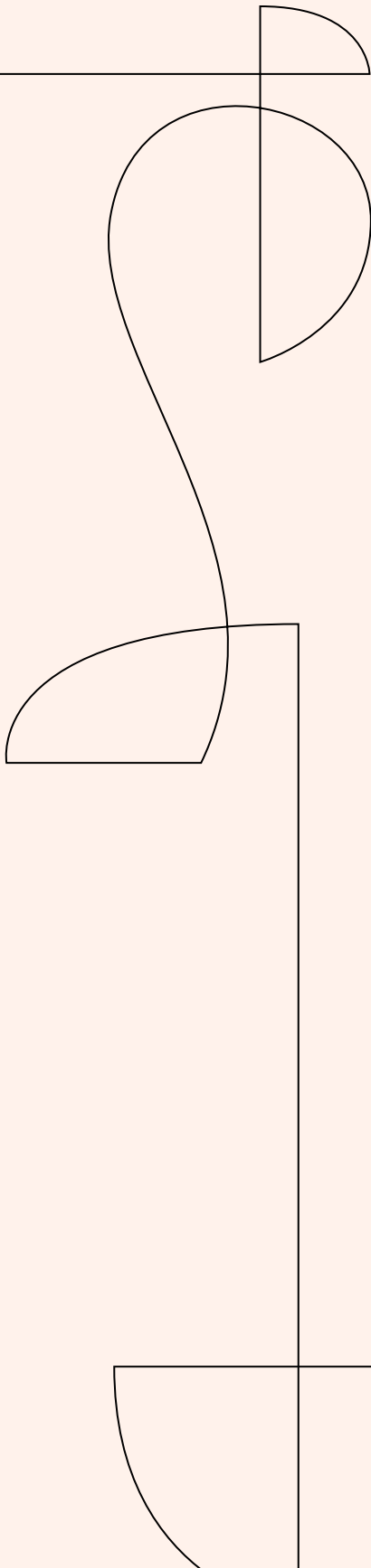


The background features large, overlapping organic shapes in shades of light orange and cream. Thin black line art is scattered throughout, including a hand-like shape in the top left, a semi-circle in the top right, and various abstract lines and shapes in the bottom left and right.

Wisdom A N D Wonder

G U I D E



The Lord formed me from the beginning before He created anything else. I was born before the oceans, yes, even before springs and rivers and lakes. Before mountains were sculpted and hills took shape, before God stretched out earth's horizons and set the sky firmly in place, I was there. When He mapped and gave borders to the wild ocean, built the vast vault of heaven, and installed the fountains that fed the ocean. When He drew a boundary for the sea, and staked out earth's foundations, I was right there with Him. Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause, always enjoying His company. So, my dear friends, listen carefully; those who embrace my ways are most blessed. Mark a life of discipline and live wisely; don't squander your precious life. Blessed is the man and woman, who listens to me, who awake and ready for me each morning. When you find me, you find real life.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and made His home among us.

BLESSED IS THE

Man And Woman

WHO LISTENS TO ME

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What Is Wisdom?

Wisdom is living in God's world, God's way, and the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The starting place and staying place of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Fearing the Lord is not being afraid of God and running from Him. Fearing the Lord is being so overwhelmed with God's greatness and grace that we move toward Him in all areas of our life. Moving toward Him makes us wise.

Watch the Sermon
Wisdom and Wonder

GOD'S WORLD

GOD'S WAY

The background of the page features a series of overlapping geometric shapes, including rectangles, squares, and semi-circles, creating a modern, architectural feel. The shapes are defined by thin black outlines and are arranged in a way that they seem to flow from the top left towards the bottom right.

PROVERBS 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

PROVERBS 3:5-8

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

“

The living God is infinitely perfect and quintessentially, overwhelmingly beautiful in every way: His righteousness, His graciousness, His majesty, His mercy, His all. And so we do not love Him right if our love is not a trembling, overwhelmed, and fearful love. In a sense, then, the trembling “fear of God” is a way of speaking about the intensity of the saints’ love for and enjoyment of all that God is.

”

MICHAEL REEVES

Rejoice and Tremble

Watch the Sermon
Fear of the Lord | Part 1

Watch the Sermon
Fear of the Lord | Part 2

GOD'S WORLD



STUBBORN



SIMPLE

Wisdom

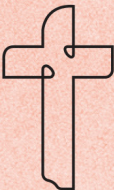
Fear of
the Lord



POSTURE
LOW



PACE
SLOW



PERSON
JESUS

Fear of
the Lord

God's Way

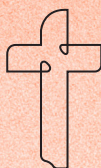
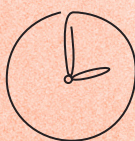


SCOFFER



SLUGGARD

GOD'S WORLD



How Do You Grow In Wisdom?

