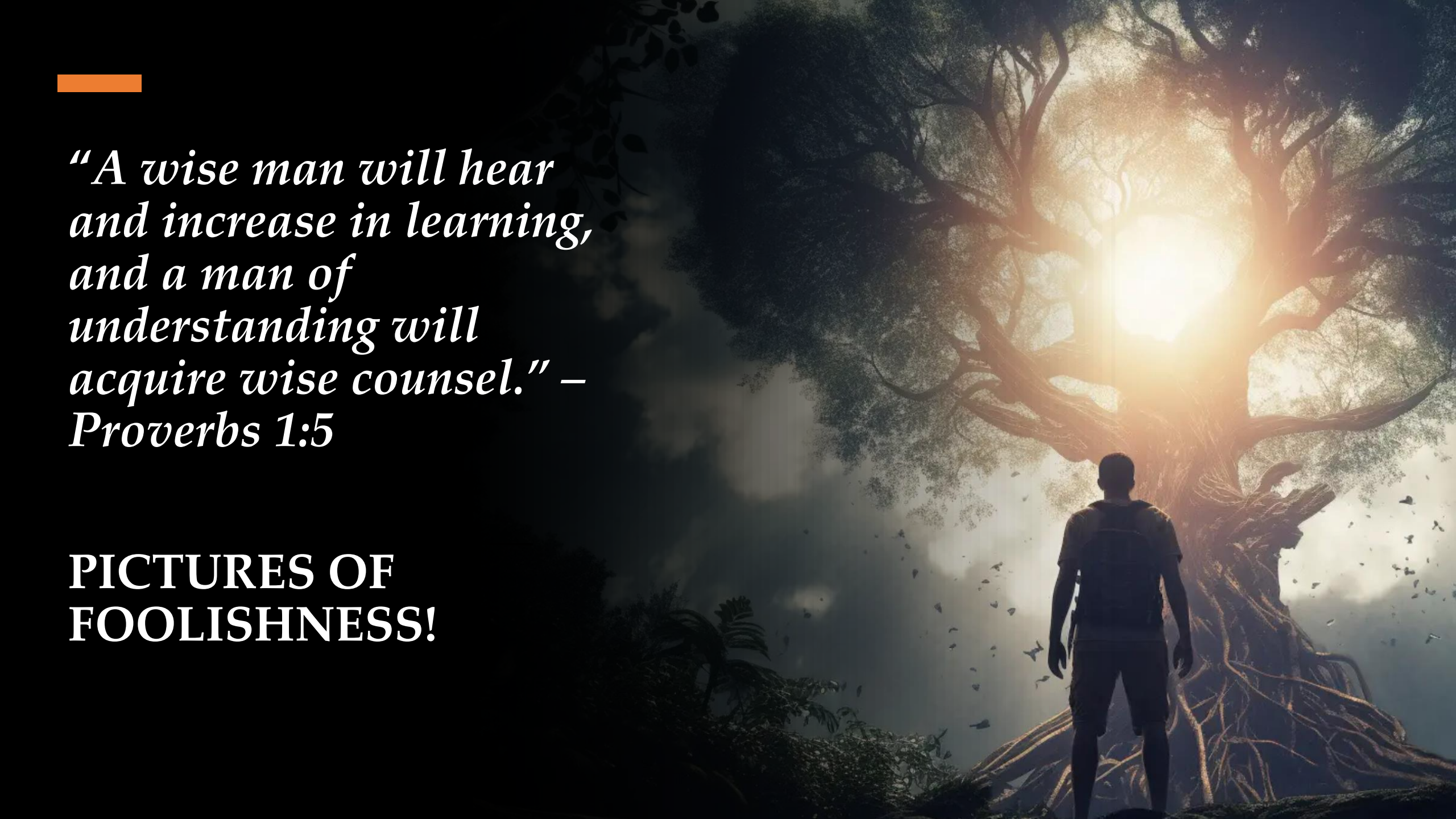


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen 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. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky with many small birds in flight. 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*

**PICTURES OF
FOOLISHNESS!**

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.

