

# Proverbs 1:5-7

“Let the wise listen to these proverbs  
and become even wiser.

Let those with understanding receive guidance  
by exploring the meaning of these proverbs and parables,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

Fear of the Lord\* is the foundation of true knowledge,  
but fools despise Wisdom and discipline.”

*\*This does not mean “be scared of God.” For better understanding, try replacing “Fear of the Lord” with “Taking my role seriously as a Christian...”*

# What is Wisdom?

The kind of Wisdom the Bible talks about can be a little tricky to understand. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind as we begin our quest for better understanding of Wisdom:

1. **Wisdom should *never* be confused with intelligence.** It is possible to have Wisdom without intelligence, and vice versa.
2. **A Proverb is a generalization...**
  - that is true when used properly;
  - that cannot be counted on as truth for every occasion;
  - that will often contradict other proverbs.
3. **The Bible tells us “Fear of God” is the foundation of Wisdom,** but “fear of God” sounds so scary and inhibitive to me! We must remember that “Fear of God” does *not* mean being scared of God. Our “Fear of God” means we take our Christian roles seriously - it means we make a concentrated effort to love God, and to love one another.