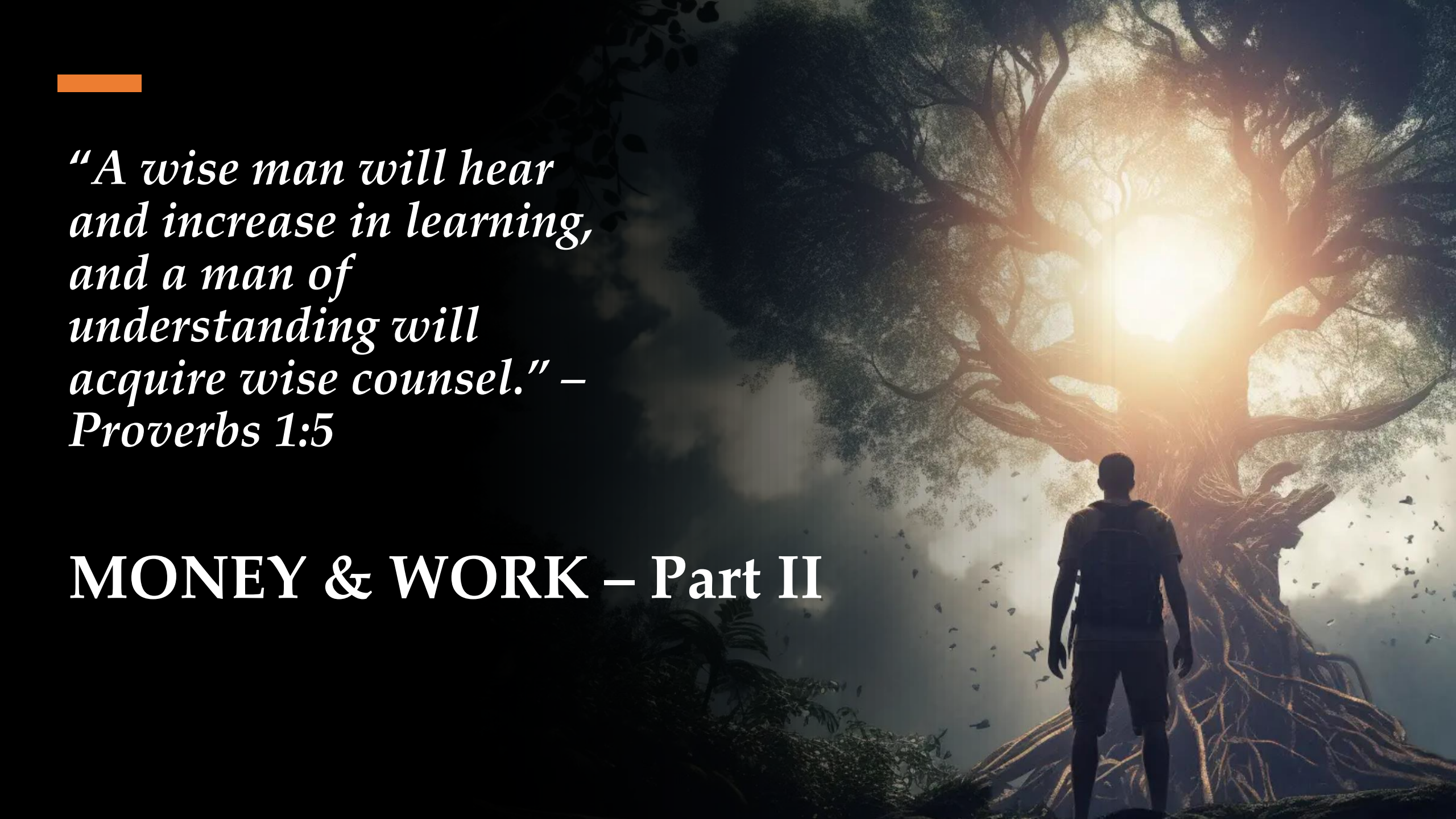


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen drifting through the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe, contemplation, and seeking enlightenment.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person is standing in the foreground, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. The tree's canopy is filled with a bright, golden light, creating a dramatic silhouette effect. The person is wearing a backpack and shorts. The background is a dark, misty forest with many small birds flying around. The overall mood is contemplative and inspirational.

