

Proverbs 1:1-7

¹ The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
² for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight;
³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair;
⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—
⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—
⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.
⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Notes

- This the prologue to the book of Proverbs explaining its purpose.
- All the different words related to knowledge: wisdom, instruction, understanding, insight, discretion, guidance... have different meanings that are important.
- The thrust of all these words is that you must be willing to receive wisdom and correction.
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Questions

1. What do people think of when they think of wisdom?
2. What does it mean to be foolish?
3. It is common to hear someone ask God for wisdom when they pray. How does this text speak to what it is we desire from God when we pray for wisdom?
4. What is different about the kind of wisdom Proverbs speaks of, versus how people tend to think of wisdom?
5. What is the fear of the Lord? Why is needed to even begin to gain wisdom?
6. How do you sometimes resist receiving input, knowledge, or advice from another person? Why?
7. How is that different when you simply cannot get enough input, knowledge, or advice?
8. How does your desire or resistance to wisdom a reflection of your desire to know God and his ways?