

## Six Steps on Path to Wisdom

1. Trust God rather than blame him or make demands of him for explanations.
2. Trust God for strength to endure.
3. Don't expect it all to make sense.
4. Channel resentment toward the fallenness of the world, not the God who has given all to initiate its redemption.
5. Resist succumbing to the temptation to believe that you could run this world better than God does.
6. Above all, trust that he is wise.

**Bottom line:** \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
 born of our absolute conviction that he \_\_\_\_\_.  
 THAT is the way through the struggles of life.



### Part 4

## Where Can Wisdom be Found?

### Job 28

### First stanza – **Human Innovation: Impressive But Inadequate** – Job 28:1 – 11

- <sup>1</sup> There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined.
- <sup>2</sup> Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore.
- <sup>3</sup> Mortals put an end to the darkness; they search out the farthest recesses for ore in the blackest darkness.
- <sup>4</sup> Far from human dwellings they cut a shaft, in places untouched by human feet; far from other people they dangle and sway.
- <sup>5</sup> The earth, from which food comes, is transformed below as by fire; <sup>6</sup> lapis lazuli comes from its rocks, and its dust contains nuggets of gold.
- <sup>7</sup> No bird of prey knows that hidden path; no falcon's eye has seen it.
- <sup>8</sup> Proud beasts do not set foot on it, and no lion prowls there.
- <sup>9</sup> People assault the flinty rock with their hands and lay bare the roots of the mountains.
- <sup>10</sup> They tunnel through the rock; their eyes see all its treasures.
- <sup>11</sup> They search the sources of the rivers and bring hidden things to light.

“Humans may be clever, even ingenious and wealthy, but \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Second stanza – Wisdom: Of Utmost Value but Inaccessible – Job 28:12 – 19**

- <sup>12</sup> But where can wisdom be found?  
Where does understanding dwell?
- <sup>13</sup> No mortal comprehends its worth (or place); it cannot be found in the land of the living.
- <sup>14</sup> The deep says, “It is not in me”; the sea says, “It is not with me.”
- <sup>15</sup> It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed out in silver.
- <sup>16</sup> It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or lapis lazuli.
- <sup>17</sup> Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold.
- <sup>18</sup> Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention; the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.
- <sup>19</sup> The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it; it cannot be bought with pure gold.

*Proverbs 3:19 – 20 – <sup>19</sup> By wisdom the LORD founded the earth; by understanding he created the heavens. <sup>20</sup> By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky. (NLT)*

*Job 38:1 – 2 – <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind: <sup>2</sup> “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? (NLT)*

*Job 38:4 – 7 – <sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? <sup>6</sup> What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone <sup>7</sup> as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? (NLT)*

*Job 38:17 – 18 – <sup>17</sup> Do you know where the gates of death are located? Have you seen the gates of utter gloom? <sup>18</sup> Do you realize the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know! (NLT)*

What Job wants is a vantage point from which \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ make sense but that is \_\_\_\_\_ in the land of the living.

*Isaiah 55:8 – 9 – <sup>8</sup> “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. <sup>9</sup> For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” (NLT)*

**Third stanza – Wisdom: It cannot be Found; it cannot be Bought, but it can be Received – Job 28:20 – 28**

- <sup>20</sup> Where then does wisdom come from?  
Where does understanding dwell?
- <sup>21</sup> It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds in the sky.
- <sup>22</sup> Destruction and Death say, “Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.”
- <sup>23</sup> God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, <sup>24</sup> for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
- <sup>25</sup> When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, <sup>26</sup> when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, <sup>27</sup> then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.
- <sup>28</sup> And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

Our confidence is \_\_\_\_\_ that there is an explanation. Our confidence is in GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_