

## Choosing Wisdom

Whatever your age, history, or experience, you CAN become wise. You can become wise, because there is a knowledgeable and competent teacher, Wisdom, who offers to teach you wisdom when it comes to speech, money and generosity, friendships, sex, wealth and poverty, and many other topics. To find such wisdom, we cannot be passive. We must resolve to seek it. We must choose wisdom. As we consider Proverbs 9, may we become convinced that we can learn the skill of wisdom.

**Opening Discussion:** What, if any, new skill have you been learning recently?

### Read Proverbs 9

1. Rival invitations are being extended to the “simple” (i.e., uncommitted). One by Wisdom. One by Folly. How is Wisdom described (vv. 1-6)?
2. How would you describe wisdom’s invitation to the simple (v. 6)?
3. How is the woman Folly described (vv. 13-18)?
4. How would you contrast the end result of following Wisdom (v. 6) verses following Folly (v. 18)?
5. In the middle six verses of this chapter (vv. 7-12), how does Solomon make a case for the invitation that Wisdom is offering?

Steve said:

As we discussed a few weeks ago, when you fear the Lord you relate to him as he really is. That means two foundational things. First, you relate to him as One who is *infinitely perfect in every way*. You relate to him mindful that he is more powerful than you, more insightful than you, more consistent than you, more everything (that's good) than you. He is the Creator who designed you and who sustains you. Relating to him as infinitely perfect in his attributes makes you humble and teachable. Second, if you fear the Lord, you relate to him as One who is *radically for you*. He proved that on the cross.

6. As you ponder that the Lord is infinitely perfect in every way and He is radically for you, does this help foster in you a desire to pursue His wisdom and walk in His ways? If so, how?

Steve said:

Do you resolve to fear the Lord, turn from your own ways, submit to God, and feast on the wisdom found in Proverbs (and the rest of Scripture)? Instead of being passive and hoping that you become wise someday, do you resolve to respond to Wisdom's invitation in the ways described in Proverbs 9? I put it that way because in Proverbs 1:29 Wisdom said that fools are those who "did not choose the fear of the Lord." With God's help, you can choose the fear of the Lord. Nobody can do it for you. If you relate to God as he really is, you will repent (turn from everything that is at odds with his revealed will), you will submit to him, and you will feast on the wisdom found in Proverbs (and the rest of Scripture). I'm pleading with you to make that resolve this week.

7. How would you describe your current resolve to fear the Lord, turn from your own ways, submit to God, and feast on His wisdom?