R9P6DhJmMwbs%2FuaeJ2AJSRtwQIReE%3D&reserved=0) **and** [Psalm 111:10](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnacl.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Df680825dfbd216c491d7b6366%26id%3Dd08b963ae0%26e%3D0fbe345680&data=04%7C01%7Cbfarley%40vision.org.au%7C074a7f7aecf24fe7049808d8d2333d66%7Cca5a7d58b1a84ce192e2f2c8975d821e%7C0%7C0%7C637490464830439346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2bnkR3C5Hy00yXc%2B%2BJ%2BJ3wpyQQPvvXohI5BMtVEb9B8%3D&reserved=0)**There are many scriptures for us to meditate on about wisdom which can take a lifetime to understand and penetrate into our soul, body and spirit. Until we have a revelation w*e don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!*** [I Corinthians 13:12](https://www.biblestudytools.com/msg/1-corinthians/13-12.html)**From** [Ecclesiastes 12;11/14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes%2012%3A11-14&version=NIV)**we read:*The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.**Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.**Now all has been heard;**here is the conclusion of the matter:Fear God and keep his commandments,    for this is the duty of all mankind.For God will bring every deed into judgment,    including every hidden thing,    whether it is good or evil*.****The Gifts of the Holy Spirit found in** [**1 Corinthians 12:8-10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A8-10&version=NIV)**says:****To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 1to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.Here is a list that I consider fulfil these seven biblical pillars.Many dictionaries contain these pillar definitions. For example the** [Modern Webster’s Dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence) **with** [Synonyms  Antonyms](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence#synonyms)**,** [Example Sentences](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence#examples) **and** [Learn More about](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence#learn-more)**. However, here we will use the Wikipedia definitions as they are available online without copyright restrictions and summarised below:1. PRUDENCEFrom** [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prudence)**:Prudence (**[Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language)**: *prudentia*,  meaning "seeing ahead, sagacity") is the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of**[reason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reason) **(and we would add the Holy Spirit) It is classically considered to be a**[virtue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue)**, and in particular one of the four**[Cardinal virtues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_virtues)* [**Prudence**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prudence)[**Latin**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language)**: *prudentia*; also**[**Wisdom**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom)**,**[***Sophia***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_%28wisdom%29)**, *sapientia*), the ability to discern the appropriate course of action to be taken in a given situation at the appropriate time.**
* [**Justice**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_%28virtue%29)**;**[**Latin**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language)**: *iustitia*): also considered as fairness;**[**[3]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_virtues#cite_note-3)**the Greek word also having the meaning righteousness**
* [**Fortitude**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courage)**(**[**Latin**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language)**: *fortitudo*): also termed courage: forbearance, strength, endurance, and the ability to confront fear, uncertainty, and intimidation**
* [**Temperance**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperance_%28virtue%29)**(**[**Latin**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language)**: *temperantia*): also known as restraint, the practice of self-control, abstention, discretion and moderation. Plato considered this as sound-mindedness, to be the most important virtue.**

 **(which are, with the three**[theological virtues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues)**, part of the**[seven virtues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_virtues)**).*** ***Faith* is the infused virtue, by which the intellect, by a movement of the will, assents to the supernatural truths of Revelation, not on the motive of intrinsic evidence, but on the sole ground of the infallible authority of God revealing.**[**[4]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-catholic-4)**According to**[**Hugh Pope**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Pope)**"[W]hat God says is supremely credible, though not necessarily supremely intelligible for us."**[**[5]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-Pope-5)**The**[**First Vatican Council**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Vatican_Council)**(III, iii;) stated that "faith is a supernatural virtue by which we with the inspiration and assistance of God's grace, believe those things to be true which He has revealed...although the assent of faith is in no sense blind, yet no one can assent to the Gospel teaching in the way necessary for salvation without the illumination of the Holy Spirit..."**[**[5]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-Pope-5)**It is a gratuitous gift of God.**
* ***Hope* is defined as a Divinely infused virtue, acts upon the will, by which one trusts, with confidence grounded on the Divine assistance, to attain life everlasting.**[**[4]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-catholic-4)**Its opposite is the sin of despair.**[**[2]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-Delany-2)
* ***Charity* is a Divinely infused virtue, inclining the human will to cherish God for his own sake above all things, and man for the sake of God. To love God is to wish Him all honour and glory and every good, and to endeavour, as far as one can, to obtain it for Him. John 14:23 notes a unique feature of reciprocity which makes charity a veritable friendship of man with God. "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."**[**[6]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-6)**Lack of love may give place to**[**hatred**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatred)**,**[**wrath**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wrath)**or indifference.**

