

Scripture:
James 3:9-17
Evangelist
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Prayer:
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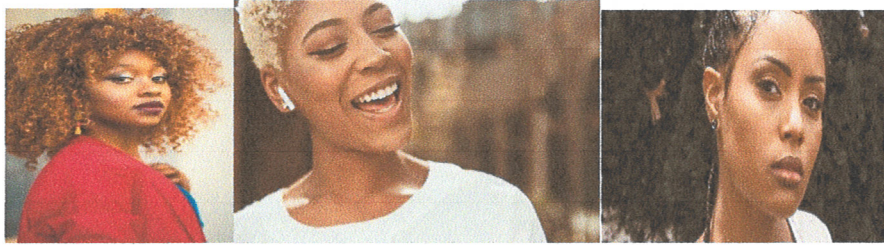
Proverbs 9

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself: Solomon explained how wisdom and folly directly affect the individual. Sometimes we seek wisdom more for others than ourselves; Solomon reminded us that wisdom is for yourself; the scoffer will not gain from the wisdom of others. When he is foolish, he will bear it alone.

The **7** *Pillars of Proverbs 9* or **7** *Characteristics of Wisdom*

- 1. Counsel**
- 2. knowledge**
- 3. Understanding**
- 4. Might or Strength**
- 5. Power or Authority**
- 6. Riches**

7. Honor



The Women in Proverbs 9

Two Women of Proverbs: *Lady of Wisdom and Lady Folly.*

The contrasts between these two characters are important and stark (absolute or complete), and chapter 9 of Proverbs brings many of those contrasts into full view.

The Way of Folly

In Contrast to Lady Wisdom, verses 13-18 introduce us to Folly, also personified (a non-human thing-like an object, animal, or abstract concept- is given human qualities, characteristics, or behaviors in speech or writing, or represented in the form of a person in art.) as a woman. She is presented as loud and vacuous; (having or showing a lack of thought or intelligence: mindless) “she is seductive and knows nothing.” Wisdom calls both the wise and foolish to her, but Folly does not call the wise, for the wise will not go to her.

Proverbs 9:1-6 is an invitation to wisdom. The invitation is given through a personification (when you give human traits or abilities to something that isn’t human, such as an animal, an object, or an idea.) wisdom as a woman who has built a house, prepared a life-giving meal, and invited all to partake.

Proverbs 9:13-18, we see the temptation of folly’s feast. Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. Madame Folly (Proverbs 9:13-

18). She uses her feminine allure and beautiful body to sexually entice men who aren't her husband (v. 13)

Proverbs 9:19-21 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; But a foolish man spendeth it up. He that followeth after righteousness and mercy Findeth life, righteousness, and honor.



Wise Spirit

Woman wisdom also acts like the Holy spirit. Take a look at the whole passage from Wisdom of Solomon 7. She is a breath of the power of God, a pure light of the glory of the Most High, and nothing that is base can come into Her presence in Secret.



Get the Message: this passage repeats the fundamental idea that true wisdom can only begin when a person properly respects and reverse God (Proverbs 9:7-12). The chapter ends by describing a twisted mirror image of wisdom. This woman, Folly, also invites others to join her.

Lady Folly is a daughter of Eve. She is selfish, intolerant, irrational, harsh, and unreasonable.

In Proverbs, the opposite of wisdom is often personified in a character known as “the forbidden woman” or “Lady Folly.” A woman of “smooth words”. “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure: then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere” (James 3:17).



The Seven Principles of Wisdom

1. **Trust-** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5 NLT).
2. **Integrity-** People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed (Proverbs 10:9).
3. **Purity-**a state of being free from sin, corruption, and contamination, encompassing both inner and outer aspects of life.
4. **Generosity-** is a virtue that holds a special place in the hearts of Christians. It’s not merely an act of giving; it’s a way of life that reflects the very essence of God’s character.
5. **Diligence-**consistent, earnest, and persistent effort and care in all aspects of life, whether in practical tasks, spiritual growth or service to God and others.
6. **Wise Words-**insightful phrases, quotes, or sayings that offer profound advice and guidance for living a good and meaningful life, often reflecting universal truths about self-awareness, perseverance, happiness, and human behavior.
7. **Wise Counsel-**prudent, experienced, and insightful advice given by a knowledgeable individual or group, often with integrity, to help someone make sound decisions and navigate life’s complexities.

