



A truly
great book
should be
read in
youth,
again in
maturity
and once
more in
old age...

Robertson Davies
(1913 - 1995)
Novelist | Playwright

Knowledge is testable; we can verify that we know something. Insight is understandable; we can identify what we have discovered or discerned. Wisdom's value persists over time and can transcend cultural boundaries.

Wisdom is the child of listening, learning, and openness.

Wisdom grows with listening. Wisdom is about paying attention to essential parts of a situation. Listening effectively – the blend of curiosity plus restraint – helps tease out crucial information. Wisdom waits with patience as unimportant features fade away and what really matters emerges. We may not be able to make ourselves wise, but we can let ourselves hear.

Wisdom grows with learning. Wisdom may expand with time but is not limited to those who have lived more years. Wisdom blossoms when we learn from our experience and from the experiences of others. When we explore challenges to our assumptions, we learn. When we accept insights that broaden our current attitudes, we progress. When we risk taking a fresh viewpoint, we develop. We may not be able to make ourselves wise, but we can let ourselves adapt.

Wisdom grows with openness. Wisdom is not so much something that is attained, as it is something that is received. It may be possible to hear and see key elements of a circumstance, and still not grasp how those pieces of information are useful. Wisdom is not easily predicted or harnessed. It may arrive as a gift from our collective past or from the eternal present. We may not be able to make ourselves wise, but we can let ourselves be open.

Wisdom matures with trust and imagination.

What kind of change do I tend to resist? How can I listen with more patience?