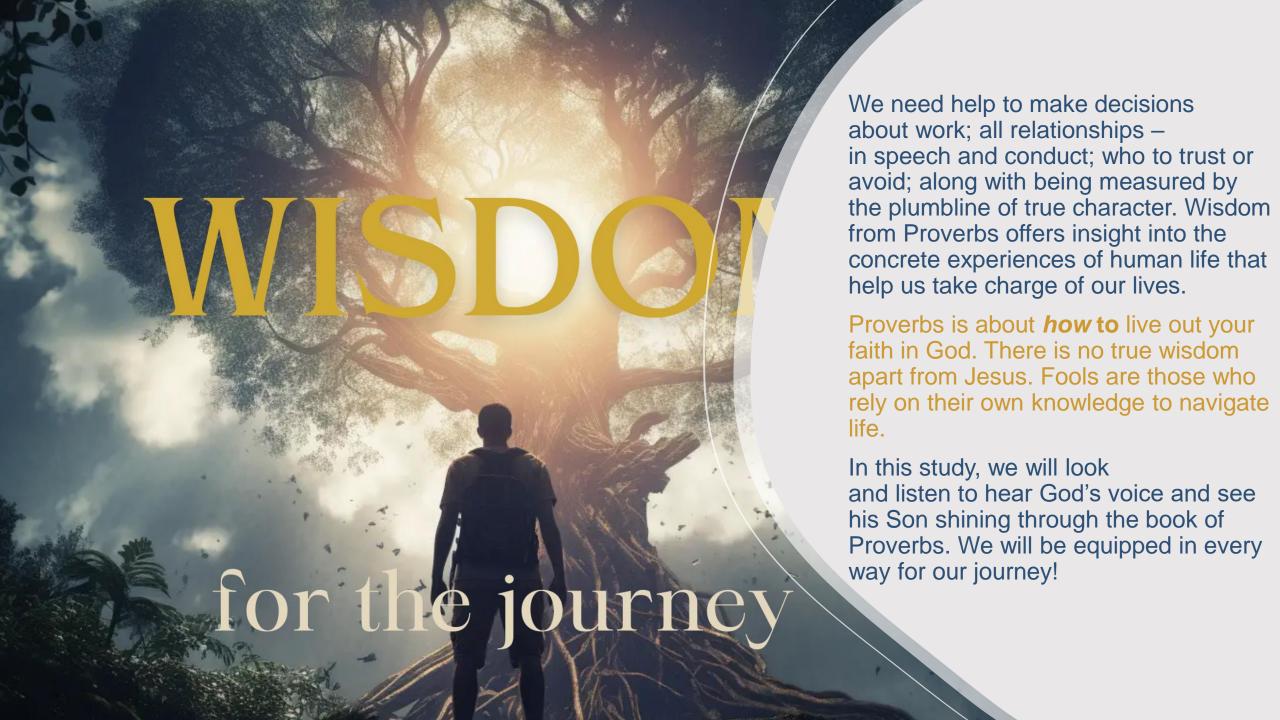


"A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel." – Proverbs 1:5

THE SECURITY OF GOD'S ORDER





THE SECURITY OF GOD'S ORDER

- 1. ORDER ESTABLISHED Proverbs 3:19-20 → There is an established order to things—physically, socially, morally, and spiritually—that is built into the fabric of creation. For example, we can't treat our body any way we want without consequences. If we try to center our lives on anything but God, it leads to fragile identity and psychological disorder. It is the essence of wisdom to honor and respect God's established order and to align our life with it.
- 2. NATURAL CONSEQUENCES Proverbs 3:1-2, 16:5, 21:7 → Because of creation, there is a principle of "natural consequence" embedded in the world. Right living will be rewarded (3:1,2) and evil will not go unpunished (16:5). There is a natural boomerang effect to cruel behavior (21:7). Sins—chaos—"find you out" (Gal. 6:7, 8). Behaviors that violate God's word also violate the created design, and thus harms us as we do them. Wise living honors our design and leads to thriving.

THE SECURITY OF GOD'S ORDER – BLESSED BY WISDOM.

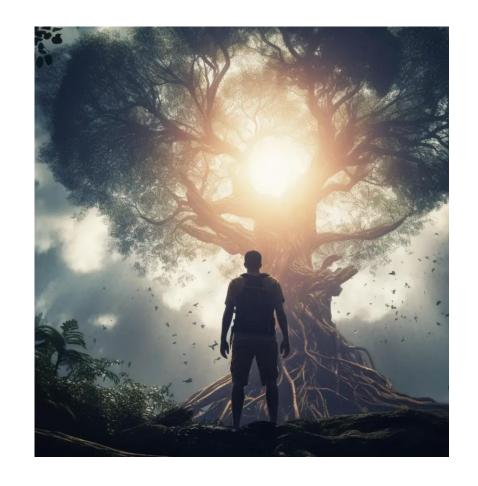
- 1. <u>BLESSED Proverbs 16:20</u> → The Hebrew word means far more than mere happiness. It means multidimensional flourishing. In Genesis 3, we discover that sin put us in a condition where we are in contradiction with God, our true selves, other human beings, and even nature itself.
- 2. TO BE BLESSED → We enter into partial but substantial healing in each of the areas that sin affects us. God's salvation repairs our hearts and our behavior. Salvation is not merely forgiveness and admission to heaven. It means life *is* healed, slowly but surely, in all its dimensions. Where have you seen God bring blessedness to your life?



THE SECURITY OF GOD'S ORDER – TREE OF LIFE.

1. ORDER RESTORED – Proverbs $3:13-18 \rightarrow$

Wisdom is depicted as a tree of life. In Genesis 3:14-19 God foretold the disruption of the created order—under sin, work and life will be filled with pain and futility. Romans 8:19-20 says that the broken, "frustrated" creation will be finally put right only when Christ returns to glorify and perfects his own. We are promised that when we walk in accordance with God's Word and wisdom we begin to get a foretaste of the Tree of Life—the fullness of life that will be restored to us on the last day.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

- 1.What part of your life is chaotic? Where do you need order to be reestablished?
- 2.When have you experienced the natural consequence of your foolish decision?
- 3.How are you blessed by God and His wisdom?