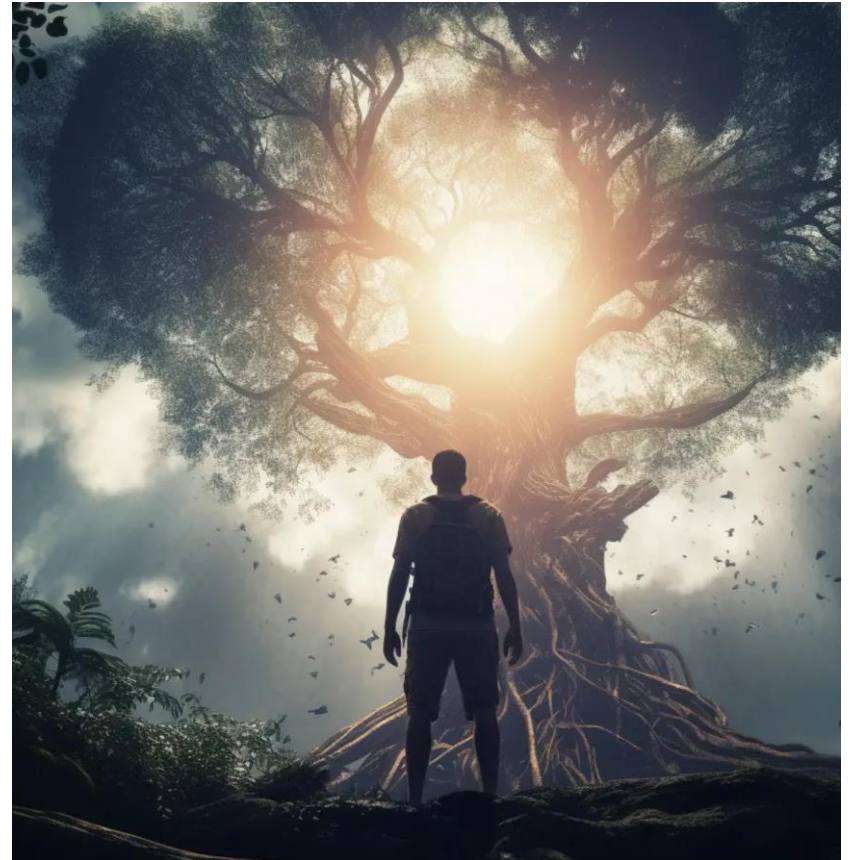
In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

KNOWING WISDOM – THE FOOL – THE OPPOSITE OF THE WISE MAN!

1. **FOOLISHNESS** → Fools are men so habitually out of touch with reality that they make life miserable for themselves and all around them. Fools mistreat their bodies. Fools treat others with disrespect. Fools are selfish and seek their own way. Foolishness is the denial of reality.
2. **ULTIMATE FOOLISHNESS** → Make anything the center of your life besides God. Jesus describes the “foolish man” whose home is built on sand instead of on the solid rock of Christ’s word and wisdom (Matthew 7:24-26). Fools fail to honor boundaries that are embedded in reality—physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual. Wise men live in reality.

KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

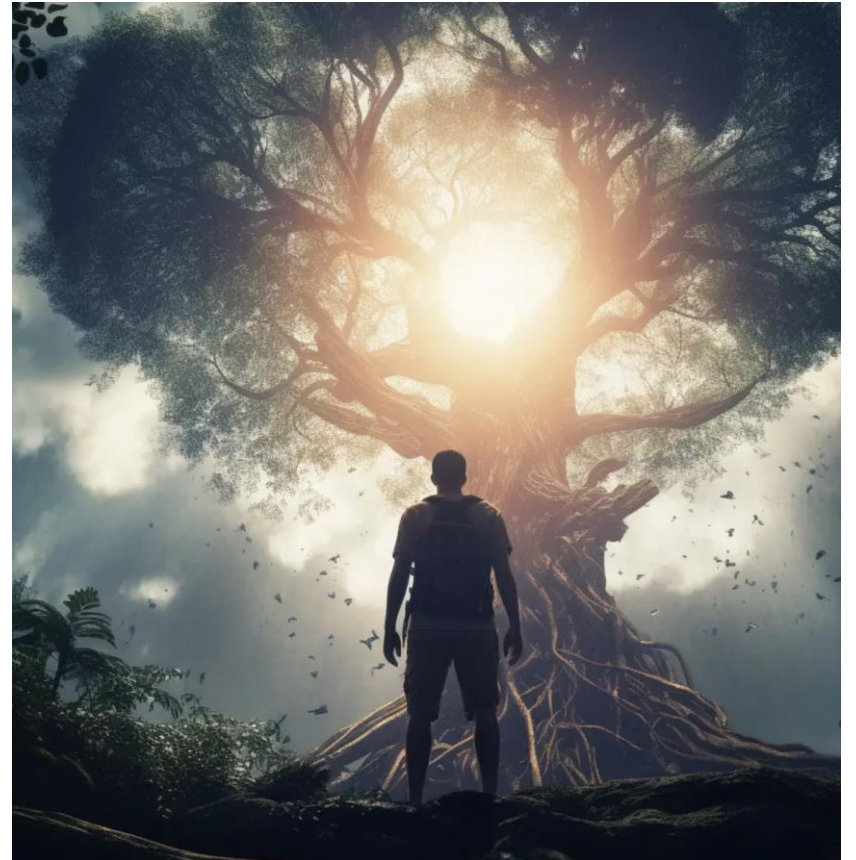
1. **THE TROUBLEMAKER (Proverbs 6:12-19)→**
The mark of this person is constant conflict. He is the opposite of the peacemaker (Matthew 5:9), the bridge builder whose careful, gracious answers (Proverbs 15:1) disarm and defuse tensions. This is someone who always feels the need to protest and complain rather than overlooking a slight or wrong (Prov. 19:11). They can be permanently discredited by events that expose them for what they are. But the ultimate reason for their downfall is that the Lord hates ... a person who stirs up conflict in the community” (6:16, 19). Do you have the traits of a troublemaker, one how creates conflict? Do you know any troublemakers you should confront?



KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

2. THE SLUGGARD (Proverbs 6:6-11) →

This fool makes constant excuses for apparently small lapses (a little ... a little ... a little) but then is surprised when he is assaulted by poverty (verses 10-11). He deceives himself by the smallness of his surrenders. So, by inches and minutes, his opportunity slips away. Is there any area of your life that is “slipping away” because you are not getting to work on it?” We need wisdom to strike the balance between hard work to succeed and the wrong and destructive behavior to be lazy.



