

# The Blessing of Gaining Wisdom

Gaining wisdom should be a lifelong pursuit for each of us. But what is wisdom? How is it defined?

*Merriam-Webster* says it is “ability to discern inner qualities and relationships ... a wise attitude, belief or course of action.”

*The Oxford English Dictionary* calls it “a capacity of judging rightly in matters relating to life and conduct; soundness of judgment in the choice of means and ends.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, an English Particular Baptist minister of the 19<sup>th</sup> century known as the Prince of Preachers, wrote that wisdom is “the right use of knowledge.”

Here are some examples of what I would consider to be wisdom:

The late Erma Bombeck, one of my favorite writers, who authored *If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries*, *What Am I doing Here in the Pits*, tells of two moments in her husband’s life.

There was a time when the children were growing up that her husband used to go and look at the backyard. Surveying the muddy patches where the lawn should be, he would wonder – will the grass ever come back?

And then there was the time when the children were grown and gone that her husband went and looked over the beautiful green lawn, immaculate from lack of use, and wondered – will the children ever come back?

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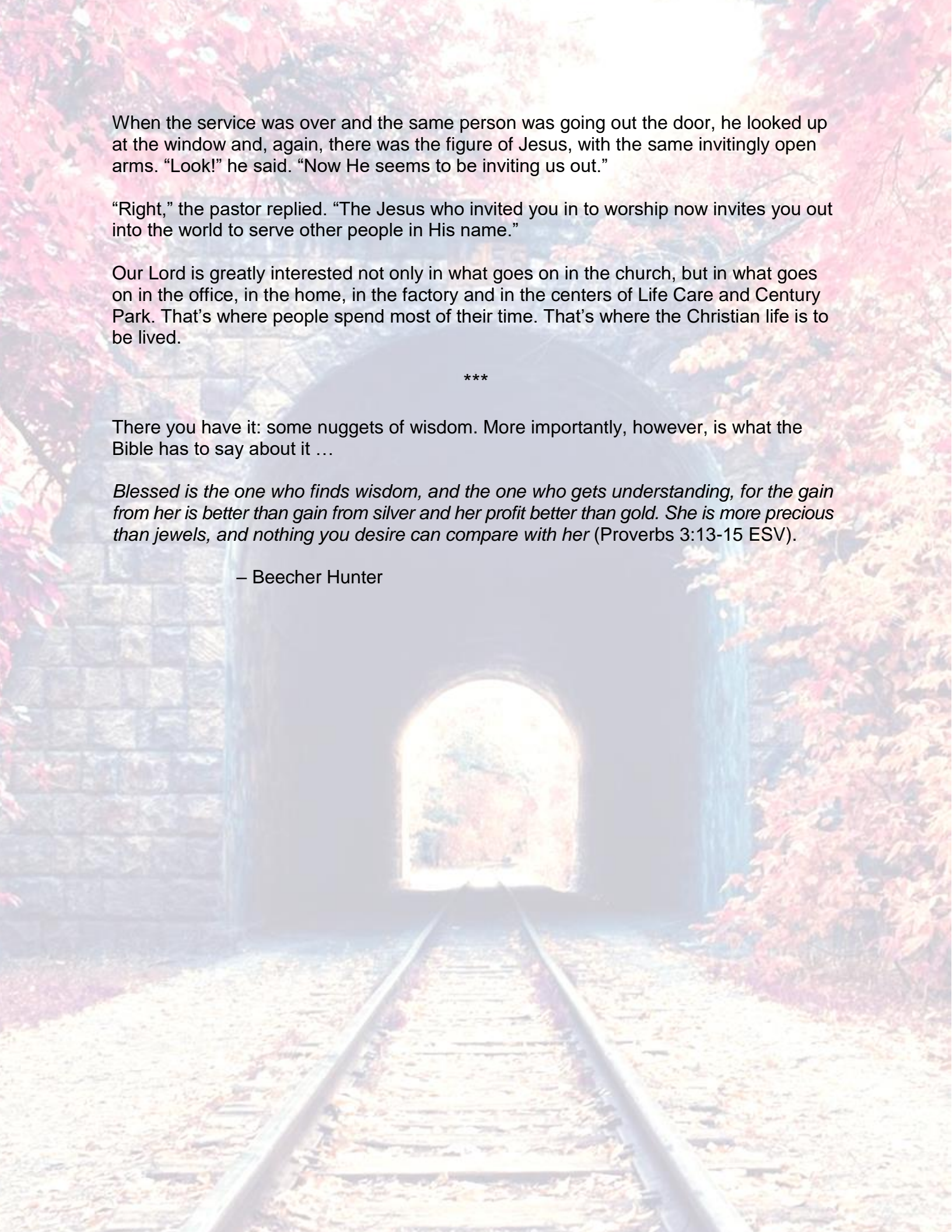
Some of us would do well to emulate the woman who realized that her fears were ruining her life, so she made for herself a “worry table.” Upon tabulating her worries, she discovered that 40 percent will never happen; 30 percent were about others’ criticism, most untrue; 10 percent were about her health, which “gets worse as I worry;” 8 percent were legitimate since life has some real problems to meet. Statistically, then, we should shed most of our worries.

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There is a chapel somewhere in Wisconsin that has a stained-glass window over the entrance showing the figure of Jesus with open arms. One man, seeing it for the first time, remarked, “How meaningful! He seems inviting us in to worship.”

“That’s true,” the pastor said. “He is indeed inviting us in to worship.”

(more)



When the service was over and the same person was going out the door, he looked up at the window and, again, there was the figure of Jesus, with the same invitingly open arms. "Look!" he said. "Now He seems to be inviting us out."

"Right," the pastor replied. "The Jesus who invited you in to worship now invites you out into the world to serve other people in His name."

Our Lord is greatly interested not only in what goes on in the church, but in what goes on in the office, in the home, in the factory and in the centers of Life Care and Century Park. That's where people spend most of their time. That's where the Christian life is to be lived.

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There you have it: some nuggets of wisdom. More importantly, however, is what the Bible has to say about it ...

*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her (Proverbs 3:13-15 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter