



## Week 17 Proverbs

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

***'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'***

The book of Proverbs helpfully sets out from the beginning its origins and purposes. There is no mistaking why this book has been written.

**1.** <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup>for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;

<sup>3</sup> for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;

<sup>4</sup> for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—

<sup>5</sup> let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—

<sup>6</sup> for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

***"It can be difficult to define Wisdom, but people generally recognize it when they encounter it."***

*(Psychology Today).*

Psychologists are in reasonable agreement that wisdom involves an integration of knowledge, experience, and deep understanding that incorporates tolerance for the uncertainties of life as well as its ups and downs. There's an awareness of how things play out over time, and it confers a sense of balance.

Wise people generally share optimism that life's problems can be solved and experience a certain amount of calm in facing difficult decisions. Intelligence—although exactly what that is may be questionable—may be necessary for wisdom, but it definitely isn't sufficient; an ability to see the big picture, a sense of proportion, and considerable introspection also contribute to its development.



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In Proverbs "Wisdom is something more than intellectual excellence, in that it implies a spiritual and moral quality of heart, will and life; and is the practical application of knowledge to its best ends."

### **Wisdom is spoken in terms of being female:**

Proverbs 4: 6-8

"Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you."

### **Wisdom is also spoken of as being present at Creation:**

Proverbs 8: 22-31

"The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so that the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind."

In Scripture we find that the fool is not so much one lacking mental powers but rather one who misuses them. A fool casts off the fear of God and the safety that comes from obeying eternal principles preferring to think and act on his own.



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Pause a while and listen for God's word to you:

- Which Proverb(s) speaks to you today?
- Which Proverbs seem to be amusing or confusing today?

Write down a proverb for today; words of wisdom that you would wish to pass on to future generations.

*God be in my head,  
and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes,  
and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
and in my thinking;  
God be at my end,  
and at my departing.  
Amen.*