The first mention in Christian literature of the three theological virtues is in [St. Paul's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle) first letter to the Thessalonians 1:3, "...calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope..."[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-7) In 1 Thessalonians 5:8, he refers to this triad of virtues again, "But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation."[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_virtues#cite_note-8)**In**[**1 Corinthians 13**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_Corinthians_13), **Paul places the greater emphasis on Charity (Love). "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." First, because it informs the other two: "It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."** **Seven virtues and the seven capital sins**A list of seven virtues that oppose the [seven deadly sins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_deadly_sins) appeared later in an [epic poem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_poetry) titled [*Psychomachia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychomachia), or *Battle/Contest of the Soul*. Written by [Aurelius Clemens Prudentius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prudentius), a Christian governor who died around AD 410, it entails the battle between good virtues and evil [vices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice). The enormous popularity of this work in the [Middle Ages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Ages) helped to spread the concept of holy virtue throughout [Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe%22%20%5Co%20%22Europe).After Pope Gregory I released his list of seven deadly sins in AD 590, the seven virtues became identified as [chastity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chastity), [temperance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperance_%28virtue%29), [charity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charity_%28practice%29), [diligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diligence), [patience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patience), [kindness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindness), and [humility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humility). Practicing them is said to protect one against [temptation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temptation) from the seven deadly sins.

| [**Virtue**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue) | [**Latin**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) | [**Gloss**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interlinear_gloss) | **Sin** | **Latin** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Chastity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chastity) | *Castitas* | [Purity](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/pure), [abstinence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstinence) | [Lust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lust) | *Luxuria* |
| [Temperance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperance_%28virtue%29) | *Temperantia* | [Humanity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanity_%28virtue%29), [equanimity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equanimity) | [Gluttony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gluttony) | *Gula* |
| [Charity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charity_%28virtue%29) | *Caritas* | [Will](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_%28philosophy%29), [benevolence](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/benevolence), [generosity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generosity), [sacrifice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacrifice) | [Greed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greed) | *Avaritia* |
| [Diligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diligence) | *Industria* | [Persistence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persistence_%28psychology%29), [effortfulness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effortfulness), [ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics) | [Sloth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sloth_%28deadly_sin%29) | *Acedia* |
| [Patience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patience) | *Patientia* | [Forgiveness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forgiveness), [mercy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercy) | [Wrath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anger) | *Ira* |
| [Kindness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindness) | *Humanitas* | [Satisfaction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contentment), [compassion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compassion) | [Envy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Envy) | *Invidia* |
| [Humility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humility) | *Humilitas* | [Bravery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bravery), [modesty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modesty), [reverence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverence_%28attitude%29) | [Pride](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hubris) | *Superbia* |

