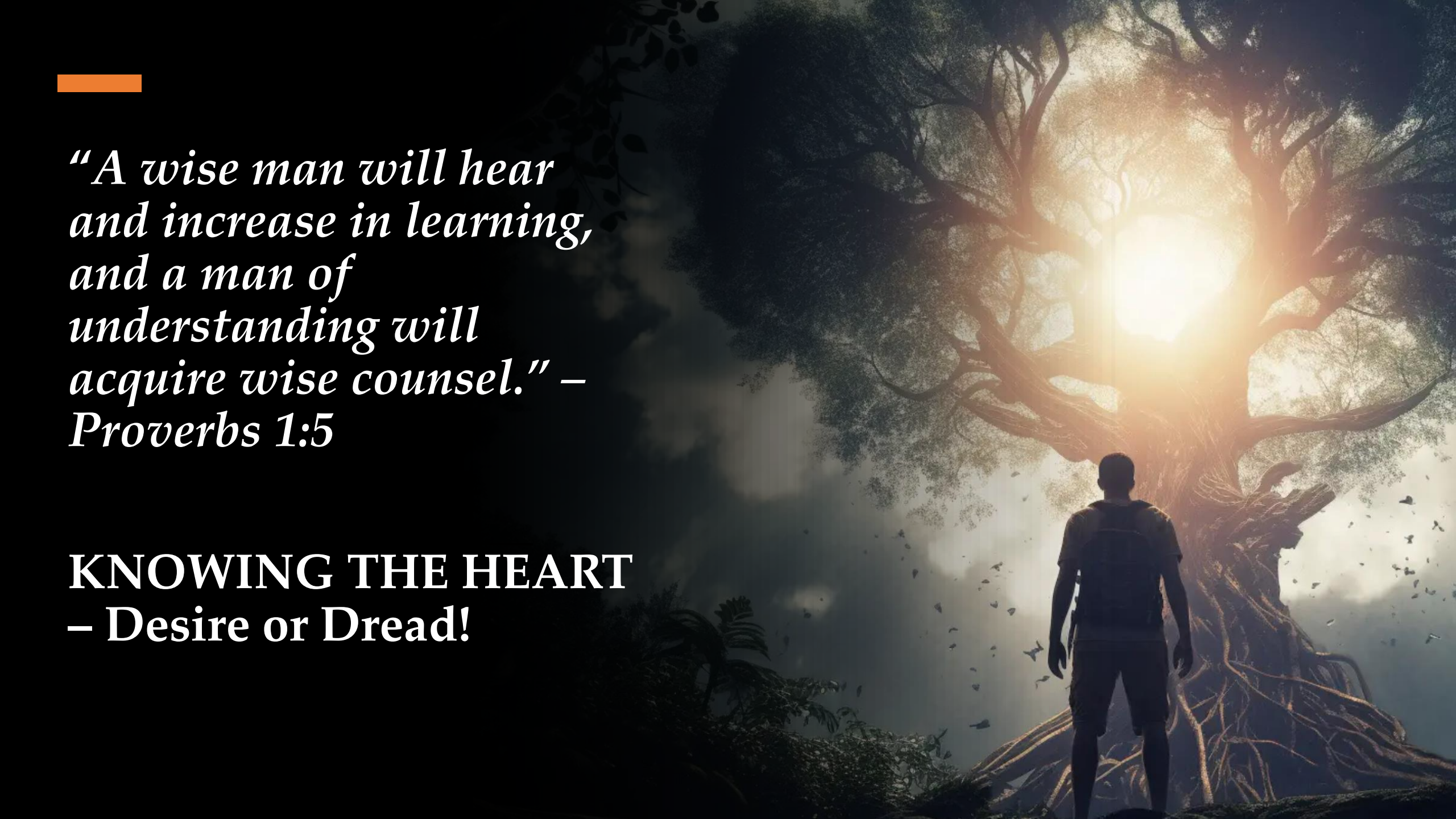


A person stands in silhouette, facing a massive, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots and a dense canopy. The scene is set against a bright, hazy sky with scattered clouds and falling leaves. The word "WISDOM" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the upper portion of the image, centered over the tree's canopy.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person is silhouetted against a large, ancient tree. The sun is shining brightly through the branches of the tree, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set in a dark, misty environment with some foliage visible in the foreground.

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

**KNOWING THE HEART  
– Desire or Dread!**

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is set in a lush, tropical environment with other trees and foliage visible in the background. 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.

