



THIS WAY TO WISDOM

Theme: God provides wisdom for life's choices while the world offers only foolishness.

I. _____ Two Ways (Prov. 9:4, 16)

When making life's decisions, we always have two basic choices: following _____ wise ways, like those recorded in Proverbs, or the _____ foolish ways.

II. _____ God's Wise Way

A. Wisdom's _____ (Prov. 9:1, 2)

God's wisdom provides the direction a believer needs to live a _____.

God's wisdom _____ all who partake of it.

B. Wisdom's _____ (Prov. 9:3–6)

God offers His salvation to _____ through His Son, Jesus Christ.

III. Examining the _____ Way

A. Folly's _____ invitation (Prov. 9:13)

Folly acted _____ and _____ to attract attention to herself and to _____ the _____ of people who joined her way.

B. Folly's _____ invitation (Prov. 9:14–18)

Those who dine with Lady Folly need to trust in Christ's sacrificial death for salvation to receive _____ and _____.

IV. _____ God's _____ Way

A. _____ the _____ (Prov. 1:7; 9:10)

Those who fear God stand amazed at His _____ and _____ and _____ Him for Who He is and what He does.

If we want to know about God and how to live wisely, we must _____ and _____ His _____.

B. Receive God's _____ (Prov. 1:1–7; 9:7–12)

God's Word provides _____ instructions for all aspects of life. But _____ His instruction requires _____.



Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read Proverbs 1:1–7.

Fearing the Lord means respecting Him and standing in awe of Who He is. Do you show that you fear the Lord? How?

The fear of the Lord opens the door to gaining godly wisdom. What opportunities do you have to grow in godly wisdom?

THURSDAY

Read Proverbs 9:7, 8.

According to verse 8, how will a wise person react to godly discipline and instruction?

Evaluate your attitude toward receiving discipline, correction, and instruction. Where does your attitude need improvement?

TUESDAY

Read Proverbs 9:1–6.

Describe Wisdom's preparation for her banquet.

What does Wisdom offer to those who accept her invitation (9:6)?

FRIDAY

Read Proverbs 9:9, 10.

What is the result of accepting wise instruction (9:9)?

Knowledge of God comes primarily through Bible study. What will you do this week to improve your Bible study time?

WEDNESDAY

Read Proverbs 9:13–18.

What ultimately awaits those who continue to accept the foolish woman's invitation (9:18)?

Even believers sometimes follow the world's foolish ways. What can you do to avoid making foolish choices?

SATURDAY

Read Proverbs 9:11, 12.

What might be a benefit of living wisely (9:11)?

Pray for someone you know who has chosen to scorn the way of wisdom.



Tough Questions Answered



Does wisdom guarantee a long life?



Proverbs 9:11 says the years of our life will be increased when we choose God's wise way. Proverbs 10:27 says that the fear of the Lord will prolong your days, while those who are wicked will have shortened lives. Do these verses teach that if we fear the Lord and depend on Him for wise choices, we will automatically live a long time?

It's obvious that not all believers live long lives. Some very godly and wise people have a shortened life, while some evil people live a long time. So, how do we correctly interpret these proverbs?

First, remember that many of the proverbs make general observations about life. They don't necessarily state hard and fast rules or make promises.

In the two proverbs noted above, Solomon made no guarantees for a long earthly life. He simply observed that people who make wise choices tend to live longer than those who make foolish choices. If you choose to eat unhealthy foods, drink alcohol, smoke, take drugs, or make other risky choices, you're more likely to shorten your lifespan. Unwise relationship choices can also shorten your life through the stress caused by personal conflict. On the other hand, if you live by the principles found in God's Word by taking care of your body and honoring God in your relationships and other areas of life, you are more likely to live longer. Your chances for a long earthly life look pretty good, but longevity is not a guarantee. Only God knows how long each person will live.

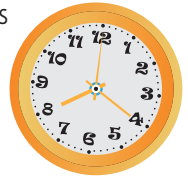
Second, remember that these proverbs apply to spiritual life as well as physical. Whether life on earth is short or long, those who have chosen God's wise way will enjoy everlasting life in God's presence. So, from an eternal perspective, yes, wisdom does guarantee a long life. Any earthly lifespan is short compared to a life that lasts forever!

People who make wise choices tend to live longer than those who make foolish choices.

Take Time for Wisdom



There are about 8.5 billion Google searches per day! That's 99,000 searches every second! People naturally seek answers to their questions. And today the world has access to an incredible amount of information. But are people actually wiser because of Google, Siri, Alexa, or ChatGPT?



Acquiring wisdom takes time. Solomon advised his son to keep listening to his words and to keep storing up his commands (Prov. 2:1, 2). He wanted his son to seek godly wisdom as if searching for treasure (2:4). Becoming wise is a process that takes effort.

Google often directs you to helpful information and provides a world of knowledge. You might even find some good suggestions for life. But God provides the only way to wisdom.

The next time you do an online search, stop and think about your question. Do you need to search God's Word first?

Memory Verse Review



Memory Verse—Proverbs 9:6

Proverbs 9:6 summarizes God's invitation to people to reject the world's foolish ways and to walk in the way of wisdom. God's invitation still stands today. He invites everyone to choose His wisdom, beginning with choosing to trust Christ for salvation. God wants believers to forsake foolishness and walk in His way. As they do, He'll give them true understanding and insight.

1. Are there any foolish ways in your life that you need to forsake? Explain.
2. Express your dependence on God to flee foolishness and to choose understanding.
3. How might you help a friend follow the way of wisdom and understanding?

Additional Memory Verses—Proverbs 9:10, 11.

Measuring Growth



King Solomon compiled Proverbs to provide God's wisdom for daily life. Everyone faces two basic choices in life: God's wise way, which leads to understanding and life, and the world's foolish way, which leads to ultimate failure and death. Proverbs 9 portrays Wisdom and Folly as two women offering their own banquets. The two banquets represent these two ways of life. The way to wisdom begins with fear of the Lord, and the key to understanding is knowing God through Bible study and personal experience. The wise person humbly receives God's instruction for life's decisions.

Look for the following indicators that you are making wise, godly decisions.

1. I have a growing reverence and respect for God.
2. I base my decisions on God's Word and the Holy Spirit's guidance.
3. I humbly accept discipline and instruction from the Lord and from godly counselors.