

# KNIGHTS FOR CHRIST



*The* ARMOR *of* GOD

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:11

Bill Johnson

# 24 VIRTUES OF A GODLY MAN

## PRUDENCE



REMEMBER NOT ONLY TO SAY THE RIGHT  
THING IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT FAR MORE  
DIFFICULT STILL, TO LEAVE UNSAID THE  
WRONG THING AT THE TEMPTING MOMENT.

*-Benjamin Franklin*

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# THE VIRTUE OF PRUDENCE

- THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF PRUDENCE
- CAREFUL, WISE DISCERNMENT; THE AVOIDANCE OF RASH BEHAVIOUR OR SPEECH; THE GOOD MANAGEMENT OF TALENTS AND RESOURCES AND THE SHOWING OF TACT AND WISDOM IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

- THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN PRUDENCE AND WISDOM.  
PROVERBS 8:12 AMPLIFIED BIBLE (AMP) <sup>12</sup> I, WISDOM [FROM GOD], MAKE PRUDENCE MY DWELLING, AND I FIND OUT KNOWLEDGE AND DISCRETION.
- PROVERBS 13:4-6 TO GIVE PRUDENCE TO THE SIMPLE, KNOWLEDGE AND DISCRETION TO THE YOUTH—5 LET THE WISE HEAR AND INCREASE IN LEARNING, AND THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS OBTAIN GUIDANCE, THE WORDS OF THE WISE AND THEIR RIDDLES.

- PRUDENCE IS THE PRACTICAL ACTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WISDOM OF GOD FOUND IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND FROM HIS WORD.
- AS WE WALK THROUGH THIS LIFE, PRUDENCE SHOULD BE A VALUABLE PART OF OUR WALK WITH THE LORD. THE USE OF WISDOM IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT VALIDATES OUR TESTIMONY.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF PRUDENCE

- DISCERNMENT-  
THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCERNING THE SITUATIONS WE FIND OURSELVES IN
- PROVERBS 14:15 THE SIMPLE BELIEVES EVERYTHING, BUT THE PRUDENT GIVES THOUGHT TO HIS STEPS.
- PROVERBS 12:16 THE VEXATION OF A FOOL IS KNOWN AT ONCE, BUT THE PRUDENT IGNORES AN INSULT.

- **LUKE 14:28 FOR WHICH OF YOU, DESIRING TO BUILD A TOWER, DOES NOT FIRST SIT DOWN AND COUNT THE COST, WHETHER HE HAS ENOUGH TO COMPLETE IT? 29 OTHERWISE, WHEN HE HAS LAID A FOUNDATION AND IS NOT ABLE TO FINISH, ALL WHO SEE IT BEGIN TO MOCK HIM, 30 SAYING, 'THIS MAN BEGAN TO BUILD AND WAS NOT ABLE TO FINISH.' 31 OR WHAT KING, GOING OUT TO ENCOUNTER ANOTHER KING IN WAR, WILL NOT SIT DOWN FIRST AND DELIBERATE WHETHER HE IS ABLE WITH TEN THOUSAND TO MEET HIM WHO COMES AGAINST HIM WITH TWENTY THOUSAND? 32 AND IF NOT, WHILE THE OTHER IS YET A GREAT WAY OFF, HE SENDS A DELEGATION AND ASKS FOR TERMS OF PEACE. 33 SO THEREFORE, ANY ONE OF YOU WHO DOES NOT RENOUNCE ALL THAT HE HAS CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

- FORESIGHT AND CAUTION- WE ARE TO NOT JUMP INTO DECISIONS BUT INSTEAD WE ARE TO WEIGH OUR OPTIONS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP.

PROVERBS 22:3 THE PRUDENT SEES DANGER AND HIDES HIMSELF, BUT THE SIMPLE GO ON AND SUFFER FOR IT.

- AMOS 5:13 THEREFORE HE WHO IS PRUDENT WILL KEEP SILENT IN SUCH A TIME, FOR IT IS AN EVIL TIME.