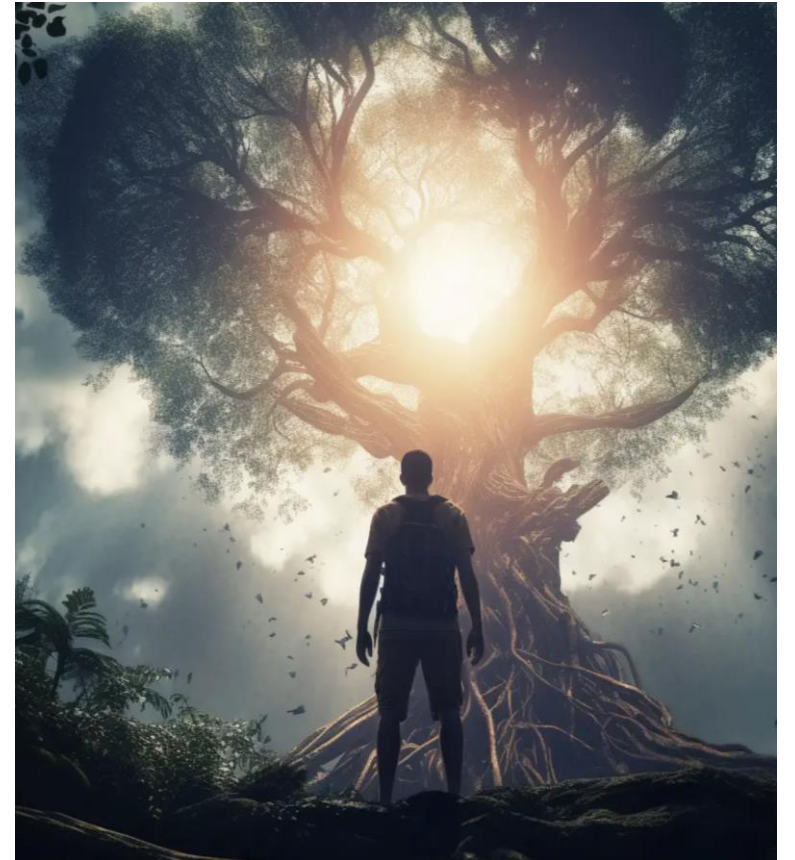
Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

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!

# TRAPPED BY DESIRE - Proverbs 10:24; 11:6; 19:2.

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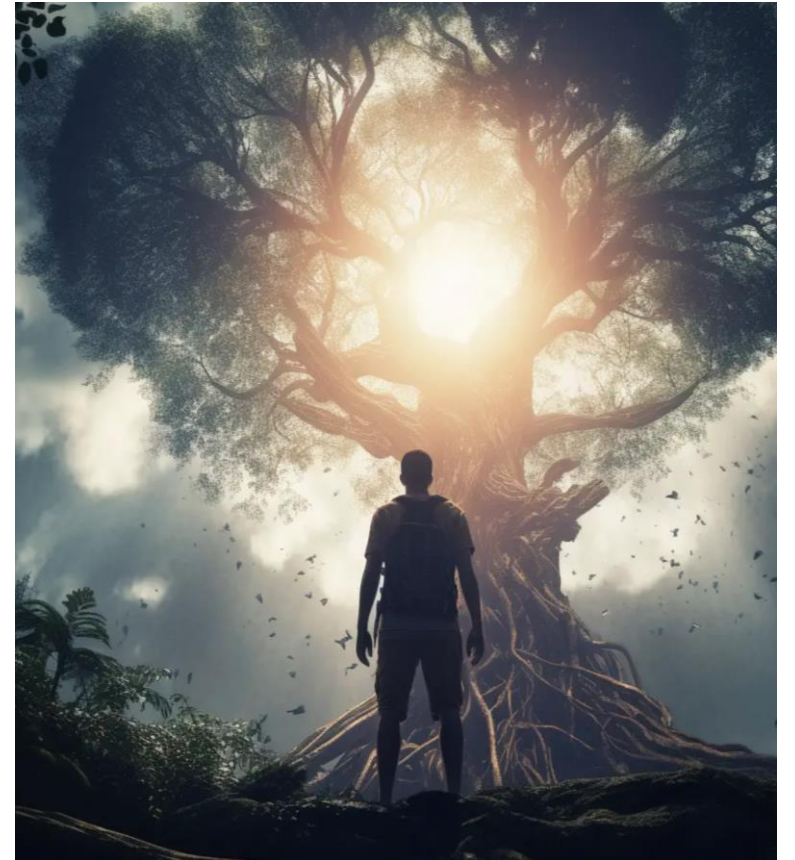
1. **TRUST & LOVE – Proverbs 10:24** → The “heart” is not mere feeling but rather the seat of our deepest trusts and loves. Today, our culture invites us to identify our strongest feelings as the “true self” and insists we express them.
2. **FOOLED BY DESIRE – Proverbs 11:6** → Wisdom recognizes that our desires can trap us. The can also be influenced from outside. For example, wounds from our Fathers, can train us to so desire approval and love that we seek out unhealthy relationships or become workaholics.
3. **BOUNDARIED BY TRUTH –Proverbs 19:2** → Wise men do not simply accept their desires as they are, nor with hasty feet run to fulfill them. Rather, as Augustine counseled, they reorder their desires with the knowledge of the truth. Only if we cultivate our relationship with God and grow the desire for him will our other desires not entrap us.



# ORDERING DESIRE – Proverbs 13:19; 23:17-18.

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1. **FEED YOUR HEART – Proverbs 13:19** → Your heart has an appetite. We are drawn to good things that are satisfying, but nothing besides God himself should be a nonnegotiable necessity for life. Every other enjoyment comes with the danger that we make it such. “To set your heart on any good thing is to weaken the power to assess it. It must be had, at all costs, not now because of its worth but because you have promised it to yourself.
2. **SET YOUR HEART ON GOD -- Proverbs 23:17-18** → How can we desire God above all other things? We need BOTH our actions and our thinking to be anchored in God. Use the mind to think--what are the only things that finally last? (*There is a future hope.*) Set the heart on God in prayer and worship until you don't just believe but experience awe and wonder (*be zealous ... fear*) before him. And set the will on obedience. Don't envy (*or imitate*) sinners.





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## **ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!**

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1. What are your greatest desires — what do you want?
2. What loves or desires do you have that rob you of the life that God designed for you — that push God out of the top spot?
3. What do you do to deepen your relationship with God? Do you long for things more than you long for God?