

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.’” (*Psalms 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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