But he is equally “the wisdom of God.” The great things that he did before all worlds were proof of his wisdom. He planned the way of salvation; he devised the system of atonement and substitution; he aided the foundations of the great plan of salvation. There was wisdom.

Proverbs 9:2	Means wisdom has slaughtered multiple animals and set a table, indicating that this meal will go beyond the everyday meals of the average Israelite. Wisdom extends an invitation to all who seek understanding, offering nourishment and enlightenment.
Proverbs 9:8	If we give advice to someone who is not receptive to it, they will likely reject it and may even become angry with us. Jesus, the epitome of wisdom, called for repentance from sin. those who wisely turn from their sin and believe in Jesus no longer love their sin but love Jesus.

Proverbs 9:15	Is a reminder to stay focused on God's path, even when distractions are calling out to us. In making our choices, it is essential to evaluate our decisions carefully, underpinned by a commitment to seeking knowledge and understanding rather than succumbing to momentary enticements. As we navigate through life's offerings, embracing wisdom leads to genuine fulfillment while heeding folly leads to ruin.
Proverbs 9:17	If we succumb to the temptations that promise quick satisfaction without accountability, we must remember that ignorance of their consequences will not shield us from the inevitable repercussions. The dead are there, reminding us that involvement with folly leads not only to spiritual death but can entrap individuals in a cycle of despair. This scripture calls us to discernment, urging us to consider the long-lasting value of wisdom over fleeting pleasures.

Summary of Proverbs 9

In Proverbs 9, Solomon puts forward the image of 2 women who prepare two tables for a meal. Lady Wisdom invites men to her table to learn the ways of wisdom and get life. Lady Folly invites men to her table to learn the ways of sin and to throw away their lives. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself: Solomon explained how wisdom and folly directly affect the individual. Sometimes we seek wisdom more for others than ourselves; Solomon reminded us that wisdom is for yourself; the scoffer will not gain from the wisdom of others. When he is foolish, he will bear it alone.

Wisdom wants to instruct them; foolishness wants to harm them. This is a call for all to seek wisdom, rather than foolishness.

Wisdom is portrayed as a dignified woman who prepares a spacious house and feast. She invites those who are gullible and lacking judgment to improve their wisdom, by accepting her invitation. She urges invitees to abandon their simple ways and walk in the way of insight.

Two paths: Solomon says there are two paths in life that can be followed. One is the way of sinners, and the other way is the path of wisdom and righteousness.

The 4 names of the Holy Spirit are:

- 1. The Anointing-** is the ritual act of pouring aromatic oil over a person's head or entire body. The term is also applied to related acts of sprinkling dousing or smearing a person or object with any perfumed oil, milk, butter, or other fat.
- 2. The Spirit of Revelation-** the "Spirit of Wisdom and of Revelation" is not some esoteric gift or special blessing received after conversion. Instead, it refers to the work of the spirit to help all the people of God understand the things of God.
- 3. The Spirit of a Sound Mind-** 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath given to us the Spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." A sound mind is sensible, well-balanced, and sober. It is filled with wise discretion and good judgment. These are all characteristics that Jesus exemplified, and they are all found in the Word of God because Jesus is the living word (John 1:1). In the ability to discern what is good for our soul and what is harmful (sin). along with discerning moral behavior, a sound mind has self-control (as translated in ESV) and self-discipline (NIV) to behave morally, not being a slave to passions of ego and pride. But a sound mind implies much more; it means a clear understanding, a sound judgment, a rectified will, holy passions, heavenly tempers. It is the ability to discern what is good for our soul and what is harmful (sin). to be disciplined or exercise self-control rather than allowing our fears to control us or keep us from doing what God wants from us.
- 4. The Spirit of Truth-** The Spirit of Truth is God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. The Father will send the Spirit to come alongside the disciples. The Spirit of Truth means you can be sure that when the Holy Spirit nudges your heart to do something, it is the right thing to do. When He puts a thought into your mind, it is a right

idea. John 16:13 Jesus refers to the Helper, the Holy Spirit, as the “Spirit of Truth” (John 14:16). We believe truth is deeply rooted in the character of God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, and communicated clearly in the Bible. this is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. Obeying the truth frees us. But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come (John 16:13).

How to Seek the Spirit of Truth

If you’re looking for existential or spiritual truths, enquire earnestly through meditation and self-enquiry. If you’re looking for narrative truths, remain equanimous) calm and composed). Gather as much information as you can, contemplate, use reason and logic, and be vigilant of your ego.