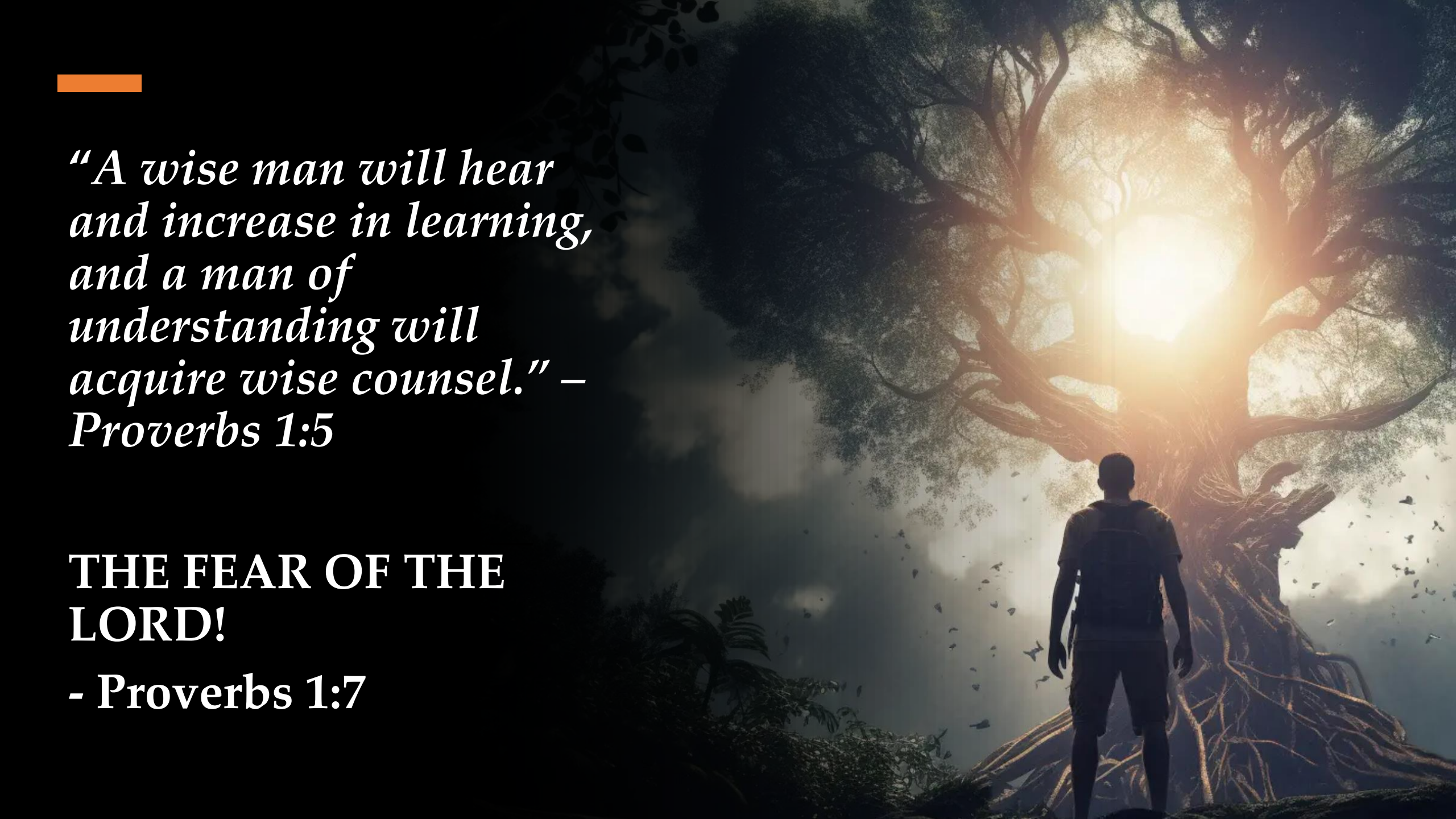


A person stands in silhouette, facing a massive, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots and a dense canopy. The scene is set against a bright, hazy sky with scattered clouds and falling leaves. The word "WISDOM" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the upper portion of the image, centered over the tree's canopy.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person is standing in silhouette on a rocky outcrop, looking towards a massive, ancient tree. The tree's trunk is thick and gnarled, with many roots exposed. A bright, glowing light emanates from behind the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The sky is filled with soft, hazy clouds and many small birds are seen flying in the distance. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

