

The Attackers: The Doctrine of Wisdom: Definition of Terms: *Chochmah* & *Sophia*; Introduction: The *Kardia* & Its Spiritual Stream of Consciousness; Converting *Gnosis* to *Epignosis*: GAP & Constructing the FLOT Line

The Doctrine of Wisdom

A. Definition of Terms:

1. **חָכְמָה (*chochmah*):** Skill and experience associated with prudence, knowledge, and discretion.

Skill is the ability to use one's knowledge effectively and readily in application to life and circumstances.

Experience is knowledge gained through application of doctrine to life and circumstances.

The two together are the factors that increase wisdom and the development of true happiness in the soul. In this process other virtues are developed:

Prudence is the ability to govern and discipline oneself from an internal inventory of ideas. Doctrine provides the restraint necessary to avoid making irrational decisions which lead to impulsive actions.

Knowledge is the result of Bible study and is the accumulation of biblical principles and doctrines but its application becomes sophisticated with the development of skill learned through experience.

Discretion is the ability to make responsible decisions; the mental attitude that prevents impulsive actions.

2. **Σοφία (*sophia*):** Skill and ability; derived from an adjective and always denotes a quality, never an activity.

(We) find two notes on Jesus as a growing boy in the Lucan infancy stories: Already as a child "he developed and grew strong in ever-increasing wisdom, and the grace of God was on him," Luke 2:40, cf. 2:52. The description is modeled on Old Testament descriptions of the growth of divinely endowed children, cf. 1 Samuel 2:26.¹ Σοφία epitomizes a manner of life which shapes the character and which finds expression in early and astonishing knowledge of the Law.²

The spiritual application of *sophia* for believers is knowledge of the will of God whereby they can make decisions in harmony with that will in their daily lives.

This requires good judgment in the face of the demands made by the Christian way of life.

B. Introduction:

1. Wisdom is the final development in the believer's *kardia* where *epignōsis* doctrine is stored by the Holy Spirit for recall and application.
2. There are seven compartments in the *kardia* which may be described as the believer's spiritual stream of consciousness.

¹ "Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the Lord and with men" (NASB).

² Ulrich Wilckens, "σοφία," in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Friedrich (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971), 7:514.

3. This term was first used by William James in 1890 to describe the unbroken flow of thought and awareness of the waking mind. Psychology defines it as “the conscious experience of an individual regarded as a continuous, flowing series of images and ideas running through the mind.”
4. Doctrine in the soul provides a spiritual stream of consciousness which can be accessed through the Holy Spirit for guidance in decision-making during every waking hour.
5. The “images and ideas” are made up of seven categories of one’s doctrinal inventory that develop over time as the believer grows in grace.
6. What is in a person’s soul determines who he really is. No one has any say-so about the makeup of his body but he alone is responsible for the content of his soul.
7. The information that is retained in the soul is initiated by individual free will and therefore each person is responsible for what he thinks.
8. No one has the exact same IQ as another. The test may register the same result but there is something person A knows that person B does not. The perception of biblical information is not dependent entirely upon human IQ but rather spiritual IQ which occurs with the filling of the Holy Spirit under Operation Z.
9. The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit directs His instruction to the human spirit which he then converts into *gnosis*, doctrine understood academically.
10. The believer must then make the decision to believe the information or reject it. If the latter, it is retained in short-term memory in the brain’s association cortex and when dismissed volitionally it is easily forgotten.
11. If however, the doctrine is accepted as true, then the Holy Spirit moves the information into the *kardia* where it is retained as *epignōsis* and stored in the long-term memory of in cerebral cortex as wheel-tracks of righteousness.
12. Whether the doctrine is facilitated as a wheel-track of righteousness into a path of least resistance depends on the believer’s spiritual growth associated with his use of that doctrine when it is applicable.
13. As doctrine is learned, it is distributed in the soul into one or more of the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness.
14. From this inventory of ideas, a FLOT line is developed that protects the soul by means of the ten biblical problem-solving devices.
15. FLOT is an acrostic that refers to Forward Line of Troops, a military term for a contingent deployed to guard a secured position.
16. The spiritual FLOT line is doctrine stored in the *kardia*’s seven compartments which guards the command post of the soul against advances made by outside adversities.
17. It is from these seven compartments that an inventory is developed that will enable the believer to execute the plan of God.
18. The basic premise of the protocol plan of God is that a right thing must be done in a right way to be right.

19. In order for a believer to advance to the high ground of biblical wisdom, he must inculcate doctrines from the Word of God that take him to that level of sophisticated thought.
20. With this in mind, our next paragraph will take up the seven compartments of the soul's *kardia* that provide the assets necessary to acquire wisdom.