



RCCG OCEANIA

Character & Holiness

WITH ALL YOUR GETTING, GET UNDERSTANDING

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Many people know how to "get" achievements, resources, and results. Scripture insists that the most important gain is wisdom—and that every other pursuit should be matched by a pursuit of understanding. This study focuses on making understanding the non-negotiable goal in all you acquire.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Proverbs 4:7

Proverbs 4:5-7

Job 3:38

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Not all “getting” is equal; the Bible elevates wisdom as the principal pursuit.
- “With all your getting” implies that every gain should be accompanied by growing understanding.
- Understanding is not automatic; it must be intentionally sought and valued.
- Wisdom and understanding are meant to guide real decisions, not remain abstract ideas.
- A life that gains much but lacks understanding is missing what Scripture calls essential.

INTRODUCTION

Life involves constant acquiring—skills, opportunities, influence, resources, and results. Scripture does not condemn diligent gaining, but it sharply redirects what “gain” must ultimately mean. Proverbs commands a different kind of ambition: to pursue wisdom and to treat understanding as essential in everything obtained. This study centers on the mandate “with all your getting get understanding,” calling for a life where every achievement is guided by spiritual clarity and discernment.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Proverbs 4:5-7** — A fatherly instruction urging active pursuit: “get wisdom” and “get understanding,” refusing to forget or turn away, and treating wisdom as the primary acquisition.
- **Proverbs 4:7** — A concise summary of priority: wisdom is the principal thing, and understanding must be obtained alongside every other gain.
- **Job 3:38** — Used as provided to anchor reflection on the limits of human perspective and the need to pursue true understanding rather than assuming it.

KEY POINTS

1. **DON'T JUST GET—GET UNDERSTANDING** — Many forms of "getting" can be impressive on the outside while leaving a person unclear, unstable, or misguided on the inside. Proverbs confronts that imbalance by insisting that understanding must accompany what is acquired. "with all your getting get understanding" treats understanding as non-negotiable. The goal is not only to obtain outcomes, but to obtain the insight that makes outcomes meaningful, rightly directed, and sustainable. Without understanding, gaining can become a pattern of collecting more while learning little. Understanding helps evaluate motives, recognize consequences, and choose the right next step—even when options look equally attractive.
 - Before pursuing a new goal, ask: "What understanding do I need to gain so I pursue this wisely?"
 - After each major decision, review results and write one lesson learned to deepen understanding.
 - Identify one area where you have gained something (responsibility, skill, resource) but feel unclear; commit to seeking clarity before expanding further.
 - Practice slowing down important choices long enough to ask what you might be missing or misunderstanding.

Scripture: Proverbs 4:7

2. **WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING** — Scripture ranks pursuits, and Proverbs states the ranking plainly: "wisdom is the principal thing." That means wisdom is not a bonus added to a successful life; it is the foundation that defines what success truly is. Wisdom is "principal" because it guides every other gain—how it is obtained, why it is pursued, and how it is used. Acquiring without wisdom can lead to wasted effort, misdirected priorities, or harm to self and others. When wisdom becomes primary, it reshapes ambition. It encourages a person to measure progress not only by what increases externally, but by whether choices reflect discernment, humility, and sound judgment.
 - List the top things you are currently trying to "get" (results, recognition, stability, skills). Pray through whether wisdom is truly primary among them.
 - Define what "wise success" would look like in one area of life (what you will do, and what you will refuse to do).
 - Build a habit of asking: "Is this choice consistent with wisdom, or merely efficient and impressive?"
 - When pressured to rush, choose one wise delay (time to think, seek counsel, or re-check motives).

Scripture: Proverbs 4:7

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

3. PURSUE WISDOM INTENTIONALLY — Proverbs does not treat wisdom and understanding as automatic. The repeated command “get” shows that they must be pursued—chosen, valued, and protected. Intentional pursuit includes attention and perseverance: not forgetting, not turning away, and not treating wisdom as optional when life becomes busy. Understanding grows when it is sought with focus rather than assumed. This pursuit is practical. Wisdom and understanding are meant to shape decisions, relationships, and priorities. They become visible in the way a person thinks, responds, and chooses under pressure.

- Set a consistent rhythm for reading and reflecting on Proverbs 4:5-7, noting one instruction to practice each time.
- Identify one recurring decision area where you tend to react; plan a wiser response in advance.
- Replace one unhelpful habit of distraction with a habit that builds understanding (quiet reflection, journaling lessons learned).
- When confused, choose the humble step of seeking understanding rather than pretending certainty.

Scripture: Proverbs 4:5-7

4. LET UNDERSTANDING SHAPE WHAT YOU GAIN — The phrase “with all your getting” connects everyday acquiring with a spiritual responsibility: whenever something increases—responsibility, influence, resources, opportunities—understanding must increase too. This pairing prevents a life that is productive but misguided. Understanding helps interpret what you gain, steward it responsibly, and recognize when a gain is pulling you off course. A person can “get” more while becoming less clear. Scripture calls for a different pattern: growth that is matched by discernment, so that increased capacity also brings increased wisdom and understanding.

- For each new responsibility or opportunity, ask: “What new understanding is required to carry this well?”
- Create a simple review practice: after gaining something new, evaluate benefits, risks, and next wise steps.
- If a gain is causing confusion or compromise, pause expansion and prioritize gaining understanding first.
- Choose one area to intentionally connect learning with acquiring (for example: as skills grow, also grow in discernment about how to use them).

Scripture: Proverbs 4:7 Proverbs 4:5-7

GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

OBSERVATION

- In Proverbs 4:5-7, what repeated commands stand out, and what do they reveal about wisdom and understanding?
- What does Proverbs 4:7 explicitly call “the principal thing,” and what else does it command alongside it?
- What does the phrase “with all your getting” suggest about the scope of this instruction?
- From these passages, is wisdom presented as automatic or pursued? What words support your answer?
- How does Job 3:38 (as provided) contribute to reflection on human limits and the need for true understanding?

INTERPRETATION

- Why might Scripture elevate wisdom as “principal” compared to other forms of gaining?
- What is the practical difference between knowledge, wisdom, and understanding in daily decision-making (as implied by the commands in Proverbs 4:5-7)?
- How can someone be successful at “getting” but still lack understanding? What signs might reveal that gap?
- What does it mean to “not forget” and “not turn away” in the pursuit of wisdom and understanding?
- How does acknowledging human limitation (anchored by Job 3:38 as provided) shape a healthier posture toward learning and discernment?

APPLICATION

- Where are you currently focused on “getting” something, and what understanding must be gained alongside it?
- What is one decision you need to slow down so you can pursue wisdom rather than only a quick result?
- Which habit would most help you obey “get wisdom” and “get understanding” consistently?
- How can you build a practice of reviewing gains (opportunities, resources, responsibilities) to ensure understanding increases too?
- What would change this week if you treated “with all your getting get understanding” as a non-negotiable rule?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to make wisdom the principal pursuit in your life.
- Pray for understanding to match every increase in responsibility, resources, or influence.
- Confess areas where you have pursued outcomes without discernment and ask for clarity.
- Request humility to slow down, listen, and learn before acting.

NEXT STEP

Choose one current goal you are trying to “get,” and write a brief plan for how you will intentionally pursue wisdom and understanding alongside it through Scripture, counsel, and reflection.

CONCLUSION

Scripture does not deny the reality of acquiring, building, and advancing. It redirects the deepest priority: wisdom is the principal thing, and “with all your getting get understanding.” A life that gains much but lacks understanding misses what Scripture calls essential. The aim is a pattern where every increase is matched by discernment—so ...

CONCLUSION (CONT.)

what is gained is guided, stewarded, and aligned with wisdom.

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