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

MONEY & WORK – Part II

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

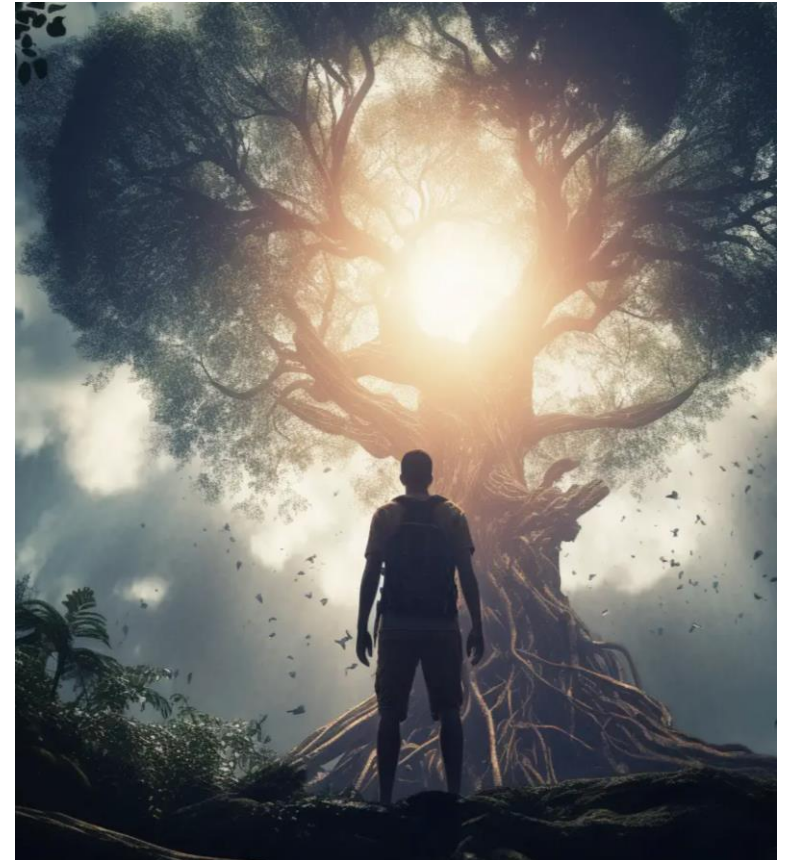
We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

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!

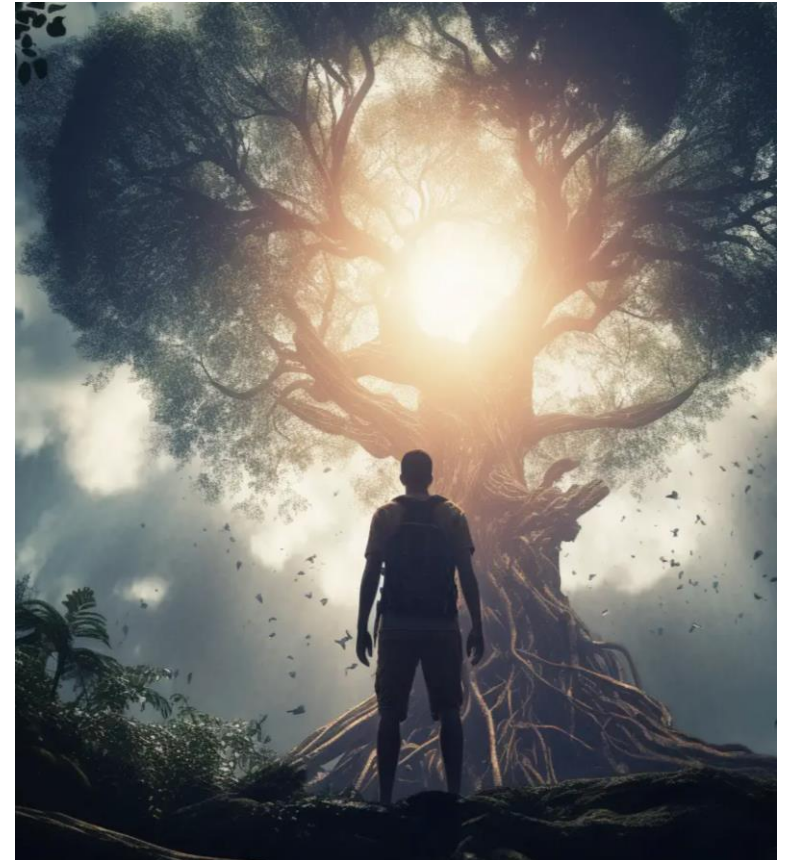
KNOWING THE SPHERES – MONEY – Part II

1. **GREAT BURDEN** - Proverbs 13:8 → A wealthy family pays a huge price for the responsibility of money. The wealthy are subject to dangers “to which a poor man offers too small a target.” Riches bring cares, burdens, and responsibilities that others do not face.
2. **KEEP PERSPECTIVE** – Proverbs 16:16, 8:19, 28:6 → Money is not as important as *wisdom and insight*. Wealth without wisdom means the dangers and difficulties that wealth inevitably attracts will make us *less* secure and useful. Money is not as important as integrity of character (28:6). A good conscience before God and human beings (Acts 24:16) is crucial, yet, as we have seen, money puts great pressure on our integrity.



