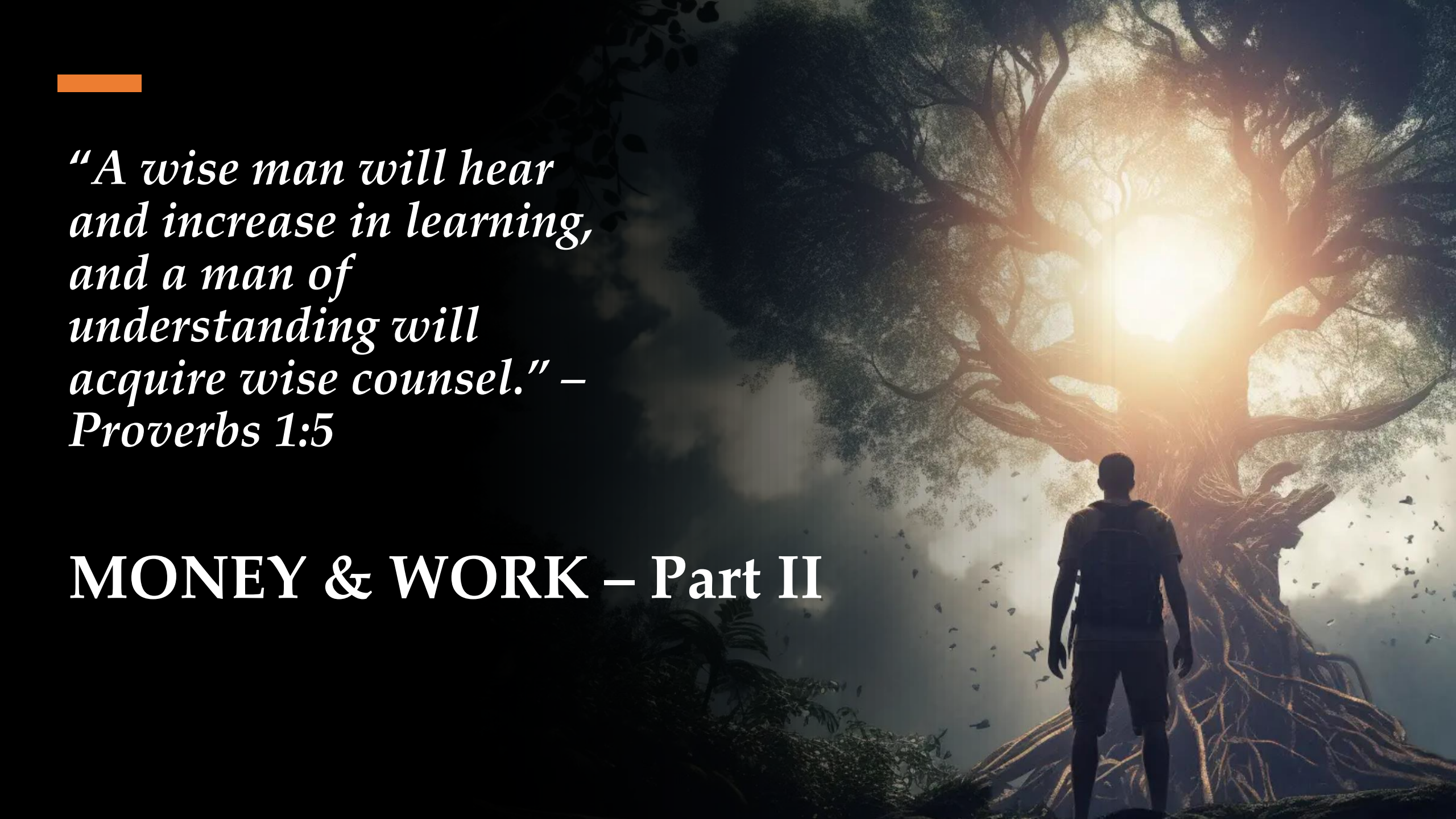


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen 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 bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned directly behind the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect and illuminating the scene. The sky is dark with some clouds, and many small birds are seen flying around the tree. 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*

**MONEY & WORK**



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.