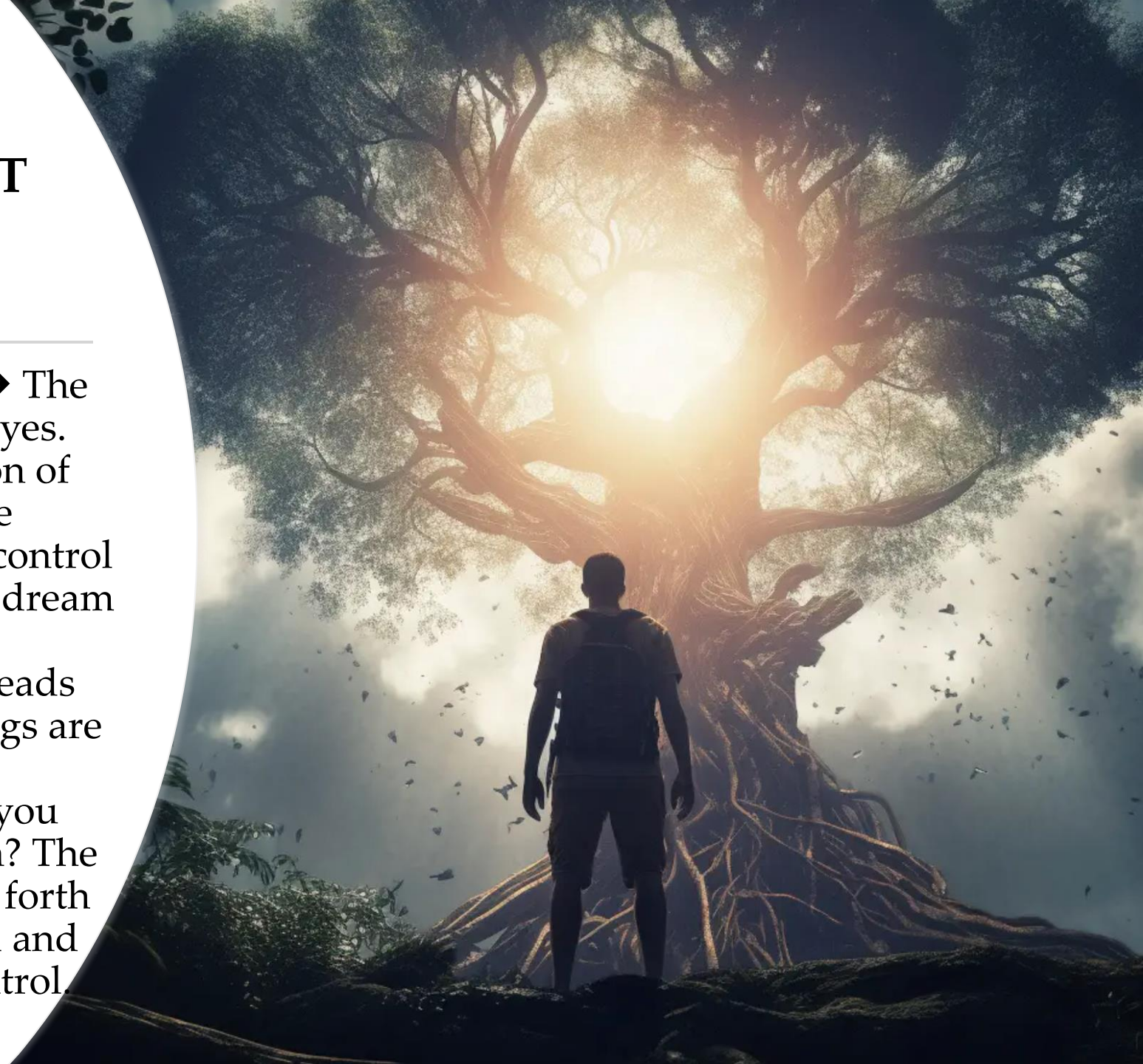
KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

3. ABSURDITY (Proverbs 1:25-26) → When disaster strikes the foolish, Wisdom *laughs*. Is this cruel? NO! Wisdom here is representative figure, and the laughter is not cold-heartedness but a way to convey “the absurdity of choosing folly.” Life without God will bring futility, because the things of the world cannot fulfill the deepest heart longings (Proverbs 10:28). Are you experiencing frustration and futility, even a sense of meaninglessness? If there something in this world that has failed to satisfy? God assures us that our life’s story will contain beauty and absurdity and will end in eternity. We need God’s assurance to be renewed in us daily.



KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

4. COMPLACENCY (Proverbs 1:32-33) → The mark of the fool is to be wise in his own eyes. This leads to the deadly spiritual condition of smug complacency. There is nothing more foolish than to think you have life under control when it is not controllable. Fools live in a dream of self-sufficiency. They think they have everything sorted, and the complacency leads to disaster. The opposite is anxiety. If things are going pretty well for you, are you getting complacent? If things are going well, are you getting anxious? How can you avoid both? The wise man is able to avoid going back and forth between having everything under control and feeling panic that everything is out of control.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. When can you remember yourself or someone else complaining and blaming, rather than face the problem to resolve it?
2. What area or your life needs attention—that you need to face—that needs to be addressed, but you refuse?
3. What frustration is haunting you NOW?