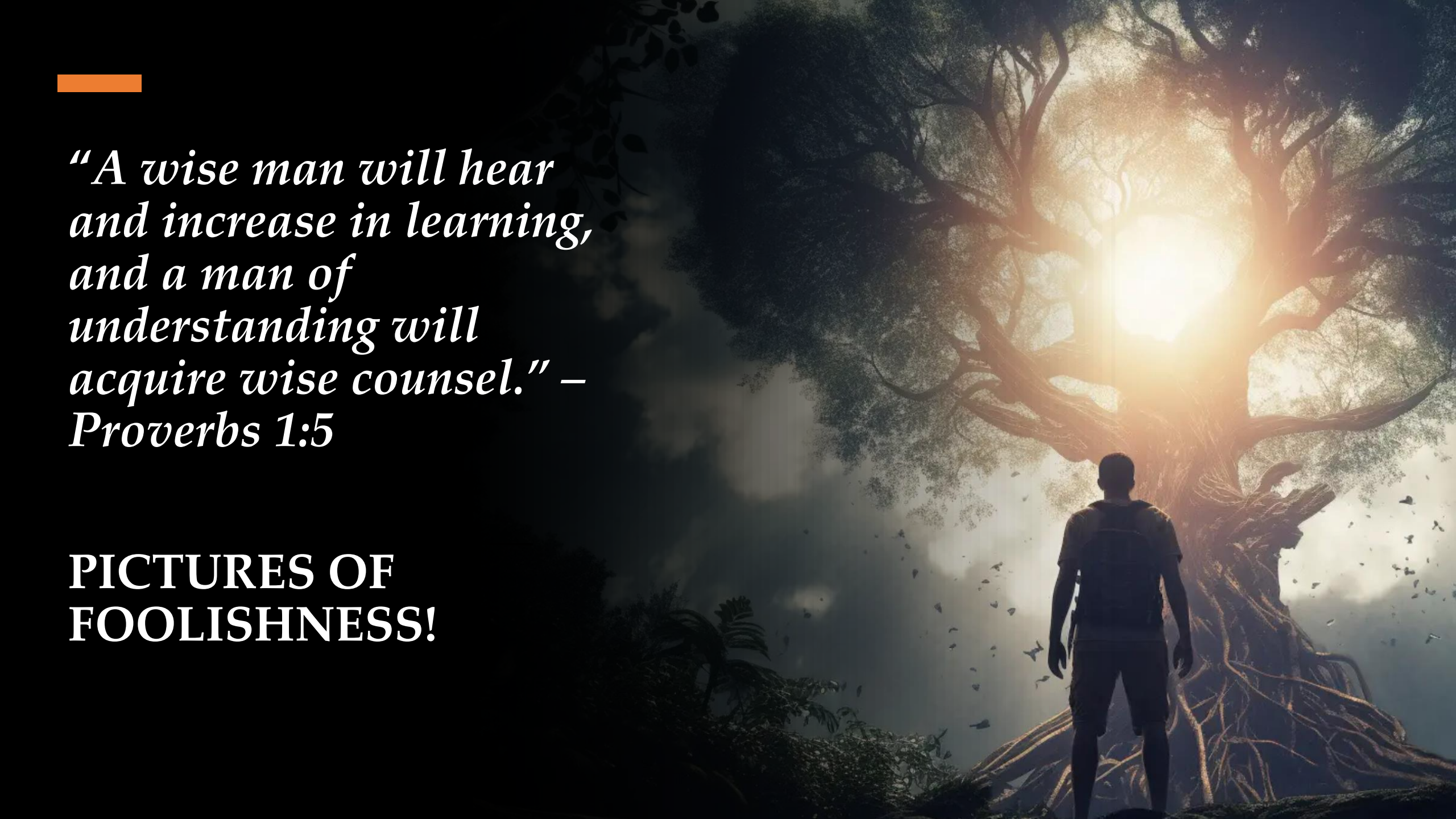


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen drifting through the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe, contemplation, and seeking enlightenment.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person stands in silhouette on a rocky outcrop, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. The tree's trunk is thick and gnarled, with roots spreading out. A brilliant, golden light emanates from behind the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect and illuminating the scene. The sky is dark and filled with soft, wispy clouds. Numerous small, dark silhouettes of birds are scattered throughout the air, some near the tree and others further away. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

*“A wise man will hear
and increase in learning,
and a man of
understanding will
acquire wise counsel.” –
Proverbs 1:5*

**HOW DO WE BECOME
WISE?**

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight streams through the dense canopy of leaves, creating a bright, ethereal glow. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with other foliage visible in the lower left corner. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

WISDOM

for the journey

We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

KNOWING WISDOM – HOW DO WE BECOME WISE: Understand the Paradox! – Proverbs 2:1-8.

