

UNDERSTANDING

Understanding is a key in our walk with the Lord. In it's severity, it is clear that Proverbs' intent is to disperse understanding to the reader/ listener.

1.) In all your getting...- Proverbs 4:7

***Understanding** in the Greek is *dianoia* (1271) meaning "deep thought". One of the root words in the Greek is *ginosko* (1097) meaning "to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand". In other words, Paul was praying for the church of Ephesus to know, have revelation and understanding. It was because of "darkened understanding" that led to the Gentiles' sensuality and practice of immorality.

1.a.) God is asking His people the same question that Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch, "Do you **understand** what you are reading?" (*Acts 8:30*). The "understanding" here is the Greek word *ginosko*, as we reviewed earlier, denoting "to know, recognize". Understanding void is likened unto the man fishing who had no bait. He had great intentions, but no bite.

2.) May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened...- Paul was praying a sincere and deep heartfelt prayer for the church of Ephesus (Eph 1:18). The word for understanding here is the Greek word *dianoia* meaning "deep thought" or "intellect, mind".

a.) Paul was urging them through prayer to look beyond themselves into the deeper things of God. Jesus, after His resurrection opened the minds of His beloved to "understand" the scriptures (*Luke 24:45*).

3.) Understanding to the simple- Psalm 119:130 says- "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth **understanding** unto the simple."

a.) Some versions actually say "the unfolding of Your word", rendering the idea of revelation and unveiling. The Hebrew word (*pethach-6608*) for "entrance" simply means "opening, disclosure". It derives from the root word *pathach* (6605) meaning "to open; open wide". This meaning is almost identical to the word revelation.

4.) Understanding is the path to the prize- knowledge. *Proverbs 2:3* tells us to lift our voice for understanding. That if we seek her as precious silver, we will then discover the knowledge of God. *Daniel 2:21* tells us that "God gives knowledge to men of understanding".