



# A TIME OF GUIDED PRAYER

PROVERBS AS WISDOM FOR CHURCH AND NATION

## FOR PREPARATION

[O for a Thousand Tongues](#)

- Charles Wesley (1739)

[My Faith Looks Up to Thee](#)

- Ray Palmer (1830)

[Be Thou My Vision](#)

- Eleanor Hull (1912)

## AS OUR FOUNDATION

Proverbs 16:16 (ESV)

*"How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."*

James 1:5 (ESV)

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

## TO KEEP IN MIND

What would this world look like if we were truly passionate about getting wisdom and understanding – even more than making money?

We need to truly understand where other people are coming from. And likewise, we need to be people who are known for grace and truth – and being more like Jesus.

Interact with people of other worldviews. Your neighbor is not your enemy. Your neighbor is your mission field. And unless we truly have understanding and can grow in empathy for those who think differently than we do, we're less likely to be good missionaries.

- Trevin Wax

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Getting wisdom and understanding has always been a challenge – especially in a culture known for and used to constant communication.
- Smart phones have drastically altered our human interactions in society. Our devices are a constant distraction – and provide no chance for us to "be bored." This lack of disconnection from constant connectedness is antithetical to gaining wisdom and understanding.
- There's something more valuable than hard knowledge (e.g., facts) – it's wisdom. Moreover, however, there's a difference between knowledge ABOUT something vs. knowledge OF something. Thus, confusing only having knowledge about – rather than having a knowledge of – is one of the most common mistakes we make in a connected world.
- Another mistake we often make is confusing impressions with facts. The danger here – especially in social media – is that the impressions we're seeing are being fed to us by algorithms. So relying on social media impressions alone can keep us from deeper thinking and better conversations. It can also prohibit and preclude really good debate on very important issues.
- Our technology (e.g., smartphones) can give us really good impressions and knowledge – but it cannot give us wisdom – which is far more important.
- Wisdom is a matter of still living in a world that requires thought, contemplation, and soaking in the scriptures – not just scrolling through a timeline.
- What do we do about that? How would we put this proverb into practice?
  - On occasion, turn off our phones – and unplug from the sources of information that are constantly flooding into our mind.
  - Carve-out time each day / week / month for phone-free time.
  - Set screen timers for phones / computers.
  - Set aside time to focus on people, nature, reading a book, etc.

- *How do we get understanding?*

- Avoid selecting only the voices and news sources that match our preferences.

- News today is less about information and more about affirmation. It may be comforting to us and affirming what we believe to be true. But if we're really going to get understanding, we should seek out people who have wisdom – not known for their sensationalism, their rants, or punditry (even when we agree with them!), but people who are known for their grace and truth.

- Interact with people of other worldviews. Your neighbor is not your enemy. Your neighbor is your mission field. And unless we truly have understanding and can grow in empathy for those who think differently than we are, we're less likely to be good missionaries.

- Only when we as Christians are confident enough in our beliefs to reach across the aisle, engage in good conversations with people who disagree with us, only then, will we really show the world a different way – rather than succumbing to all the toxicity of today's world.

- *What would it look like for the world if the church were to lead-out as the ones who were passionate about getting wisdom and understanding? Not simply getting information or affirmation - but true wisdom and understanding about the time in which we're called to be faithful.*

### **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PRAY AND LIVE THIS WEEK**

- *Humble our hearts, Lord – knowing that you've given us this command us to pursue wisdom and understanding.*

- *Left to our own devices, we are not wise, we do not have understanding. Help us to see those areas of our lives where we:*