**These seven virtues do not correspond to the seven heavenly virtues arrived at by combining the cardinal and theological virtues)****It is considered by the**[ancient Greeks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece)**and later on by**[Christian philosophers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_philosophy)**, most notably**[Thomas Aquinas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas)**, as the cause, measure and form of all virtues. In Christian understanding, the difference between prudence and cunning lies in the intent with which the decision of the context of an action is made. The Christian understanding of the world includes the existence of**[God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God)**, the**[natural law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_law)**and**[moral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morality)**implications of human actions. In this context, prudence is different from cunning in that it takes into account the supernatural good. For instance, the decision of persecuted Christians to be**[martyred](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyr)**rather than deny their faith is considered prudent.According to**[Thomas Aquinas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas)**, judgments using reasons for evil ends or using evil means are considered to be made through "cunning" and "false prudence" and not through prudence. However "imprudence" was not be considered a sin since it was not voluntary.The word derives from the 14th-century**[Old French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_French)**word *prudence*, which, in turn, derives from the Latin *prudentia* meaning "foresight, sagacity". It is often associated with**[wisdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom)**,**[insight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insight)**, and**[knowledge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge)**. In this case, the virtue is the ability to judge between virtuous and vicious actions, not only in a general sense, but with regard to appropriate actions at a given time and place. Although prudence itself does not perform any actions, and is concerned solely with knowledge, all virtues had to be regulated by it. Distinguishing when acts are**[courageous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courage)**, as opposed to**[reckless](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recklessness_%28psychology%29)**or**[cowardly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowardice)**, is an act of prudence, and for this reason it is classified as a cardinal (pivotal) virtue.In modern**[English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language)**, the word has become increasingly**[synonymous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synonym)**with cautiousness. In this sense, prudence names a reluctance to take risks, which remains a virtue with respect to unnecessary risks, but, when unreasonably extended into over-cautiousness, can become the**[vice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice)**of cowardice.****See also** [Modern Webster’s Dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence)**2. DISCERNMENTThe process of discernment within judgment, involves going past the mere perception of something and making nuanced judgments about its properties or qualities. Discernment in the Christianity is considered as a**[virtue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue)**, a discerning individual is considered to possess**[wisdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom)**, and be of good judgement; especially so with regard to subject matter often overlooked by others.****In**[Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity)**, the word may have several meanings. Discernment can describe the process of determining**[God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Christianity)**'s**[desire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desire_%28philosophy%29)**in a situation or for one's life or identifying the true nature of a thing, such as discerning whether a thing is good, evil, or may even transcend the limiting notion of duality. In large part, it describes the interior search for an answer to the question of one's**[vocation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vocation)**, namely, determining whether or not God is calling one to the**[married](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Married)**life,**[single life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celibacy)**,**[consecrated life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecrated_life)**,**[ordained ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordained_ministry)**or any other calling.**[Discernment of Spirits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discernment_of_Spirits)**is a term used in both**[RomanCatholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic%22%20%5Co%20%22Roman%20Catholic)**and**[Charismatic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_Movement)**(**[Pentacostal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentacostal%22%20%5Co%20%22Pentacostal)**) Christian theology to indicate judging various spiritual agents for their moral influence.** **Process of Discernment****The process of individual discernment has steps that can be taken in order to achieve a level of discernment.The following actions can be made when making decisions of discernment; taking time in making decisions, using both the head and heart, and assessing important values involved in the situation. Time has been considered necessary in the process of making a smart choice and decisions made in a hurry can be altered by lack of contemplation. When time is available to assess the situation it improves the discernment process. When time allots the tentative decision can be revisited days later and external people can be consulted to make sure that the individual is satisfied with their choice. Making decisions is involved with discernment and they require both the "head" and the "heart". Making decisions with the "head" means to first reflect on the situation and emphasize the rational aspect of the decision making process.** **Christian Spiritual Discernment****Christian spiritual discernment can be separated from other types of discernment because every decision is to be made in accordance with God's will. The fundamental definition for Christian discernment is a decision making process in which an individual makes a discovery that can lead to future action. In the process of Christian spiritual discernment God guides the individual to help them arrive at the best decision. The way to arrive at the best decision in Christian spiritual discernment is to seek out internal external signs of God's action and then apply them to the decision at hand. Christian Discernment also has an emphasis on Jesus, and making decisions that align with those of Jesus within the New Testament. The focus on God and Jesus when making decisions is what separates Christian discernment from secular discernment.