Often when we think of wisdom, we think of having the right answers or making the right decisions. While that is part of wisdom, the invitation moves deeper than right answers and invites us to become wise people. Wisdom does not just change what we do, but changes who we are. We are shaped by wisdom's posture, pace and person as we learn to live in the fear of the Lord.

Watch the Sermon
A Return to Wisdom and Wonder

WISDOM HAS A POSTURE

IT IS LOW



WE GROW WISE AS WE ARE HUMBLE

PROVERBS 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with the humble is wisdom.

JOHN 3:27

John answered, "A person cannot receive even
one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

JAMES 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and
he will exalt you.

**WE GROW WISE AS WE ARE
OPEN HANDED**

ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live...this is God's gift to man.

Life is not a problem to solve, a competition to win, or a right I have earned. Life is a gift to receive.

DAILY PRAYER

God, life is a gift, You are the giver, thank you.

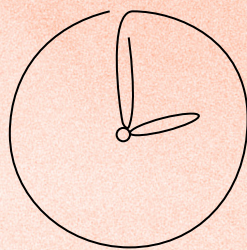
Watch the Sermon
Life is a Gift | Part 1

Watch the Sermon
Life is a Gift | Part 2

An abstract geometric composition featuring a large, textured, light-orange circle in the background. Overlaid on this are several black-outlined shapes: a rectangle at the top left, a semi-circle to its right, a long horizontal rectangle with a diagonal cut on its right side containing the text 'WISDOM HAS A PACE', a large semi-circle in the middle, and various other geometric shapes like triangles and arcs at the bottom. The text 'IT IS SLOW' is placed within a large, irregular shape in the lower half. A small clock face is also visible within this lower shape.

WISDOM HAS A PACE

IT IS SLOW



WE GROW WISE OVER TIME

PROVERBS 14:29

Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

PROVERBS 18:17

The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.

PROVERBS 1:5–6

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.



WISDOM HAS A PERSON

IT IS JESUS

WE GROW WISE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

JOHN 1:1–5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Watch the Sermon
Wisdom Personified | Part 2

The Four Types OF Fools

THE STUBBORN

THE SIMPLE

THE SLUGGARD

THE SCOFFER

Proverbs teaches us that part of becoming wise is learning to spot foolishness when we see it, especially when it's in us. Proverbs helps us see and name which forms of foolishness exist in us that we might turn from foolishness, receive grace and pursue wisdom.

PROVERBS 1:22

How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

PROVERBS 6:9

How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

Proverbs helps us answer
2 QUESTIONS about each type of fool:

**WHO
ARE
THEY?**

**HOW
DO YOU
SPOT
THEM?**

The Stubborn

The Stubborn fool is the most referenced fool in the book of Proverbs, named 60+ times. It is the most common type of fool, and it is likely that all of us exhibit stubborn foolishness in one way or another. They are wise in their own eyes. They have a misplaced confidence in their own thoughts, opinions and overall outlook on life, making them stubbornly committed to their way of living.

Watch the Sermon
The Stubborn Fool

How Do You

SLOW TO LISTEN AND QUICK TO SPEAK	WEAPONIZE TRUTH
EASY TO OFFEND	QUICK TO QUARREL AND SLOW TO PURSUE PEACE

Spot Them?

SLOW TO LISTEN AND QUICK TO SPEAK	WEAPONIZE TRUTH
<p>The Stubborn take no pleasure in understanding because they are already convinced they understand. They take pleasure in expressing their opinion because they believe it's always right and everyone always needs to hear it.</p>	<p>The Stubborn speak truth in ways that hurt people. Truth is often hard to hear, but the Stubborn is not careful with the way they speak truth. They never care to ask how something should be said or if they are the one who should say it.</p>
<p>PROVERBS 18:2</p> <p>A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.</p>	<p>PROVERBS 26:9</p> <p>Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools.</p>
<p>QUESTION TO CONSIDER</p> <p>In what ways are you quick to speak and slow to listen?</p>	<p>QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <p>Do you speak truth to others in order to build them up or simply prove a point? Are your words filled with both truth and grace?</p>