*“A wise man will hear
and increase in learning,
and a man of
understanding will
acquire wise counsel.” –
Proverbs 1:5*

**THE FEAR OF THE
LORD!**

- Proverbs 1:7

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green leaves, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is set against a backdrop of a cloudy sky. The overall mood is one of contemplation and seeking wisdom.

WISDOM

for the journey

We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

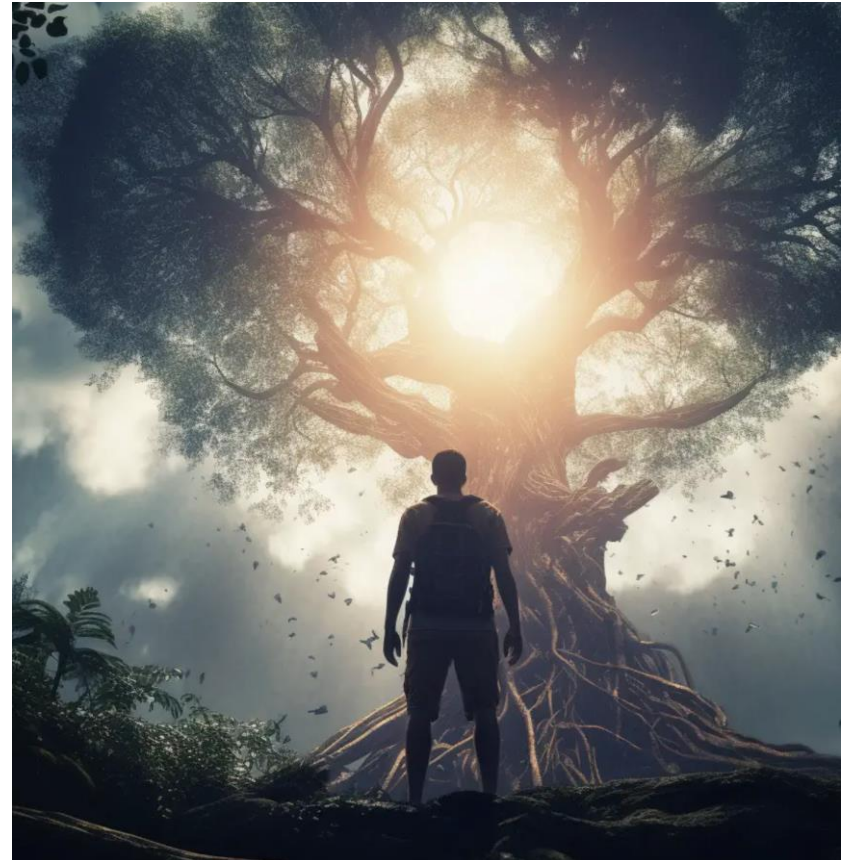
In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

THE FEAR OF THE LORD – THE REALITY OF GOD – Proverbs 1:7.

1. **GOD-CENTERED** → This kind of fear is not the dread of punishment (Joshua 2:4-7), but a standing awe of someone (Joshua 4:23, 24), with the resulting fear of doing anything to grieve or dishonor the person. You can “let the Lord be your fear” (Isa. 8:13)—your life center—or something else will be.
2. **RESPONDING TO GRACE** → The Key to Proverbs is understanding how the fear of the Lord increases the more grace and forgiveness are experienced (Psalms 42:1-3, 130:3, 4). Only a belief that we are lost but freely saved sinners creates a joyful yet awe-filled assurance of his saving love.
3. **CHANGING DEEPLY** → The difference between slavish, self-interested fear and the true fear of the Lord is the difference between a mere moralist and a real Jesus follower. Only a faith sight of Jesus’ sacrificial love for us both humbles us and yet affirms us into the joyful fear of the Lord.

