> Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.”(proverbs 27:22)

I. Introduction: The Imagery Behind the Verse

In this proverb, Solomon uses a vivid and ancient image. A mortar and pestle were common household tools used to crush grain into flour or soften tough plant materials. The idea is that intense pressure or punishment — even as extreme as grinding grain — cannot remove the foolishness from a fool.

This proverb isn’t just about stubborn behavior; it speaks to the spiritual and moral condition of a person. It highlights the depth and persistence of sin in the human heart.

II. Who is a “Fool” in the Biblical Sense?

In Scripture, the term “fool” doesn’t simply mean someone who lacks intelligence. It refers to someone who rejects God, resists

wisdom, and persists in sin. Below are some characteristics of a biblical fool:

> *Denies God’s existence:*
> “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” *(Psalm 14:1)*

> *Loves conflict:*
> “A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knows nothing.” *(Proverbs 9:13)*

> *Takes pleasure in evil:*
> “To do evil is like sport to a fool…” *(Proverbs 10:23)*

> *Trusts only in their own opinion:*
> “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes…” *(Proverbs 12:15)*

> *s arrogant and prideful:*
> “In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride…” *(Proverbs 14:3)*

> *Despises correction:*
> “A fool despises his father’s instruction…” *(Proverbs 15:5)*

In essence, foolishness in the Bible is not just intellectual — it’s

spiritual. It is the result of a heart disconnected from God and dominated by sin.

III. Why Human Methods Can’t Remove Foolishness

Solomon teaches that no amount of external force — be it punishment, education, or social reform — can change the core nature of a fool. This is because sin is not merely a behavior but a condition of the heart (Jeremiah 17:9).

Examples in real life and Scripture show this:

- A thief may be imprisoned but continues to steal upon release.
- Addicts may undergo treatment but relapse if the heart remains unchanged.
- Leaders appointed to fight corruption may themselves become corrupt.

All these demonstrate that external solutions cannot fix an internal problem.

IV. What Can Truly Transform a Foolish Heart?

The only lasting solution is found in the transformative power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. New Birth Through Christ

> *John 1:12 (NKJV):*
> “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

Receiving Christ gives a person a new identity and spiritual power to change.

2. Inner Transformation by the Holy Spirit

> *Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NKJV):*
> “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you… I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes.”

This is not behavior modification — it is heart transformation by God Himself.

3. Freedom From Sin

> *Romans 6:6 (NKJV):*
> “Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him... that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

Christ frees us from the power and penalty of sin — the root of foolishness.

4. Renewed Mindset

> *Romans 12:2 (NKJV):*
> “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

This ongoing transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life.

V. How to Begin This Change

The Bible outlines a clear response to God’s offer of

transformation:

- Believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent of sin — a sincere turning away (Acts 2:38)
- Be baptized in His name (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4)
- Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; John 14:26)
- Walk in obedience and fellowship with God (1 John 1:7)

Conclusion: The True Way Out of Foolishness

Proverbs 27:22 is a sobering reminder that human effort cannot change the sinful heart. No discipline, pressure, or worldly wisdom can make a fool wise. But through Christ, even the most hardened heart can be renewed.

Only Jesus can remove foolishness at its root — by changing the heart.

May you seek Him with your whole heart and experience the transformation only He can bring.

The Lord bless you.

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