**[Ignatius of Loyola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignatius_of_Loyola)**(1491-1556) when he created his own unique way of discernment. Ignatian discernment uses a series of**[Spiritual Exercises](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_Exercises_of_Ignatius_of_Loyola)**for discerning life choices and focuses on noticing God in all aspects of life. The Spiritual Exercises are designed to help people who are facing a major life decision. There are seven steps of discernment to be followed that include identifying the issue, taking time to pray about the choice, making a wholehearted decision, discussing the choice with a mentor and then finally trusting the decision made.** **Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:The act of discerning; also, the power or faculty of the mind, by which it distinguishes one thing from another, as truth from falsehood, virtue from vice; acute(sharp) judgement; power of perceiving differences of things or ideas, and their relations and tendencies.  *The errors of youth often proceed from the want of discernment.*****3. KNOWLEDGEFrom** [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge)**Knowledge is a familiarity, awareness, or understanding of someone or something, such as facts, skills or objects. The**[philosophical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy)**study of knowledge is called**[epistemology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistemology)**.In many expressions of**[Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity)**, such as**[Catholicism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholicism)**and**[Anglicanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism)**, knowledge is one of the**[seven gifts of the Holy Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_gifts_of_the_Holy_Spirit)**.****The**[Old Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament)[tree of the knowledge of good and evil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_of_the_knowledge_of_good_and_evil)**contained the knowledge that separated Man from God: "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil..." (**[Genesis 3:22](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Genesis#3:22)**)We can have no knowledge of that which does not exist.  God has a perfect knowledge of all his works.   Human knowledge is very limited, and is mostly gained by observation and experience. An example of these is found in the story Boaz, Naomi and Ruth in** [Ruth 2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+2&version=NIV)**.****4. DISCRETIONFrom** [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discretion)**Discretion has the meaning of acting on one's own authority and judgment. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary: A good man - will guide his affairs with discretion. Psalm 110:2 My son, keep sound wisdom and discretion** [Proverbs 3](https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/3.htm)**Liberty or power of acting without control other than one's own judgement.****5. JUDGEMENTFrom** [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judgement)**The term has four distinct uses:** * **Informal –**[opinions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opinion)**expressed as facts.**
* **Informal and**[psychological](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological)**– used in reference to the quality of**[cognitive faculties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind)**called**[*wisdom*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom)**or**[*discernment*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discernment)**.**
* **Legal – used in the context of legal**[trial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial)**, to refer to a final**[finding, statement, or ruling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judgment_%28law%29)**, based on a considered weighing of evidence, called, "**[*adjudication*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adjudication)**".**
* **Religious – used in the concept of**[salvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvation)**to refer to the**[*adjudication of God*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_judgement)**in determining**[Heaven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heaven)**or**[Hell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hell)**for each and all human beings. God's assessment of a person's worth: a determination of "good" conveys great value while "evil" conveys worthlessness.**

**Additionally, judgement can mean:** * [Personality judgment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personality_judgment)**, a psychological phenomenon of a person forming opinions of other people.**

**Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:In scripture, the spirit of wisdom and prudence, enabling a person to discern right and wrong, good and evil. *Give the king thy judgements O God*** [Psalm 82](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+82&version=NIV)**A remarkable punishment; an extraordinary calamity inflicted by God on sinners. Judgements are prepared for scorners.** [Proverbs 19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+19&version=NIV)[Isaiah 26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+26&version=NIV)**,including** [v9 b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+26%3A9&version=NIV) **When your judgments come upon the earth,    the people of the world learn righteousness.****The spiritual government of the world.  The father has committed all judgement to the son.