

Intellectual Pursuit

Transcript:

Great — thanks for sharing the full transcript! I've reformatted it for readability:

- Speaker labels are kept consistent.
- Carriage-return breaks are removed.
- Text is structured into paragraphs for smoother reading.
- Wording remains the same, just cleaned up for flow.

Here's the reformatted version:



Dr. Billy Wilson: Welcome to *World Impact* and welcome to the campus of Oral Roberts University, where I serve as president. Today we're going to be talking about one of the most important things in your life—the fact that God has called you to pursue knowledge all of your life.

Obviously, at Oral Roberts University we're an educational institution. We encourage our students to go on a lifelong journey of pursuing knowledge, getting that knowledge, and using it for the glory of God. I'm in the JD McKean Library, which we recently opened as part of our *Whole Leaders for the Whole World* campaign. In just a couple of years, we built four new buildings: this library, a welcome center, a media arts center, and the Mark Carter Athletics Center.

We're now in phase two of our campaign, building a new dining hall and dorm complex for our students. We're committed to giving them the very best facilities possible for a 21st-century education, and one of the things we were passionate about was providing a library to help them pursue knowledge.

This library, of course, has thousands of volumes of books, but it also has many other learning tools—things that help students make presentations, a sandbox for learning digital applications, and more. Learning in the 21st century has taken on a whole new dimension because of technology. So this library is built with the best technology possible for today, along with traditional books.

Today I want to challenge you to be a lifelong learner. One of the things God calls us to is the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge, so we can use that knowledge to make a difference for His kingdom. We'll look at people in the Bible who applied themselves to learning and then used that knowledge to make a difference for God.

If you'd like to know more about ORU, visit oru.edu. If you have a prayer request or would like to share your story of how God is touching your life through this program, visit worldimpact.tv.

I know you're going to enjoy today's program. We have great information from some of our experts right here on campus, challenging you to be a lifelong learner. Thanks for joining us on *World Impact* from Oral Roberts University—where we're sharing Jesus with you and the world. Stay with us. I'll be back in just a moment.

Dr. Angela Sample: Ever since the invention of writing, libraries have been centers of intellectual pursuit. Hi, I'm Dr. Angela Sample, associate dean of the JD McKean Library here at ORU.

Our library serves as more than just shelves of books. As more learners study at a distance, it is incredibly important for libraries to offer electronic resources and research support via Zoom or 24-hour chat, which we provide. We have almost 200 databases with access to scholarly titles like the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and popular resources like *Smithsonian* or *National Geographic*.

For students on campus, we offer innovative technologies such as an innovation station, a flight simulator, VR stations, and a green-screen presentation studio where students can record podcasts and class presentations. And of course, for those who prefer the traditional, we provide quiet study spaces.

In my mid-thirties I decided to return to school. My husband encouraged me to pursue my education. While he was deployed to the Middle East, I completed my bachelor's, two master's degrees, and my PhD. As a nontraditional learner, I understand what it's like to embark on education later in life. I encourage anyone feeling the Lord's prompting to pursue knowledge—act on that prompting. It's never too late, and God equips those He calls.

Dr. Billy Wilson: Today on *World Impact* we're in the new JD McKean Library on the campus of Oral Roberts University, where I serve as president. We're talking about intellectual pursuit—one of ORU's five learning outcomes, along with spiritual integrity, personal resilience, global engagement, and bold vision.

“A brain is a terrible thing to waste.” That campaign was popular as I was growing up, and it's true. The adult brain has about 86 billion neurons and can hold up to 1,000 terabytes of

information. To put that in perspective, the UK's National Archives contain over 900 years of history but only take up 70 terabytes.

Einstein said, *"Intellectual growth should commence at birth, and cease only at death."* John Wesley said, *"The first priority of my life is to be holy, and the second priority is to be a scholar."* Leonardo da Vinci wrote, *"Learning never exhausts the mind."* Warren Buffett said, *"The more you learn, the more you earn."*

Studies confirm this. Eighty-seven percent of today's employees say they need new skills throughout their career. More and more jobs require ongoing learning. Henry Ford once said, *"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80."*

Thomas Oppong wrote about 50 habits of lifelong learners. A few stand out: they are high-volume readers, they seize every opportunity to learn, they are curious and ask questions, they're not afraid of being wrong, they learn from multiple sources, and they tend to listen more than they speak.

Bottom line: learning is a godly pursuit. God made us to learn, and He calls us to pursue knowledge throughout life.