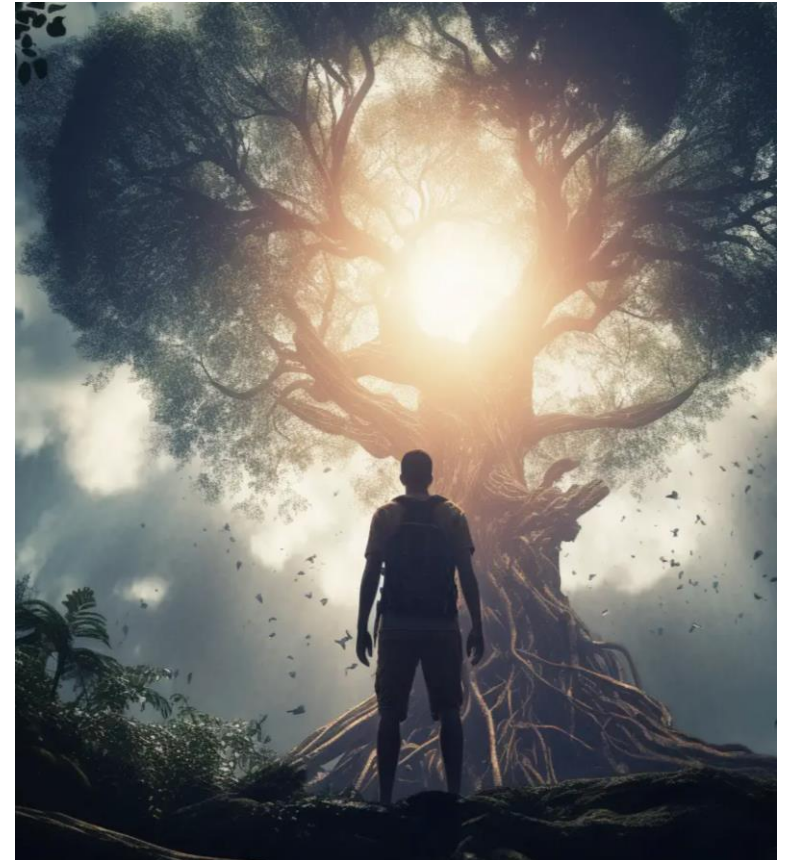
Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

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 SPHERES – MONEY & WORK

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1. **WEALTH IS GOOD** - Proverbs 8:17-19, 10:22, 10:15→ Wisdom's self-control and self-knowledge, it's ability to plan and to take advice, all tend to bring about greater prosperity. The wise person does not do painful overwork but simply works hard and lets the blessing of the Lord determine how wealthy the work makes them. Wealth is a great good as long as it does not become your summum bonum—your greatest good. Half of the times the Hebrew word for wealth is used in Proverbs, we are told to prize it. Strikingly, the other half of the times the word is used, we are told not to trust it (12:27, 13:7, 19:14, 29:3, 19:4). Wealth can be BOTH – ruinous to those with abundance and ruinous to those who lack money.