**[John 5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5&version=NIV)**The righteous statutes and commandments of God are called his judgements** [Psalm 119](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20119&version=NIV)**The doctrines of the gospel, or God's word** [Matt 12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12&version=NIV)**. Justice and equity** [Luke 11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11+&version=NIV)**,** [Isaiah 1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+1&version=NIV)**The decrees and purposes of God concerning nations** [Romans 11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+11&version=NIV)**. or a court or tribunal**[Matt 5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5&version=NIV)**For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil** [Eccles 12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+12&version=NIV)**.****6. UNDERSTANDING****From** [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Understanding)**Understanding is a relation between the knower and an object of understanding.Understanding implies abilities and dispositions with respect to an object of knowledge that are sufficient to support intelligent behaviour.In**[Catholicism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholicism)**and**[Anglicanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism)**, understanding is one of the**[Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_gifts_of_the_Holy_Spirit)**.** **Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:It is the faculty by means of which we obtain a great part of our knowledge.** [Luke 24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2024&version=NIV)**,** [Eph 1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Eph+1&version=NIV)***There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty gives him understanding.*** [Job 32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job%2032&version=NIV) **(v8)Intelligence between two or more persons; agreement of minds; union of sentiments.  *There is a good understanding between the minister and his people*.Perception: To know; to understand; to observe especially through the senses; impressions.Insight: Thorough knowledge or skill.** [Proverbs 1:2](https://biblehub.com/proverbs/1-2.htm)**7. COUNSEL  (Not to be confused with**[council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council)**which is a group of people who come together to consult, deliberate, or make decisions.)From** [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counsel)**Other than in legal usage the word "counsel" also means advice given by a professional (psychology and social sciences, religious, academic, etc.) regarding the judgment or conduct of another.**[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counsel#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counsel#cite_note-3)**And from the** [Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/counsel)**counsel (**[*countable*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix%3AGlossary#countable)***and***[*uncountable*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix%3AGlossary#uncountable)**, *plural***[counsels](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/counsels#English)**)** 1. **The exchange of**[opinions](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/opinion)**and**[advice](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/advice)**especially in legal issues;**[consultation](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/consultation)**. quotations**
2. **Exercise of judgment; prudence. quotations**
3. **Advice;**[guidance](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/guidance)**. quotations**
4. **Deliberate purpose; design; intent; scheme; plan. quotations**
5. **(**[*obsolete*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix%3AGlossary#obsolete)**) A secret opinion or purpose; a private matter. quotations**
6. **A**[lawyer](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/lawyer)**, as in**[Queen's Counsel](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Queen%27s_Counsel)**(QC).**

**See also**[Webster’s Modern Dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/counsel)**Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:  Advice, opinion or instruction, given on request or not. Opinion given upon deliberation or consultation.*Every purpose is established by counsel.*** [Prov 20:18](https://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/20-18-compare.html)**.*Thou has not hearkened to my counsel*.** [2 Chron 25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+25&version=NIV)**. (v16).Consultation. Interchange of opinions. *We took sweet counsel together*.** [Psalm 55: 14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/55-14-compare.html)**In conclusion, we read in** [Isaiah 11:2](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnacl.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Df680825dfbd216c491d7b6366%26id%3Db4ebfe0615%26e%3D0fbe345680&data=04%7C01%7Cbfarley%40vision.org.au%7C074a7f7aecf24fe7049808d8d2333d66%7Cca5a7d58b1a84ce192e2f2c8975d821e%7C0%7C0%7C637490464830439346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YINlQxV1MD%2BlgNj9nhWnNrUYw%2BBh42wy3%2BaTo2ZXLsg%3D&reserved=0) **about Jesus:**  **The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—                      the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,                      the Spirit of counsel and of might,                      the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord** **Finally the fruit of wisdom is well-being, found in** [Proverbs 3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%203&version=NIV) **and other scriptures such as: *your days will be many and years will be added to your life*** [Proverbs 9:11](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnacl.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Df680825dfbd216c491d7b6366%26id%3Dc9fcee190f%26e%3D0fbe345680&data=04%7C01%7Cbfarley%40vision.org.au%7C074a7f7aecf24fe7049808d8d2333d66%7Cca5a7d58b1a84ce192e2f2c8975d821e%7C0%7C0%7C637490464830449302%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3NIUJGIJIc9UPbfgWYUWeIA8cB%2Byc8PYVwxqXOGcSx8%3D&reserved=0)**And remember there are two kinds of Wisdom**[**James 3:13/18**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3&version=KJV;NIV)**Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.****But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.** |

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