

Skillful and Godly Wisdom

"She opens her mouth with skillful and godly wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness—giving counsel and instruction." Proverbs 31:26 Amplified



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This lady did not get skillful or godly wisdom from watching TV all day, or watching soap operas, or reading romance books. She got it from scripture and spending time with God. As a new believer, I wanted to follow this lady's example and have skillful and godly wisdom. I prayed, asking God to help me change my priorities so I could spend time daily reading and obeying the Bible. 2 Timothy 2:15(NAS) reads, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of truth."* This told me things I needed to do. I needed to be diligent, disciplined daily in the Word and in prayer. I needed to see myself as a workman. Study and prayer is a joy, but it is also hard work. I also needed to work at my time in the Word in such a way that I would have God's approval.

Most of us study all of our lives and work hard for secular employment. I decided that God deserved as good or better than an earthly employer did. Proverbs 16:16 reads, *"How much better is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."* The Holy Spirit taught me that I could work hard and earn gold and silver to buy the things of this world, but all that would end in grief. I can't buy my relationship with Jesus, and I can't buy godly wisdom or understanding. The only way to get that is by spending time daily in prayer and in God's Word.

Joshua 1:8 reads, *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."* So many people study for years to work hard, trying to be successful and prosperous. Some people try to be successful and prosperous through gambling or some "get-rich-quick" method. God clearly tells us, if we daily read and meditate on His Word and if we obey all that we read, then He will prosper us and He will give us success.

As Richard and I read and meditated on God's Word, we saw that God did not want us to be in debt. Through God's amazing grace, we went on a strict budget until all our bills were paid including our car and our mortgage. Through obedience to God's Word, He enabled us to succeed in getting debt-free. We were then prosperous and able to give more money into His work.

At home, at work, and in ministry we have daily tests, trials and temptations. Our time with Jesus in prayer and in His Word gives us the skillful and godly wisdom that we need for each situation. Beloved, I encourage you, seek God for skillful and godly wisdom, and He will prosper you and give you success.

— Janice McBride

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