1. **SOMETHING TO SEEK & A GIFT TO RECEIVE**
→ In Proverbs 2-4, we discover how wisdom develops and grows within us. Wisdom is something we should seek. We are to search for it like hidden treasure. And then, we discover wisdom is a gift from God. This theme runs throughout the Bible (Phil. 2:12, 13).
2. **ASSURANCE & INCENTIVE** → The paradox is wise. If up to us, we would labor under crushing anxiety and burn out. But if God only worked apart from us, we would lose initiative. The paradox gives us enough incentive and enough assurance to pursue the knowledge of God all our life long.

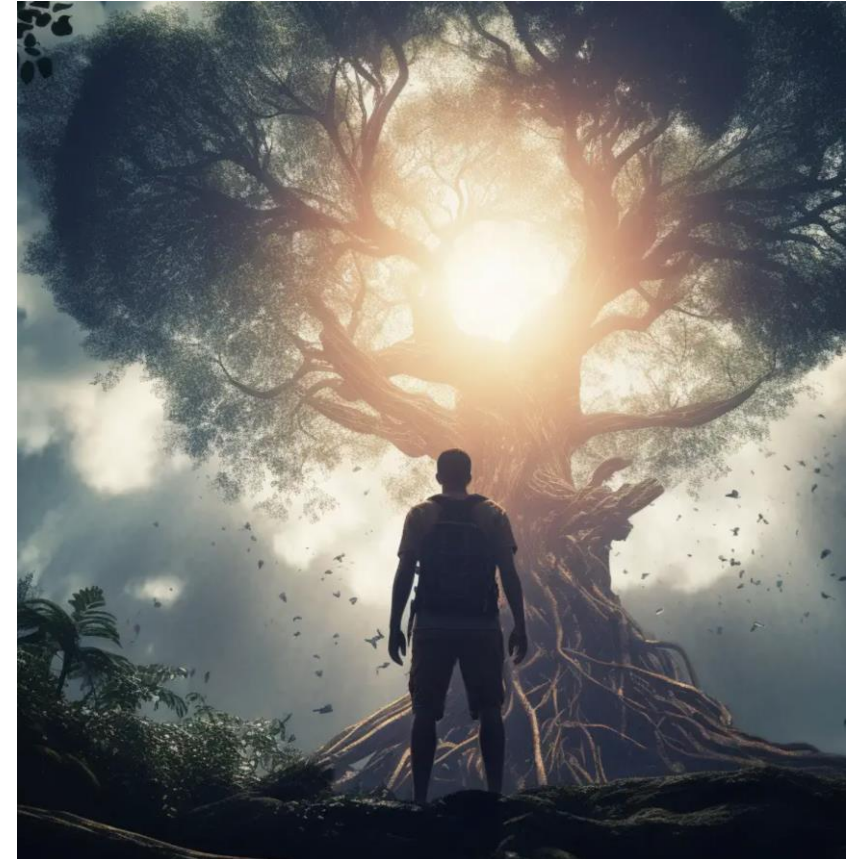
KNOWING WISDOM – HOW DO WE BECOME WISE: 10 Directives!

1. **Be Righteous!** – Proverbs 2:20-22 → Strong social aspect – love my neighbor.
2. **Don't Rely on Pedigree!** – Proverbs 1:10-15 → The Bible never assumes that family pedigree in any insurance against evil.
3. **Get Experience!** – Proverbs 1:20, 21 → Wisdom is developed only in experience.
4. **Don't Delay!** – Proverbs 1:28, 29 → Be ready to do what is necessary to get wisdom.
5. **Identify Your Idols!** – Proverbs 3:5 → Trust in the Lord and give up your false gods.