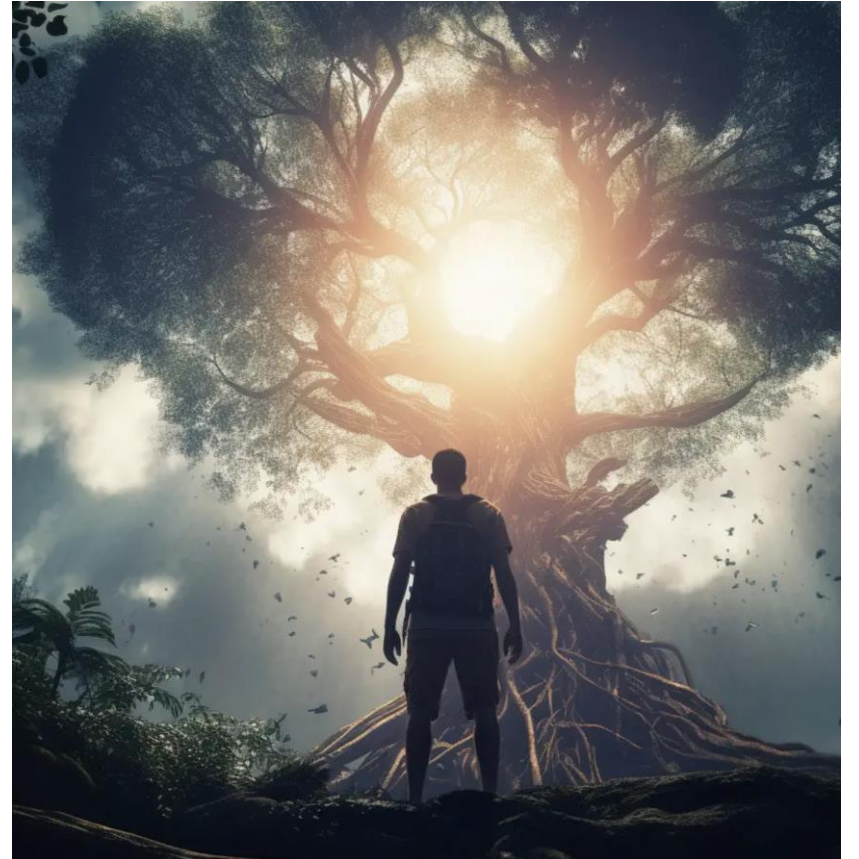
THE FEAR OF THE LORD – THE LIFE OF WISDOM – Proverbs 19:23; 14:26, 27.

1. **RESTING IN GOD** → Those who fear God find God satisfying, and they are contented. God is like a haven for the storm. If God is to you a greater safety, a deeper security, and a more powerful hope than anything else in the world, you fear no trouble.
2. **TRUSTING IN GOD** → What it means—is accepting what He allows to come into our lives, whether we understand it or not (Romans 8:28). Trust in God is like a secure fortress.
3. **ENJOYING GOD** → We must learn to delight in Him, enjoying His presence and love as a fountain.



THE FEAR OF THE LORD – CONFIDENT IN GOD’S PLAN – Proverbs 21:30.

1. **THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD** → No true synthesis (wisdom), analysis (insight) or policy (plan) can be arrived at in defiance of God. Without faith in God, even the most sophisticated and diligent thinker is going to leave out too much of reality to be genuinely wise about life. The next time you experience the pain of worry and anxiety, consider that it may be fueled by too much confidence that your plans are wiser than God’s. Pray everyday that God would open your eyes and hearts to His truth.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. How is the fear of God at the center of every circumstance and decision in your life?
2. Is there a difficulty in your life now that you can accept, not as a good thing in itself but as part of God's wise plan for your life?
3. When people who know you well watch you under pressure, what do they see?