

Proverbs - Wisdom Cries Aloud in the Street

Wisdom = insight and understanding to navigate the complexity of life → (two sources of wisdom)

Jas 3:15 ESV teaches there is wisdom from ABOVE and wisdom that is EARTHLY, **unspiritual, demonic.**

1 Cor 3 ESV compares wisdom that is from GOD, vs wisdom of the WORLD or wisdom of MEN (called foolish)

Proverbs of Solomon - *Proverbs are nuggets of God's wisdom for living in alignment with His ways*

Wisdom is personified as (crying aloud) universally available to anyone who will hear and heed

- Pro 1:20 **Wisdom cries aloud in the street**, in the markets she raises her voice; 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

Three things to help us embrace God's Wisdom (teachable spirit) (fear of the Lord) (discerning heart)

A) A teachable spirit → things that we DON'T know, that we NEED to know → purpose of proverbs

2 To **know** wisdom and instruction, to **understand** words of insight, 3 to **receive** instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; 4 to **give** prudence to the simple, knowledge and **discretion** to the youth---5 Let the wise **hear** and **increase** in learning, and the one who understands **obtain** guidance, 6 to **understand** a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

B) The Fear of the Lord

7 The **fear of the LORD is the beginning** of knowledge; **fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

- **Fear of the Lord is defined here - a healthy respect for what He says about life & righteousness**
 - Deu 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, **but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,**
 - His WAY becomes YOUR way, to love him, to serve Him and a **commitment** of ALL heart/soul

C) A Discerning Heart (discretion)

There is wisdom we need to hear

- 8 **Hear**, my son, your **father's instruction**, and forsake not your **mother's teaching**, 9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

There is "wisdom" we need to reject

- 10 My son, **if sinners entice you, do not consent.** 11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason 15 my son, **do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,**

There is a blessing in receiving God's wisdom

- 22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? 23 **If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.**

There are consequences for ignoring God's wisdom

24 Because I have called and you **refused to listen**, have stretched out my hand and **no one has heeded**, 25 because you have **ignored all my counsel** and would have **none of my reproof**, 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, || 27 when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. 28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. || 29 Because they **hated knowledge** and **did not choose the fear of the LORD**, 30 would have **none of my counsel and despised all my reproof**, 31 therefore **they shall eat the fruit of their way**, and have their fill of their own devices. || 32 For the **simple are killed by their turning away**, and the **complacency of fools destroys** them; 33 but **whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."**