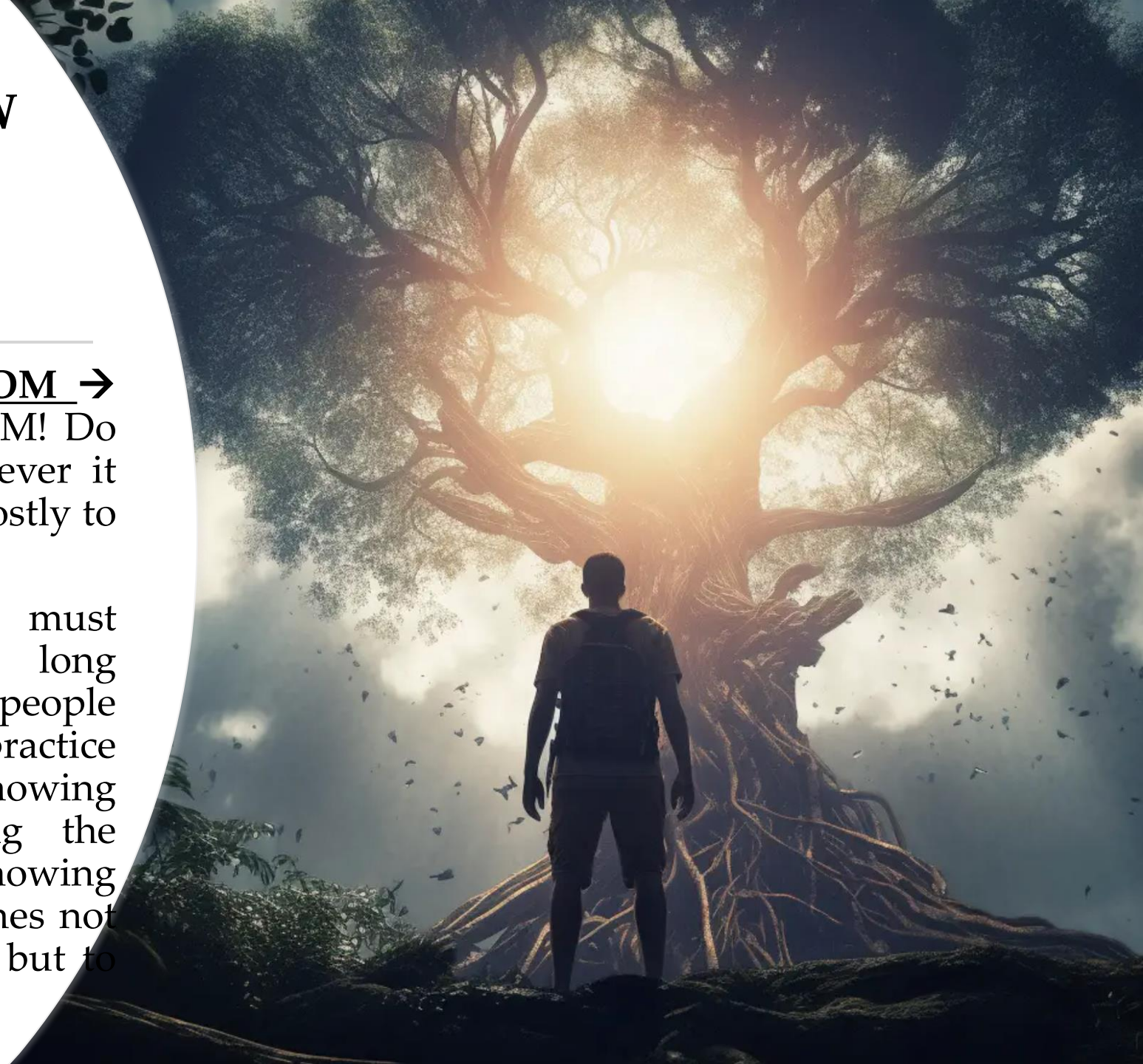
KNOWING WISDOM – HOW DO WE BECOME WISE: 10 Guidelines!

6. **Submit to His Word!** – Proverbs 3:5-6 → Proverbs calls us to trust God's Word, not our reason and intuition.
7. **Be Teachable!** – Proverbs 3:7,8 → Be willing to take advice—to receive feedback. Wise men create a company of counselors.
8. **Be Generous!** – Proverbs 3:9,10 → We are to give deliberately and sacrificially.
9. **Learn from Adversity!** – Proverbs 3:11, 12 → Be ready for suffering, it's inevitable.
10. **Do Justice!** – Proverbs 3:27, 28 → Share with your neighbor. To not do, is injustice.



KNOWING WISDOM – HOW DO WE BECOME WISE: Just Get It! – Proverbs 4:3-9.

1. NEVER STOP PURSUING WISDOM → Do whatever it takes to get WISDOM! Do absolutely anything to get it, whatever it costs you. Why? Because it is more costly to not have it.
2. PRACTICE WISDOM → You must practice the Guidelines through long experience within a community of people seeking the same wisdom. As you practice these Guidelines, they will lead to knowing God, knowing yourself, knowing the human heart and its ways, and knowing the times and seasons. Wisdom comes not to the most fortunate or intelligent but to those most determined to find it.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. Are you pursuing wisdom? Are you being patient with God to give you the wisdom you need?
2. What 3 things would you tell a young man to do to find wisdom?
3. What makes you give up?