


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. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person is silhouetted against a large, ancient tree with a bright light emanating from its center. The scene is set in a dark, misty environment with many small birds flying around. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

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

**KNOWING THE HEART
– UNDERSTANDING
YOUR HEART!**

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is set in a lush, tropical environment with other trees and foliage visible in the background. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

WISDOM

for the journey

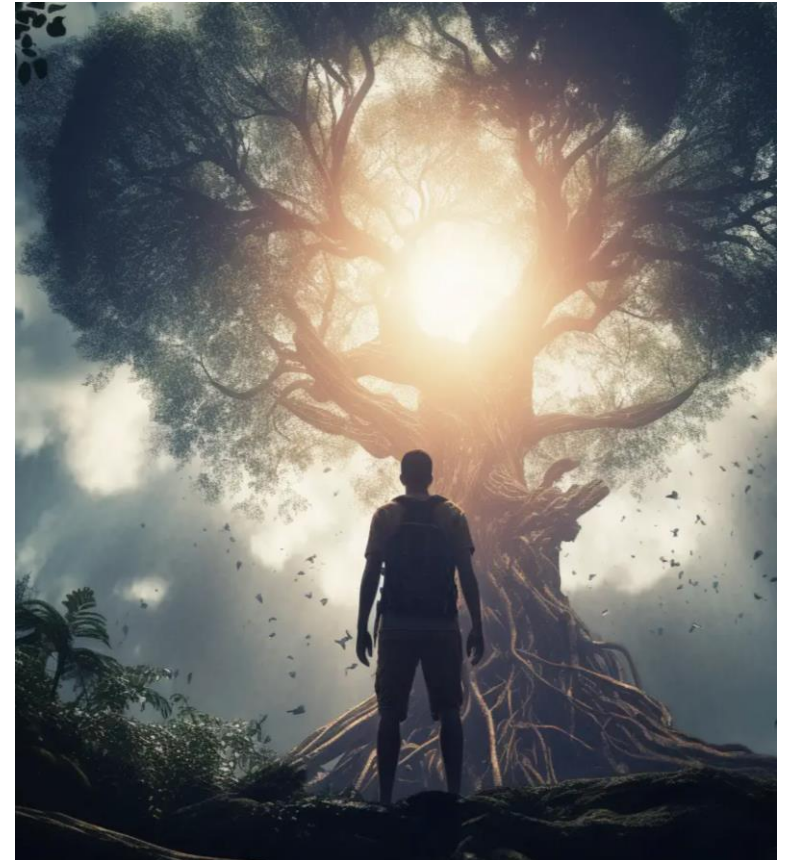
We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

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!

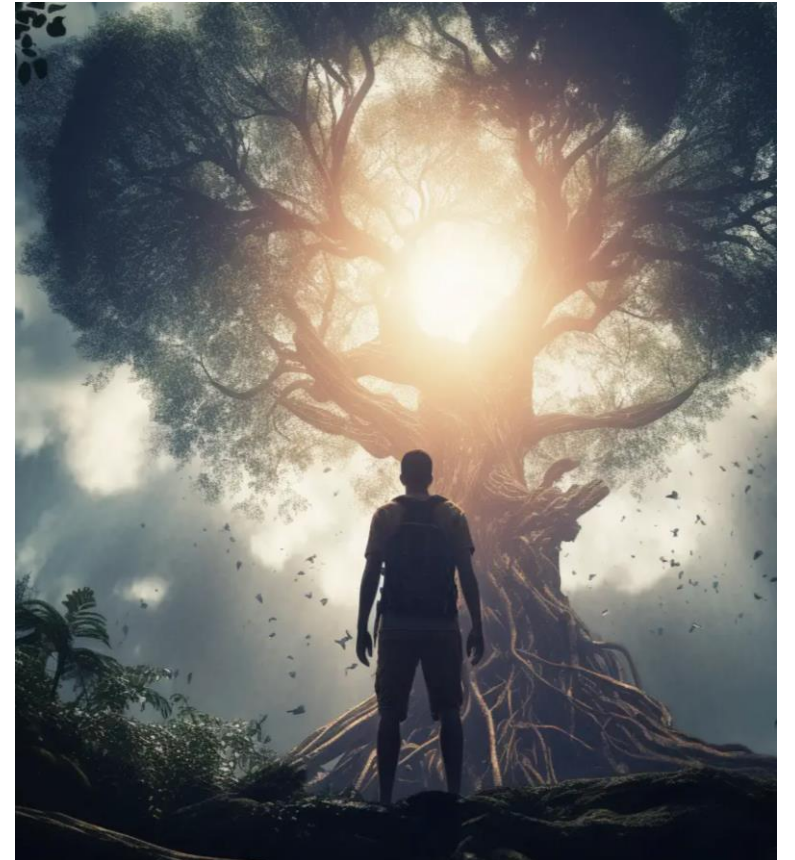
ACTIONS AND THE HEART! - Proverbs 4:10-27

