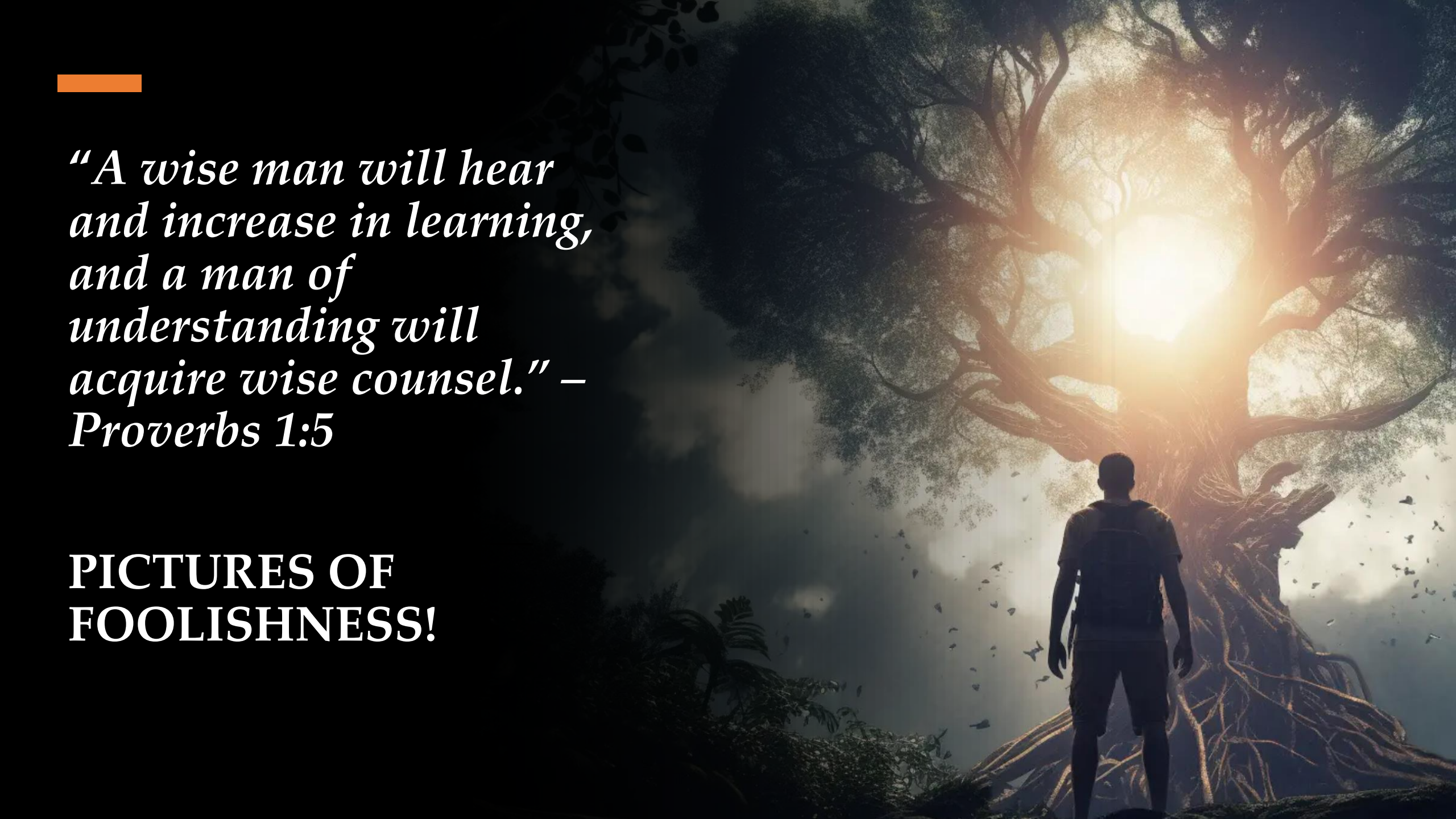


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen 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 the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The sky is dark and filled with soft, wispy clouds. Numerous small, dark silhouettes of birds are scattered throughout the scene, some in flight near the tree and others in the distance. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

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

**KNOWING THE HEART
– THE POWER OF
WORDS!**

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.

