

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 1:1-7

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
- **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.
- **7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 1:1-7

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The other day I was trying to explain the idea of wisdom to my children. I said, "Wisdom is knowing what to do with the knowledge you have." Through experience, we learn, sometimes the hard way, how to make it through life. The thing is, we have centuries of people that have experienced life and have passed down their wisdom. Whether it's listening to Grandma while she cooks in the kitchen and tells you about her life, or reading the book of Genesis and seeing where foolishness began, we can all learn from the experiences and mistakes people have made in the past and use that knowledge to guide our steps in our own lives.





But where does wisdom begin? How can we really know that the advice we are receiving is worth taking in? Well, verse 7 of Proverbs 1 tells us: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." So, knowing where knowledge and wisdom come from, we can easily see how to avoid being foolish. Right? Look back to Genesis. Man had received instructions from God on how to live in the Garden of Eden and what he could eat in Genesis 2:15-17. It was his job to pass that information down to the woman when she was created. This was the first domino to fall. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." We now go to the beginning of chapter 3 where Satan sneaks in and begins to entice Eve. Either Adam did not do his job well in handling the word of truth, or Eve did not listen well. We quickly find ourselves at the end of chapter 3 kicked out of the Garden, as workers ashamed, because fools despised the wisdom and instruction they were given from God himself.

Since that day, men and women have been searching for wisdom and instruction. As of 2019, over 85,000 self-help books have been published. People are looking for an authoritative source on how to get their lives on track. Even more so in the post-COVID-19 world. The thing is, there is no more authoritative source than the Bible, yet we overlook it. There is no more authoritative source of wisdom than God, yet we seek our own way or help from other broken, fallen human beings. Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah was writing to the exiled Israelites, but his words are true for every human being descended from Adam. That would be all of us. When we stop seeking wisdom from the world and turn to our Lord and Creator who IS wisdom and knowledge, we will have all the help we need.

Questions:

- 1. How have you defined wisdom in the past?
- 2. When looking for wisdom, do you look for worldly advice through self-help books?
- 3. Look back on your life. In what ways have you despised wisdom and instruction?



PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