1. **ACTIONS SHAPE THE HEART – Proverbs 4:10-17** → Proverbs tells us that our actions shape our feelings. So if you don't feel love for someone, don't let that stop you. Do the actions of love, and often the feelings follow (Matthew 5:43-48). Push your heart to love!
2. **ACTIONS OPEN THE EYES – Proverbs 4:18, 19** → The more we follow the path of self, the more we live in denial until, when life breaks down, we do not know what makes us stumble. Self-deception is not the worst thing you can do, but it's the means by which we do the very worst things. The sin that is most distorting your life right now is the one you can't see. The Gospel so assures us of God's love that we are finally capable of admitting the worst about ourselves.
3. **YOUR HEART SHAPES YOUR ACTIONS – Proverbs 4:20-27** → The heart is the seat of your deepest trusts, commitments, and loves, from which everything ... flows. What the heart most loves and trusts, the mind finds reasonable, the emotions find desirable, and the will finds doable. The best way to guard your heart for wisdom is worship, in which the mouth, the mind, the imagination, and even the body are all oriented to God.



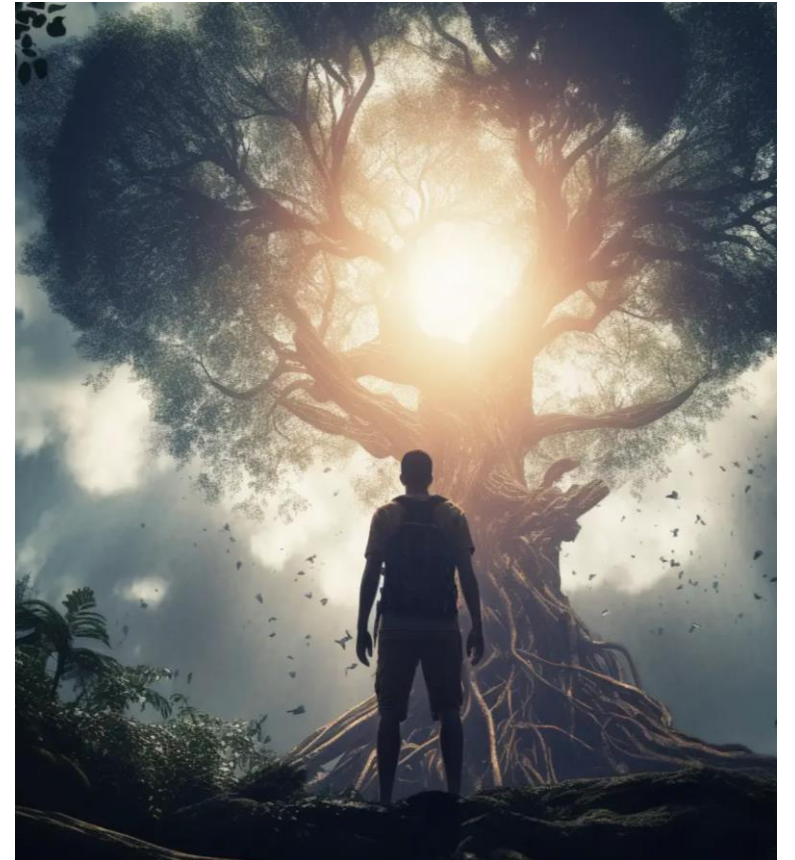
KNOW YOUR HEART!

1. **NEVER TRUST YOUR HEART – Proverbs 16:2** → If you are always sure of your sincerity and purity, you will make impulsive snap judgments. You will be too dismissive of some options and ideas and too doggedly committed to others. Follow the Gospel instead of your feelings.
2. **YOU ARE BROKEN – Proverbs 20:9** → No one can make themselves good. We need God's GRACE!
3. **TELL YOUR STORY – Proverbs 28:13** → If we try to cover up our sin, God will expose us. If we expose our sin, God will cover it with His *mercy*.
4. **CULTIVATE A DISCERNING HEART – Proverbs 15:14** → Fools can be said to be all mouth, always spouting foolishness. The wise, however, are all heart—and every new experience is a way for their hearts to become more discerning.



SEE THE HEART!

1. **YOUR LIFE REFLECTS YOUR HEART – Proverbs 27:19** → As water shows us our face, so one's life reflects the heart. Introverts should get out more, and extroverts should spend more time in solitary thoughts.
2. **DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE OUTSIDE APPEARANCE – Proverbs 26:23-26** → In order to live wisely in our present culture of self-promotion, fake news, alternative facts, and the overthrow of reason, the ability to discern evil disguised as good could not be more important.
3. **UNDERSTAND ANOTHER'S HEART – Proverbs 20:5** → This tells us the wise are able to discern motives—both their own and those of others.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. Who is a hard-to-love person in your life? What practical things could you do to begin to love them better?
2. What is a character flaw of yours that others can see but you can't see about yourself?
3. Are there things you are seeing or doing or doing that may be moving your heart away from God?