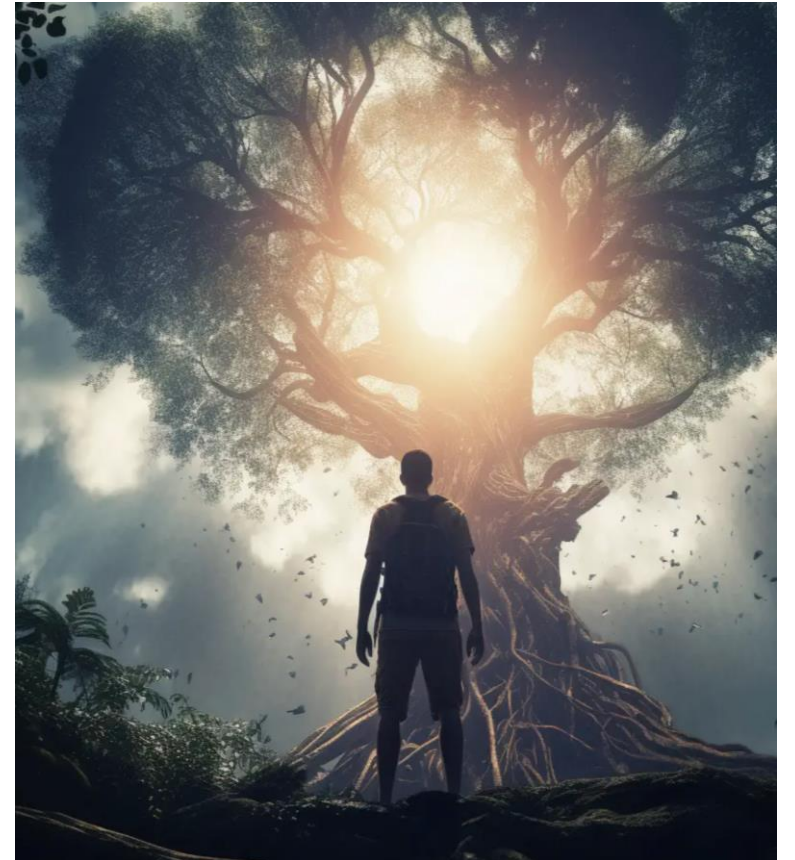
Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

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 THE HEART – THE POWER OF WORDS!

- PAST: What words have been spoken to you that have most influenced your life, positive or negative?

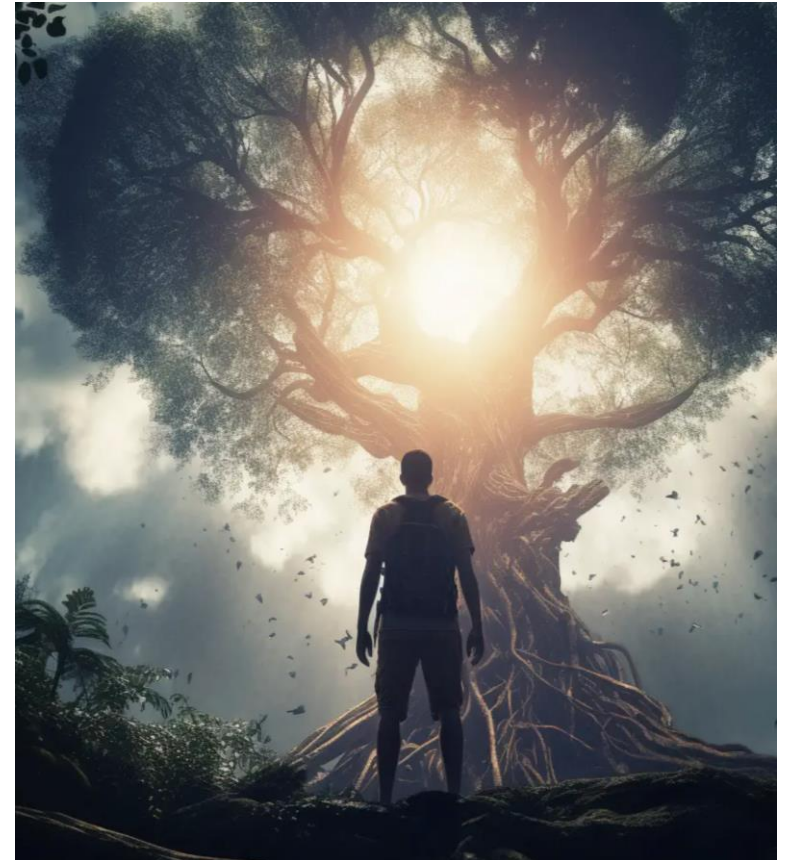
1. **WORDS BRING LIFE & DEATH** - Proverbs 12:14, 18; 15:4; 18:21 → You are not wise unless you fully grasp the power of *words*. Words *pierce like swords*—they get into your heart and soul. Sticks and stones can only break our bones, but words can be soul destroying.
2. **WORDS DIVIDE** – Proverbs 16:28 → Friendships are all about words. But malicious and hurtful, dishonest and deceptive, and even just clumsy and inappropriate words can deliver a blow to a friendship from which the relationship may never recover. Two kinds of relationship-destroying speech are mentioned: those who “stirs up conflict” and gossips.
3. **WORDS FILL US** – Proverbs 12:13, 14 → Good words fill us inwardly with good things. Words embody and strengthen thoughts. What you say fills your heart. Managing our speech is a way to get our whole self under control (James 3:2).



