

(Proverbs 13:20)

“Walk with the wise and become wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.”

When we were children, our parents taught us to be selective about our friends. Interestingly, the criteria they used were not skin color, height, or health, but rather character and intellect. Children who were thoughtful and intelligent were encouraged to be close to us because we would be positively influenced by their behavior. On the other hand, those who were foolish—even if we played with them occasionally—we were disciplined for it. At the time, it felt unfair, but as we grew older and saw the lives of those children, we understood what our parents had seen and why it was necessary.

Similarly, in spiritual life, we are told:

“Walk with the wise and become wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.”

WHO ARE THE WISE IN GOD'S EYES?

They are people who are saved and have the fear of God within them. Anyone who has trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior and continues to genuinely follow Him is someone you should spend time with. Being close to them will teach you about salvation, prayer, fasting, God's love, the knowledge of His Word, and also how to witness effectively.

Even Jesus demonstrated this in His life. From a young age, He chose to surround Himself with people who would positively influence His spiritual growth. He did not spend His time with peers indulging in worldly games, parties, or sinful habits. Instead, He was close to teachers and spiritual leaders, learning from them and absorbing their wisdom until He became the greatest Rabbi Himself.

Luke 2:40-50

“The child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. When he was twelve years old, his parents went up to Jerusalem for the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in the caravan, they traveled for a day and looked for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for

him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.' 'Why were you searching for me?' he asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he meant."

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING THE RIGHT FRIENDS

Some habits or qualities will never develop in your life unless you surround yourself with the right people. If a Christian spends most of their time with worldly friends—office colleagues, college friends, or neighbors—their spiritual life may suffer. Some only meet faithful servants of God on Sundays, avoid spiritual accountability, and yet expect to remain spiritually strong. This is self-deception.

We need to actively surround ourselves with people who will help us grow:

- Walk with prayerful people → You will become prayerful.
- Walk with witnesses → You will learn to witness.

SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS, AND I'LL TELL YOU YOUR CHARACTER

- Walk with teachers → You will become a teacher.

Without such guidance and spiritual company, the world's influence can overpower us.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU.

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