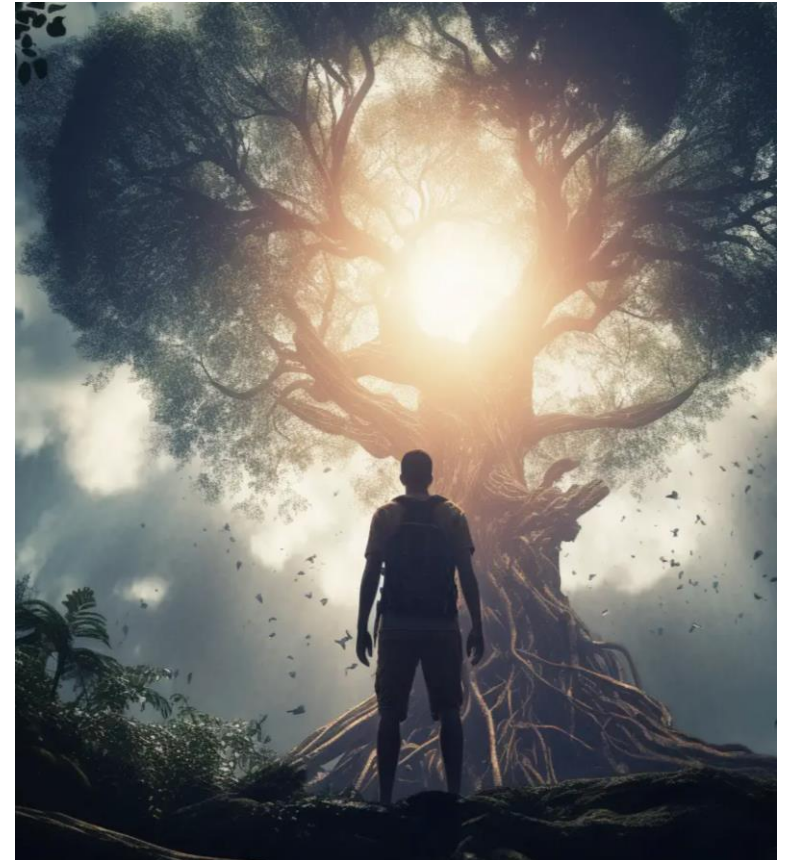
KNOWING THE SPHERES – MONEY – Part II

3. **IDOL of WEALTH** – Proverbs 10:15, 18:11 → In ancient times, because walled and fortified cities were so safe, the wealthiest wanted to live in them and the poor could not afford to. Wealth can become your identity. We imagine all the ways it will save us! Wealth can exert its power over us—it will be a wall too high—from the things we fear or dread. What your heart most loves and adores, what it most rests in, is where you most effortlessly, joyfully, almost addictively spend your money.
4. **BLESSING OF GENEROSITY** – Proverbs 22:9, 3:9-10 → Generosity that breaks the power of money over you may make you wiser in your financial dealings. We feel the most rich when we most love and are loved.



KNOWING THE SPHERES – WORK – Part II

1. **ANCHORED IN REALITY** – Proverbs 26:10, 27:23-27 → Wealth can come about through hard work, integrity, and hard-nosed realism. 27:23-24 speaks of owners who are out of touch. We all know that to hire a fool will be disastrous.
2. **SKILLFULNESS** – Proverbs 22:29, 23:4,5 → Another factor that promotes economic prosperity is being *skilled in your work*. This is not necessarily calling for everyone to be what today we could call a “professional” or “white collar worker.” Rather, it is a call for excellence of workmanship. We are to do work excellently, looking to please God and not for the applause or reward of human beings. We are to “serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people” (Ephesians 6:7).





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. Who have you seen have the wisdom, humility, and love necessary to handle the responsibility of wealth? Who has NOT?
2. Where have you seen the generosity of God's people to love and care for the needs of others?
3. What has been the journey of your own skillfulness in your career?