EASY TO OFFEND	QUICK TO QUARREL AND SLOW TO PURSUE PEACE
<p>Offense lies just beneath the surface in the life of the Stubborn. They are easily provoked, irritated and bothered by the actions of others, even if those actions are not sinful. The wise can exercise self control when offended. The Stubborn gives full expression to their offense.</p>	<p>The Stubborn enjoys a fight. They are always right in their own eyes, so being right is always their highest goal. Conflict follows them wherever they go.</p>
	<p>PROVERBS 20:3</p> <p>It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.</p> <p>PROVERBS 27:3</p> <p>A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.</p> <p>PROVERBS 29:9</p> <p>If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet.</p>
<p>QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <p>Are you easily angered, irritated or offended by others? How do you respond when you are offended?</p>	<p>QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <p>How do you handle conflict in your relationships? Are you quick to pursue peace, or do you keep the fight going?</p>

How Does The Stubborn Respond To Wisdom?

They ignore it.

The Stubborn believe they are fine as they are. They are wise in their own eyes, therefore all wisdom sounds like something they don't need or they already possess.

PROVERBS 17:10

A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

DO YOU IGNORE WISDOM?

**THE STUBBORN
ARE WISE IN
THEIR**



**OWN
EYES**

The Simple

A guiding motivation of the Simple fool is to avoid discomfort. This infiltrates how they view relationships (with God or others), deal with conflict, or handle hard and painful situations. The Simple want to keep things surface level. The common traits of the Simple fool are: no depth to belief, no long obedience in the same direction, and a shallow appetite.

How Do You

NO DEPTH TO BELIEF
NO LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION
SHALLOW APPETITES

Spot Them?

NO DEPTH TO BELIEF	NO LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION
<p>Depth to belief requires asking hard questions of oneself and receiving hard answers at times. It requires work, sacrifice and humility, and this is work the Simple fool does not want to take part in.</p>	<p>The Simple cannot handle suffering well — whether it is their own or the suffering of others. If an easier path presents itself, the Simple will choose that path.</p>
<p>PROVERBS 14:15</p> <p>The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.</p>	<p>PROVERBS 1:32</p> <p>For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them.</p>
<p>QUESTION TO CONSIDER</p> <p>What does depth of belief look like in someone's life?</p>	<p>QUESTION TO CONSIDER</p> <p>Is your life more marked by changing beliefs or beliefs that have changed you?</p>

SHALLOW APPETITES

The Simple gravitates toward ease and is easily satisfied by things that are cheap and fleeting.

PROVERBS 9:16–17

“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” And to him who lacks sense she says, “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Are your desires growing toward things of depth or things that are fleeting?

How Does The Simple Respond To Wisdom?

They avoid it.

The Simple gravitate toward voices that affirm them and never challenge them. They will distance themselves from people who offer wisdom or correction. Because there's no depth to belief, they only have space to hear what sounds good and comfortable.

PROVERBS 22:3

The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

DO YOU AVOID WISDOM?

THE SIMPLE

GRAVITATE

TOWARD

EASE

The Sluggard

The Sluggard's soul may crave wisdom, but it is caught by competing desires. They are not necessarily lazy, but they are committed to things of little significance. They go with their gut, but their gut often leads them astray, and their desire for wisdom doesn't outweigh their desire for their current way of life. They are unwilling to make the effort required to change.

How Do You

THEIR LIFE IS FILLED WITH
SMALL SURRENDERS IN THE
WRONG DIRECTION

Spot Them?

**THEIR LIFE IS
FILLED WITH SMALL
SURRENDERS IN THE
WRONG DIRECTION**

He does not commit himself to a refusal, but deceives himself by the smallness of his surrenders.

- Derek Kidner, *Proverbs Commentary*

PROVERBS 6:10–11

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

PROVERBS 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What small surrenders mark your days and life? Does your best effort on any given day match your desire for God?



People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.



D.A. CARSON

For the Love of God (Vol. 2)

How Does The Sluggard Respond To Wisdom?

They make excuses.

The Sluggard excuses themselves from doing what's best by convincing themselves they are still doing what's good. In doing so, they stay foolish.

PROVERBS 26:16

The Sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

PROVERBS 26:13

The Sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!"

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

DO YOU EXCUSE FOOLISHNESS
IN YOUR LIFE?



**THE SLUGGARD'S
SOUL IS**

CAUGHT

**BY COMPETING
DESIRES**

The Scoffer

The Scoffer is the most devastating form of foolishness. Scoffer is the name Proverbs gives to the person whose pride is so destructive that they inflict pain on all around them.