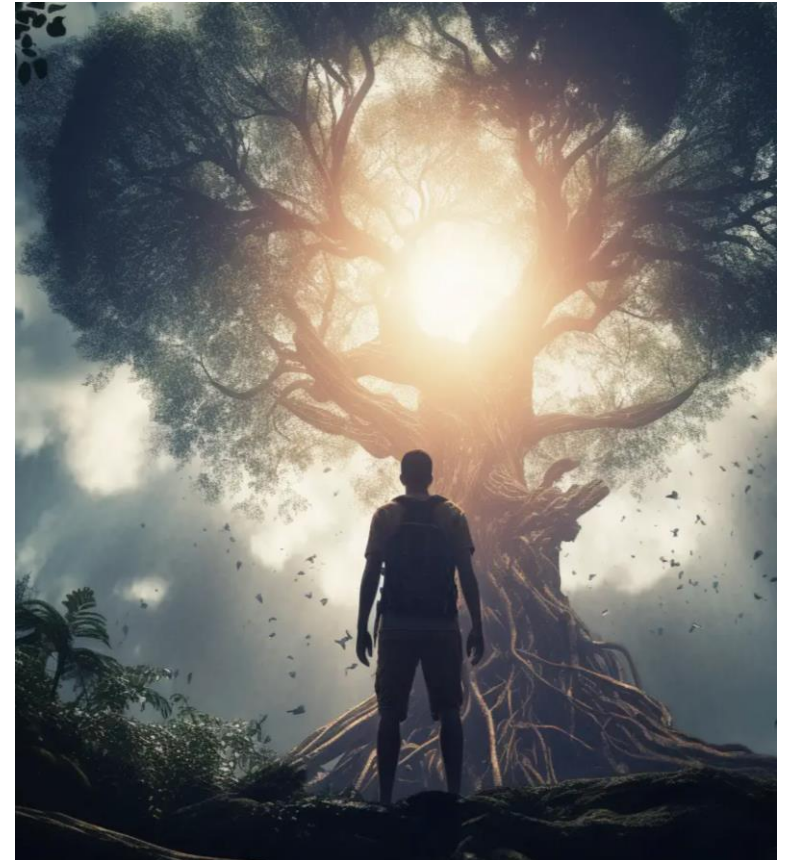




# KNOWING THE SPHERES – MONEY & WORK

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2. **DANGER OF EASY MONEY** – Proverbs 13:11, 21:20, 11:1, 20:10, 17 → Money that comes suddenly rather than gradually can prevent character and habits necessary for life—diligence, vigilance, and skillfulness. Money has the power to corrupt your integrity. You might be a person of honesty and character, but in the presence of a lot of money, it is remarkable how many people will make compromises. Money has never had so many ways to tempt you. Don't be naïve about its power.

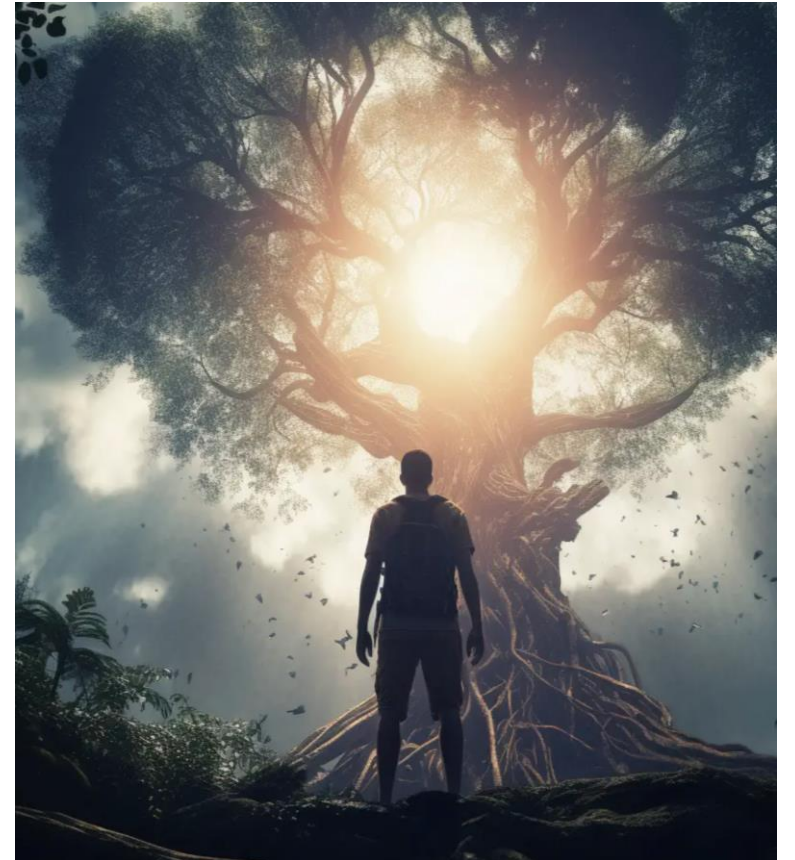


# KNOWING THE SPHERES – MONEY & WORK

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## 3. MONEY CAN MAKE YOU CRAZY – Proverbs