- Lack wisdom

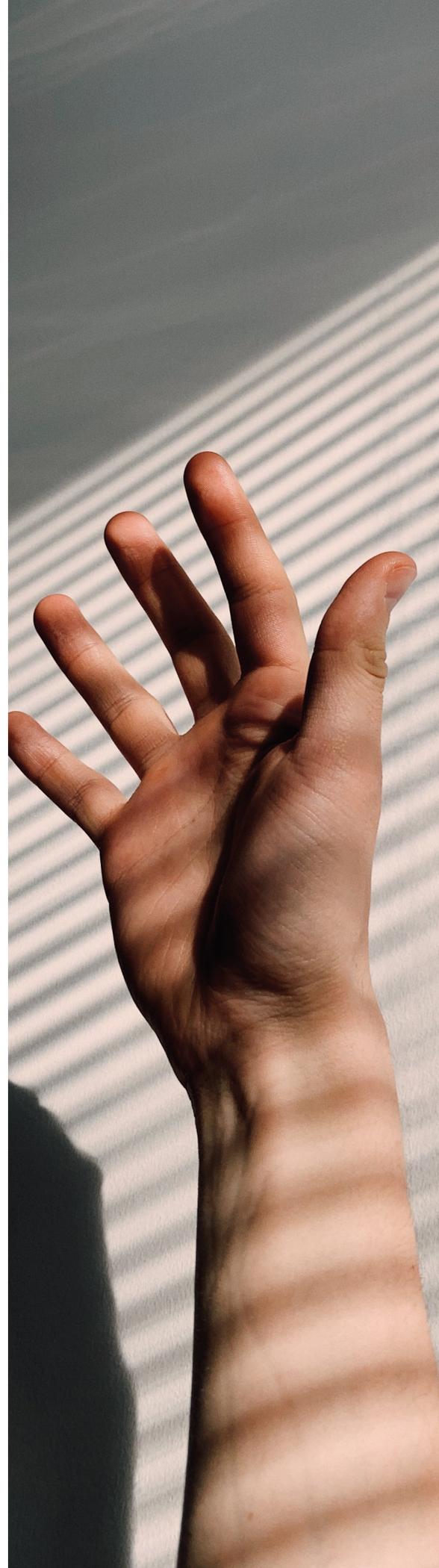
- Have habits we've cultivated in our lives that make us look more like the world – not simply for the views we have, but for the way we interact..

- *Reignite in our hearts a passion for seeking wisdom, a passion for praying for wisdom, a passion for growing in understanding, a passion for being known for empathy and compassion.*

- *Give us not a critical spirit – but a critical mind – so we are able to discern what is true, what is good, what is righteous, what is holy.*

- *Help us to be the kind of people who stand out in a world where so many people may be filled with information or craving affirmation – but that we would be people filled with grace and truth.*

- *Make us stand out as light in the darkness – and as the salt of the earth.*



- *Make us an example and model of what wisdom looks like for your family, for your church, for your neighborhood and community. That we might be an example of wisdom and understanding in a world that so needs it.*
- *That the church would get better at listening to voices of wisdom and understanding, lifting up examples of wisdom and understanding, that the church would see through the problems of rushing for the “hot take” or rushing for information / affirmation – instead of wisdom and understanding.*
- *That the church would begin to lead the way in lifting up examples of wisdom and understanding – so that we might have models to follow – as we seek to be different in the world that God has called us in.*

## **BENEDICTION**

- Closing Prayer

*- Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

- Doxology – [Praise God, from whom all blessings flow](#) – Thomas Ken (1674)

## **CLOSING**

- *Here are several related resources you may find valuable:*

- [Trevin Wax – The Gospel Coalition](#)
- [Colson Center’s National Time of Guided Prayer](#)
- [The Colson Center for Christian Worldview](#)
- Colson Center Bookstore
  - [Rethink Your Self: The Power of Looking Up Before Looking In](#) – Trevin Wax
  - [This Is Our Time: Everyday Myths in Light of the Gospel](#) – Trevin Wax
- [BreakPoint](#)
- [Josh Bales](#)



*True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance.  
It is far deeper than that. It is spiritual transaction with  
the Creator of Heaven and Earth. - Charles Spurgeon*

