

LIVING WISELY

PROVERBS 1-9

When God's Wisdom Calls

Proverbs 1:20-33

God's wisdom calls for all to hear (20-22).

- *God's wisdom goes out in search of us (20-21).*
- *God's wisdom calls out those in need (23).*

In verses 20-21, Solomon pictures wisdom crying out publicly in the streets, markets, and at the city gates. Wisdom is not hidden or reserved for a select few. God has made his wisdom known and continually calls people to hear it. The issue is not whether God is speaking; the issue is whether we will listen. God's wisdom goes out in search of us, entering into the ordinary places of life where we make decisions, form relationships, establish priorities, and determine how we will live. Verse 22 reminds us that the people who most need God's wisdom are often the least interested in receiving it. The **simple** lack discernment and are easily influenced by whatever voice is loudest. The **scoffer** resists correction and can even mock the truth that confronts him. The **fool** goes further and rejects knowledge altogether. These are not merely three kinds of people "out there." They can describe ways that any of us can respond when God's Word confronts us. There are times when we may be simple because we have failed to pursue wisdom, scoffing when we don't like correction, or foolish when we knowingly reject what God has revealed. God's wisdom calls all of us because all of us need God's wisdom.

1. Which response to God's wisdom are you most tempted toward—the simple, the scoffer, or the fool? Where are you most likely to say, "I don't know," "I don't want to hear that," or "I know better"? Be honest with the group.
2. Think about the last time someone used God's Word to correct you. What was your immediate internal response? Did you become defensive, dismiss it, become convicted, or receive it gratefully? What does that response reveal about your heart?
3. What is one area of your life where you know you need more of God's wisdom right now? What would it look like to intentionally seek God's wisdom in that area this week rather than relying on your own understanding?

God's wisdom calls us to repent (23).

- *God's wisdom calls us to turn away from our ways (23a).*
- *God's wisdom calls us to receive God's Spirit (23b).*
- *God's wisdom calls us to know God's Word (23c).*

Verse 23 moves from hearing God's wisdom to responding to it: "If you turn at my reproof." God's wisdom does not simply make us more knowledgeable; it exposes where our lives are out of alignment with God. When God's Word reveals our sin, corrects our priorities, or challenges our thinking, God calls us to turn. Repentance means more than feeling bad about being wrong. It means turning away from our way and submitting ourselves to God's way. God also promises to pour out his Spirit and make his words known. We do not repent and pursue holiness through our own ability. God gives his Spirit to work within his people, and he gives his Word to reveal the truth by which we are to live. The Christian life therefore involves an ongoing willingness to be corrected by God's Word, empowered by God's Spirit, and redirected toward God's purposes. The question is not simply, "What does the Bible say?" but, "What is God's Word calling me to turn from?"

1. Think about the difference between conviction and guilt. When God's Word expresses something in your life, what are some signs that you are responding with repentance rather than simply feeling guilty or becoming defensive?
2. Is there something God has been showing you repeatedly that you have not yet surrendered to him? What keeps you from turning? What would genuine repentance look like – not merely emotionally, but in your actual choices?

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3. What would it look like this week to depend on the Holy Spirit rather than simply trying harder to change yourself? Identify one specific situation where you need God's Spirit to help you respond differently.

Rejecting God's wisdom has consequences (24-32).

- *Those who hate God's wisdom have no hope in times of trouble (24-28).*
- *Those who do not fear the Lord shall eat the fruit of their way (29-31).*
- *Those who refuse God's counsel shall be destroyed (32).*

Solomon describes people who have heard God's wisdom but refuse to submit to it. They reject His correction, disregard His counsel, and choose their own way. Their problem is not that God has failed to make His wisdom known; their problem is that they have deliberately refused to listen. This rejection reveals a heart that does not fear the Lord and does not recognize His authority. Ultimately, rejecting God's wisdom is rejecting God Himself. In the fullest revelation of Scripture, God's wisdom is revealed in Christ, who is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). Therefore, the call to receive God's wisdom ultimately calls us to submit to Christ. Persistent rejection does not lead to greater freedom but to destruction.

1. Verse 24 says, "I have called and you refused to listen." What does this reveal about the heart of someone who rejects God's wisdom?
2. Why is rejecting God's wisdom more serious than simply lacking wisdom?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 18-25 and Colossians 2:1-3. How do these passages help us understand the connection between God's wisdom and Christ?
4. Where might you be tempted to trust your own wisdom rather than submit to Christ? What would surrender look like in that area?

Surrendering to God's wisdom brings security (33).

- *Those who listen to God's wisdom will dwell securely (33a).*
- *Those who surrender to God's wisdom can live without dread (33b).*

The contrast is clear: those who reject God's wisdom face destruction, while those who listen to Him find security. This does not mean Christians will never experience trouble. Rather, true security comes from trusting God instead of relying on our own wisdom. In the fullest revelation of Scripture, God's wisdom is ultimately revealed in Christ. To surrender to God's wisdom is to submit our lives to Christ and trust Him. Surrender means more than agreeing that God is right. It means allowing God's wisdom to have authority over our lives. It means choosing obedience when our desires point another direction, trusting God when we do not understand his plan, and allowing his Word to determine what is true rather than allowing our feelings or circumstances to determine truth. The promise of verse 33 is that those who listen to God can live with confidence—not because they control what happens tomorrow, but because they trust the God who does.

1. How can we tell the difference between saying, "I trust God," and actually living as though we trust God? What choices or behaviors reveal the difference?
2. When life becomes uncertain, where do you naturally look for security—control, money, relationships, success, knowledge, preparation, or something else? What does that reveal about Where are you placing your trust? Where should our trust be placed?
3. What is it about God's wisdom and Christ's work in our life that secures us? What is it about them that allows us to live without dread in this fallen world?