

Proverbs 9:6 (ESV) says: “Leave your simple ways, and live; walk in the way of insight.”

(Proverbs 9:6 NIV: “Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.”)

In Scripture, a person without understanding is called a “fool.” God’s Word issues a solemn warning: *“Fools, turn from your foolishness so that you may live, and walk in the path of understanding.”* This is not mockery—it is divine guidance. Living in persistent sin and folly leads to destruction (cf. Proverbs 1:7, ESV: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*).

What is Understanding?

Understanding in biblical terms is not simply knowledge or worldly intelligence. The Bible defines true understanding as moral discernment and reverence for God. Job 28:28 (NIV) explains: *“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”*

- *Fear of the Lord: This is not terror but awe, respect, and submission to God's authority. It's the foundation of wisdom and moral clarity.*
- *Shunning evil: Understanding manifests in a conscious turning away from sin—whether sexual immorality, drunkenness, idolatry, violence, or prideful behavior.*

Thus, a person who actively resists sin and pursues righteousness demonstrates true understanding, regardless of worldly status or intellectual achievements.

Worldly vs. Spiritual Wisdom

Many equate wisdom with education, professional success, or wealth. The Bible, however, reverses this assumption:

- *A highly educated person who remains enslaved to sin is still a fool (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:18-19, ESV: "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become*

wise.”).

- *True wisdom is measured by alignment with God’s will, not by human standards.*

The Path to Understanding

The Bible commands: *“Let the fool turn from their folly and live”* (Proverbs 9:6, ESV). Salvation and understanding are possible through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

- *Repentance: A genuine turning from sin (Acts 3:19, NIV: “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.”).*
- *Baptism: Obedience in the right form of baptism as commanded by Christ (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV).*

- *Receiving the Holy Spirit: Spiritual gifts and discernment come through the indwelling of the Spirit (Acts 2:38, NIV: *"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'")*.

At this point, divine understanding enters the believer's heart and mind. It is a wisdom rooted in holiness and practical obedience, not mere intellectual attainment.

Reflection

Ask yourself honestly: Are you living in foolishness or walking in Godly wisdom? If sin still dominates your life, Jesus Christ offers the grace to overcome it and gain true understanding.

Let us seek God's wisdom, live in reverence to Him, and share this message with others so that they too may escape folly and find life.

FOOLS, TURN FROM FOOLISHNESS AND LIVE

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