How Do You

THEY HURT PEOPLE

**THEY AVOID GODLY
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND AUTHORITY**

Spot Them?

PROVERBS 24:9

The devising of folly is sin,
and the scoffer is an
abomination to mankind.

PROVERBS 21:24

“Scoffer” is the name of the
arrogant, haughty man
who acts with arrogant pride.

PROVERBS 29:8

Scoffers set a city aflame, but
the wise turn away wrath.

THEY HURT PEOPLE	THEY AVOID GODLY ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUTHORITY
<p>The Scoffer abuses people. Out of their pride, they try to control others and inflict pain on anyone close to them.</p>	<p>The Scoffer does not like to be corrected. They will gravitate to positions of leadership so they don't have to be under any authority. They punish those who try and keep them accountable.</p>
<p>PROVERBS 22:10</p> <p>Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.</p> <p>PROVERBS 9:7</p> <p>Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.</p>	<p>PROVERBS 15:12</p> <p>A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.</p> <p>PROVERBS 9:8</p> <p>Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.</p>
<p>QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <p>How would those closest to you describe what it's like to be around you? Are those closest to you afraid of you? Could they tell you if they were?</p>	<p>QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER</p> <p>Does anyone in your life have your permission to keep you accountable for foolishness they see? Do you seek out godly authority for instruction and help?</p>

How Does The Scoffer Respond To Wisdom?

They hate it.

They mock and abuse those who speak wisdom to them. A Scoffer cannot be reasoned with because no voice has authority in their life except their own.

PROVERBS 9:7–8

Whoever corrects a Scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a Scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

PROVERBS 22:10

Drive out a Scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

DO YOU HATE WISDOM?

THE SCOFFER'S

PRIDE
IS SO

DESTRUCTIVE
THEY

INFLICT

PAIN

Watch the Sermon
The Simple, the Sluggard and the Scoffer

THE

STUBBORN

SIMPLE

SLUGGARD

SCOFFER

**ALL
NEED A
SAVIOR**

The Savior

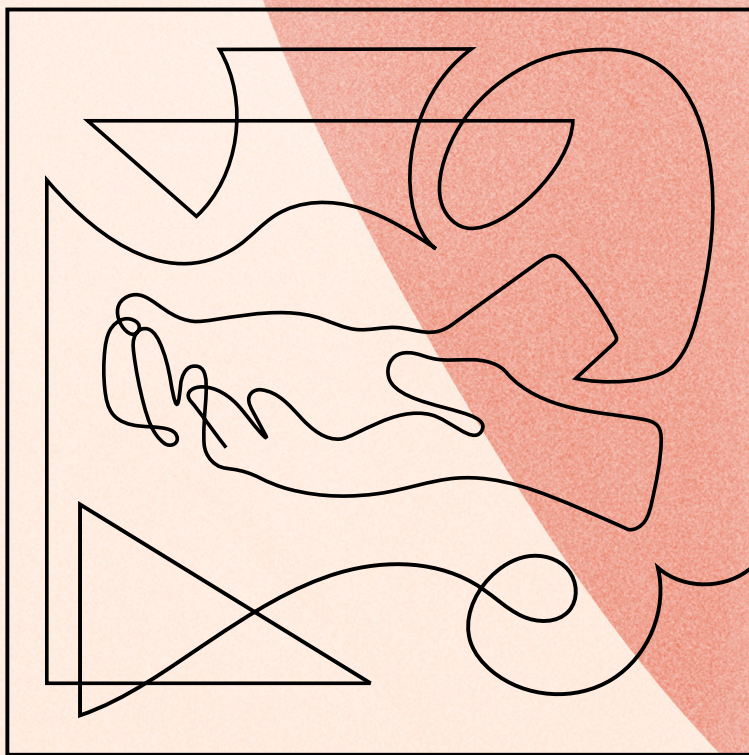
The good news of the gospel is that Jesus offers grace to all types of fools. Jesus is the person of perfect wisdom who died in our place that we might receive grace for our folly and be made wise by His love.

The Stubborn, the Simple, the Sluggard and the Scoffer all need a Savior.

In response to what you have read, write a prayer below confessing where you see foolishness in yourself and ask our wise Savior for grace and help. He loves you.

Watch the Sermon
Jesus and the Fools

**JESUS
OFFERS
GRACE**



**TO ALL
TYPES OF
FOOLS**



CITIZENS CHURCH

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