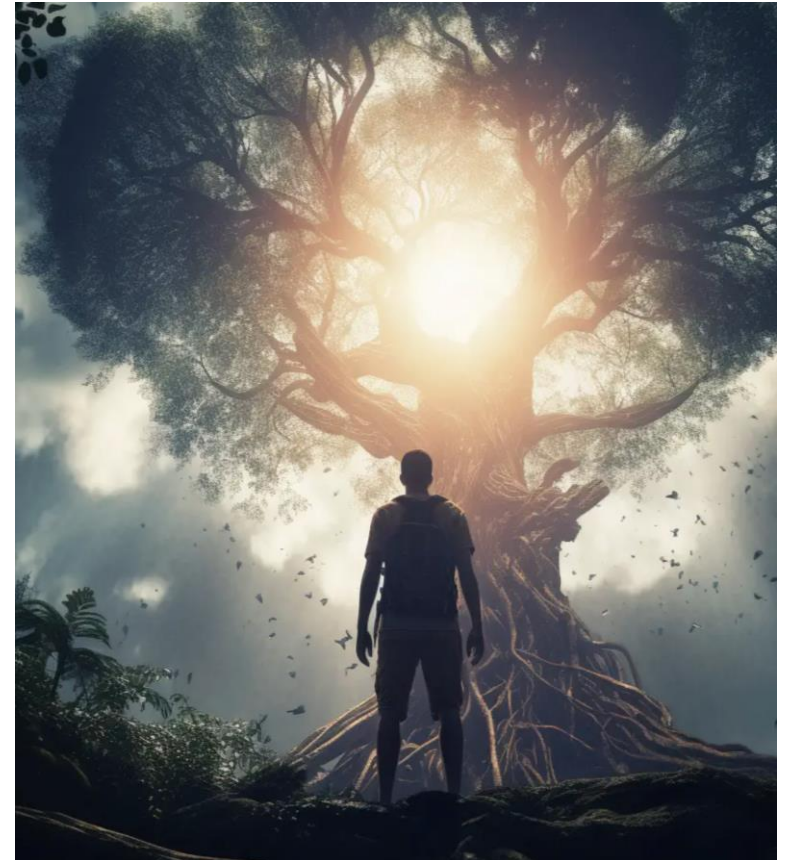
11:26, 20:14, 28:8, 11:4, 28:11, 30:9) If all we own belongs to God and is given to us only as stewards (I Chronicles 29:14), there is always another “bottom line” in our financial dealings: the good of others, the good of the community. Money can make you dishonest, but more often it makes you ruthless. Money has the power to make you think that ruthlessness is just normal. Wealth has the power to absorb your time, energy, and imagination so you have too little left to pay attention to more important things. Wealth blinds you to Judgment Day questions. Instead of acknowledging the enormous number of factors outside your control that brought the money to you, even with all your work, you attribute it all to your cleverness and discipline. Thus you become *wise in your own eyes*, the essence of foolishness (28:11). The ultimate danger of wealth is it leads us to say, “*Who is the Lord?*” – “*Why do I need God?*”



# KNOWING THE SPHERES – MONEY & WORK

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1. **HARD WORK** – Proverbs.12:24, 14:23, 16:23) → What are the factors that, in general, bring greater prosperity? The first is simple *diligence and hard work*. At one level, hard work is inspired by simple hunger, the need for the basics of physical survival (16:26). The deeper background behind work in Proverbs is the book of Genesis, where we see God with his hands in the dirt (Gen. 2:7, 15, 19).
2. **INTEGRITY IN WORK** – Proverbs 12:11, 28:19 → The second factor that can bring prosperity is work that is not just diligent but done with integrity. Anyone who complies with ethical guidelines only out of self-interest will almost certainly fail morally. We must root out the motives of fear, pride, and self-pity that can make us dishonest.







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## ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

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1. Where in your life have you seen what happens when hard work is trusted more than the Lord for wealth?
2. Where have you seen the power of money make others dishonest?
3. Where did you learn your work ethic?