Stay with me—we're in ORU's library talking about intellectual pursuit and the call to be lifelong learners. I'll be back in just a moment.

Dr. William Ranahan II: The scientific method is a process of investigating the natural world. You make observations, ask questions, and apply knowledge to find answers.

I'm William Ranahan, research director at the Biological Sciences Center here at ORU. My family was deeply affected by cancer, particularly the side effects of chemotherapy. As I prayed, God began giving me ideas. Applying the scientific method, we've now discovered a novel compound with selective anti-cancer properties.

Dr. Billy Wilson: This is the official U.S. patent for a breakthrough in healing cancer. Would you give God praise?

Dr. Ranahan: Our major project is the mushroom project. We've seen efficacy against multiple cancer types: bone, breast, brain, colon, and lung. Each mushroom works better on different cancers, and we're matching them up.

The incredible part? All of our research is 100% done by undergraduates. My passion is not only to train them technically, but to help them hear God's voice. Scripture says, *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to search it out."* Intellectual pursuit is a gift—it helps us unpack creation and know Him better.

Dr. Billy Wilson: God's Word has much to say about wisdom and knowledge.

- *Proverbs 2:3–5: “If you call out for insight... then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.”*
- *Proverbs 3:13: “Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.”*
- *Proverbs 23:23: “Buy the truth and do not sell it—wisdom, instruction, and insight as well.”*
- *2 Peter 1:5: “Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge.”*

God calls us to pursue knowledge because ignorance is dangerous. Hosea 4:6 warns, *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”* Yet knowledge can also be misused. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 8:1 that *“knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”* Ecclesiastes 1:18 says, *“The more knowledge, the more grief.”*

Still, if we want to change the world, we must increase in knowledge. President John F. Kennedy said, *“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”*

Let's look at three biblical figures who pursued knowledge and changed the world:

- **Moses.** Acts 7:22 says Moses was “educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.” He led millions out of Egypt, combining education with God's power.
- **Daniel.** Captive in Babylon, Daniel was well-informed and quick to understand. He interpreted dreams, explained riddles, and solved problems because of his keen mind.
- **Paul.** Educated under Gamaliel in Jerusalem, Paul combined Jewish, Greek, and Roman knowledge with his faith. God chose him to stand before kings and intellectual leaders, and Paul used his learning to spread the gospel across the Western world.

When education is placed in God's hands, it can make a profound difference. I encourage you to pursue knowledge, become a lifelong learner, and let God use you to impact this generation.

Romans 12:1–2 calls us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. At ORU, we challenge students not just to learn, but to sanctify their learning and let the Holy Spirit use it for His kingdom.

Dr. Armenio Suzano: When you move from reading books to painting, dancing, filmmaking, or music, research shows that both sides of the brain light up like Christmas trees.

I'm Armenio Suzano, director of the Department of Music at ORU and conductor of the ORU Symphony Orchestra. We offer a community choir and soon a community orchestra for those who want to re-engage with music. Music keeps the mind active and can even rewire the brain.

A famous example is former Arizona Representative Gabby Giffords, who was shot in the head. She couldn't walk or talk, but through music therapy—singing and relearning the French horn—her brain rewired itself. Today she speaks as well as ever.

Engaging in the arts from a Christian perspective allows us to influence society with God's creativity. As artists, we are curators of society, shaping culture and influencing intellectual pursuits with a biblical worldview.

Dr. Billy Wilson: Today on *World Impact* we've been in ORU's JD McKean Library, talking about intellectual pursuit—one of our core values.

When I describe ORU, I often say: "*Think Harvard, full of the Holy Spirit.*" We believe our education is not only academically excellent but also Spirit-filled. Knowledge combined with the power of God can change the world. Moses proved it. Daniel proved it. Paul proved it.

We challenge our students—and I challenge you—to be lifelong learners who commit their minds to Christ and use knowledge to change the world.

If you have a prayer request, visit **worldimpact.tv**. I'd also love to hear your story. And if you're considering study, ORU welcomes students of all ages. Recently, we had a 78-year-old graduate! It's never too late.

Thank you for joining us on *World Impact*. From ORU, we're here sharing Jesus with the world.

Male announcer: This has been *World Impact* with Dr. Billy Wilson, president of Oral Roberts University. ORU is proud to support the Spirit Empowered movement around the world through Empower 21. Learn more at **empower21.com**. Watch more episodes of *World Impact* or support this global ministry at **worldimpact.tv**.

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