KNOWING THE HEART – THE POWER OF WORDS!

- PRESENT: Who helps you to hear words of life?

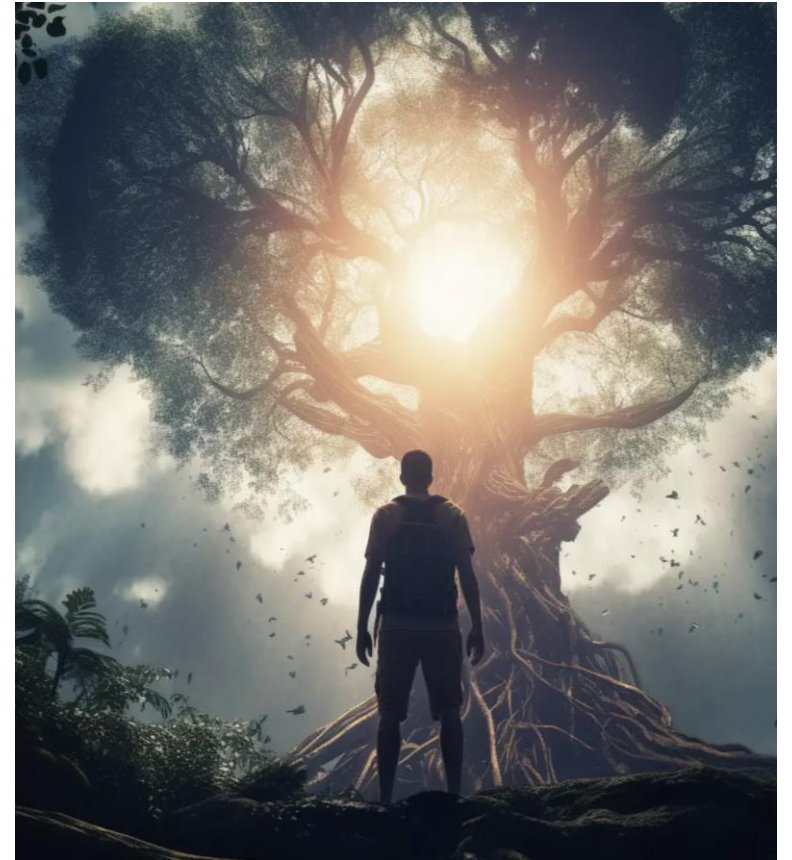
4. **WORDS EXPOSE** – Proverbs 13:3 → Impulsive, imprudent talk refers to how our words can reveal the deepest recesses of the heart. So while foolish speech can harm us inwardly it can also harm us outwardly, exposing us to the world. According to Jesus, all words—good and bad—are indicators of our heart (Matthew 12:34; James 1:26).
5. **WORDS INTERPRET** – Proverbs 18:8 → Words have the power to define reality. Words do not just report facts—they explain their meaning, and that determines how the listeners see the world and live in it. Words create and sustain prejudices, biases, fears, and anxieties that are virtually impossible to uproot. Jeremiah sets a better model (Jeremiah 15:16).
6. **WORDS INFLATE** – Proverbs 29:5 → Our words should be kind and affirming, but here we are warned about *flattery*. It is a word that means to compliment someone not to simply praise something good for its own sake or to build the person up in love, but in order to gain some advantage for yourself (Jude 1:16).



KNOWING THE HEART – THE POWER OF WORDS!

- FUTURE: What words are most influencing you as you look ahead?

7. **WORDS REVEAL TRUTH** – Proverbs 12:17; 24:26 → The most critical mark of good words is *truth*. Jesus insisted that his disciples speak every word as truthfully as if they were under oath and had just sworn on a stack of Bibles (Matthew 5:33-37).
8. **WORDS OFFER KINDNESS & GENTLENESS** – Proverbs 12:25; 15:1 → The word translated as *kind* means “personal and kind, pleasant and sweet, timely and thoughtful.” Because our words must be life-giving, we must never use truth as a weapon. Our speech’s motive is to be gentle. To be gentle does not mean agreeing, but it does mean being respectful and friendly.
9. **WORDS HEAL** – Proverbs 16:23, 24 → Honeycomb is a positive metaphor. Kind speech can heal anxiety (12:25); gentle speech can extinguish anger and resentment (15:1); forthright words can heal ignorance and self-deception (19:25, 27:5). We are to use wise words: honest, non-deceptive, kind, gentle, apt, timely, unprejudiced, calm, forthright, and few—then you will be in a position to help any listener.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. **PAST:** What words have been spoken to you that have most influenced your life, positive or negative?
2. **PRESENT:** Who helps you to hear words of life?
3. **FUTURE:** What words are most influencing you as you look ahead?