- WISE USE OF KNOWLEDGE-WE HAVE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT HOW THAT KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE IS PUFFED UP AND PROUD. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH LOVE BECOMES WISDOM. THE APPLICATION OF WISDOM IS PRUDENCE.
- MATTHEW 7:6 DO NOT GIVE DOGS WHAT IS HOLY, AND DO NOT THROW YOUR PEARLS BEFORE PIGS, LEST THEY TRAMPLE THEM UNDERFOOT AND TURN TO ATTACK YOU.

- A TEACHABLE SPIRIT - IN ORDER TO BE A PRUDENT PERSON, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A SPIRIT THAT WILL BE MOLDED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. OUR NATURAL MAN DOESN'T HAVE A DESIRE TO BE TAUGHT. PRIDE ENTERS IN AND SENDS US ON OUR OWN COURSE. A PRUDENT MAN ALLOWS THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO SHOW HIM THE WAY HE IS TO GO.
- PROVERBS 15:5 A FOOL DESPISES HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTION, BUT WHOEVER HEEDS REPROOF IS PRUDENT.

- GOOD MANAGEMENT COMMENDED
- PROVERBS 22:26 BE NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO GIVE PLEDGES WHO PUT UP SECURITY FOR DEBTS. IF YOU HAVE NOTHING WITH WHICH TO PAY, WHY SHOULD YOUR BED BE TAKEN FROM UNDER YOU?
- PARABLE OF THE TALENTS- WE CAN'T BE MOVOTIVATED BY FEAR IN OUR INVESTMENTS BUT BY FAITH. PRUDENCE KEEPS US FROM HIDING OUR TALENTS AND CAUSES US TO HAVE GREAT VISION FOR PLEASING OUR MASTER THROUGH WISE INVESTMENTS.

- PAUL, THE APOSTLE, WAS A PRUDENT MAN WHO SHOWED WISE DISCRETION IN THE WAY HE AVOIDED DETECTION AND ESCAPED DESTRUCTION FROM HIS JEWISH ENEMIES. SOLOMON ONCE WROTE, "A PRUDENT MAN SEES DANGER AND TAKES REFUGE, BUT THE SIMPLE KEEP GOING AND SUFFER FOR IT." (PROV. 22:3) ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU EXERCISE PRUDENCE IN ALL OF FINANCIAL, INTERPERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL CONCERNS AS PAUL DID.

- PAUL GAINED PRUDENCE THROUGH THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ALL THE CAREFUL PLANNING IN THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH UNLESS THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS LEADING, ENABLING AND FIGHTING FOR US. ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU TO LOOK TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR HIS PRUDENCE IN ALL DEALINGS.

- PAUL GAINED PRUDENCE BY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST. JESUS WAS WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE BEST CAUSES. PAUL LEARNED HOW TO PICK HIS BATTLES CAREFULLY. SO MANY PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES GETTING INTO MINOR DISPUTES BECAUSE THEY LACK THE PRUDENCE TO CHOOSE THE BEST BATTLES TO ENGAGE IN. ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE STRUGGLES THAT ARE REALLY WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

- PAUL GAINED PRUDENCE THROUGH HIS QUIET TIMES OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER. PAUL GAINED INCREASING PRUDENCE THROUGH A LIFELONG LONG DISCIPLINE OF DAILY DEVOTIONS. SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION ALLOWS YOU TO LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL WITH ALL WISDOM. (COL. 3:16) "DISCIPLINE YOURSELF FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS. GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE IN ALL THINGS IN THIS LIFE AND ALSO IN THE AGE TO COME." (I TIM. 4:7,8) ASK GOD TO HELP YOU BUILD UP A TIME OF DAILY DEVOTIONS WHERE YOU CAN ENRICH YOUR SENSE OF GODLY PRUDENCE.

- PAUL CONTRASTED HIS FORMER WORLDLY PRUDENCE WITH HIS NEW SPIRITUAL WISDOM. WHEN WE DRAW SHARP CONTRASTS BETWEEN WORLDLY AND SPIRITUAL PRUDENCE WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES. PAUL SHIFTED HIS EMPHASIS TO USING SPIRITUAL PRUDENCE TO NAVIGATE HIS WAY TO HIGHER LEVELS OF MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL, MINISTRY, FINANCIAL AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY. ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FOLLOW PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF APPLYING PRUDENCE TO ALL DIMENSIONS OF LIFE.



- PAUL GAVE CONSISTENT PRAISE AND THANKS FOR THE PRUDENCE GIVEN TO HIM IN CHRIST. THE GREAT APOSTLE CONTINUALLY THANKED GOD FOR THE RICH PRUDENCE GIVEN TO HIM IN THE WORDS, PERSON AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST. DO NOT FAIL TO MAKE A HABIT OF THANKING THE LORD FOR ALL THE PRUDENCE YOU POSSESS IN CHRIST. IT ISN'T WHAT YOU KNOW BUT HOW YOU APPROPRIATE WHAT YOU KNOW. ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU TO APPROPRIATE ALL THE PRUDENCE, POWER AND RESOURCES THAT ARE YOURS IN CHRIST.

- PAUL DEMONSTRATED HIS PRUDENCE BY BRINGING TO BEAR ALL HIS CONNECTIONS, POLITICAL SKILLS, EDUCATION, CULTURAL INSIGHTS AND COMMON SENSE TO ESCAPE THE PLOTS OF THE JEWS. SOMETIMES PEOPLE CAN BE NAIVE IN THINKING THAT GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM EVEN IF THEY DO NOT EXERCISE SOUND JUDGMENT. ASK THE LORD TO GIVE YOU THE PRUDENCE TO BRING TO BEAR ALL KINDS OF RESOURCES IN EVERY SITUATION.

- PAUL WORKED WITH AND THROUGH THE PRUDENCE OF THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST. FEW PEOPLE POSSESS SUFFICIENT WISDOM TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS. ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU COOPERATE WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST WHO CAN HELP YOU MAKE THE MORE PRUDENT DECISIONS IN VARIOUS PREDICAMENTS. THERE IS GREAT WISDOM AVAILABLE TO US IN OUR FELLOWSHIP AND IN THE ASSOCIATIONS THAT WE BUILD AS CHRISTIANS AS WE WALK THROUGH LIFE.

- CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE THINGS THAT KEEP YOU FROM PRUDENCE?? THE ENEMY LIKES TO PUSH OUR SPIRITUAL BUTTONS AND CAUSE US TO MAKE IMPULSE DECISIONS RATHER THAN PRUDENT ONES. PAUL'S PRUDENT LOVE FOR THE LORD ALLOWED HIM TO ENDURE SUFFERING AND SHAME WITHOUT GIVING IN TO FEELINGS OF FEAR OR ANGER. MANY PEOPLE GIVE IN TO FEELINGS OF ANGER OR FEAR WHEN THEY ARE PRESSURED OR PUT IN STRESSFUL SITUATIONS. ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID, "AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO SEND I YOU." (JOHN 20:21)

- PAUL'S PRUDENCE ALLOWED HIM TO WORK AROUND THE LEGALISM, TRADITIONALISM AND BUREAUCRACY OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS. THE DEVIL LOVES TO DISCOURAGE US THROUGH THE TRADITIONS OF MEN, THE LEGALISTIC ATTITUDES THAT PUT UP ROADBLOCK AFTER ROADBLOCK, AND THE "RELIGIOUS" RED TAPE THAT STALLS THE MOVE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ASK THE LORD TO GIVE YOU THE PRUDENCE TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY SITUATION INSTEAD OF GIVING IN TO FEELINGS OF DESPAIR, FRUSTRATION OR APATHETIC INDIFFERENCE.



KEEP

CALM

cause

PRUDENCE

is COOL