

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The text 'PROVERBS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below it, a thin white horizontal line separates the word 'PROVERBS' from the phrase 'LIVING WISDOM', which is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters.

PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

Proverbs 1:20-33

- ²⁰ Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;
- ²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
- ²² “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?”
- ²³ If you turn at my reproof,
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,
25 because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
26 I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when terror strikes you,
27 when terror strikes you like a storm
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

29 Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
30 would have none of my counsel
and despised all my reproof,
31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,
and have their fill of their own devices.
32 For the simple are killed by their turning away,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

The Call of Wisdom

“Lady Wisdom”

Solomon’s beautiful literary tool of personifying wisdom.

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom **cries aloud** in the street,
in the markets **she raises her voice**;
²¹ at the head of the **noisy streets** she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates **she speaks**:

Alden Ehrenreich (new Han Solo) in Esquire Magazine (May 2018) interview on why he carries an old flip phone - "I had an iPhone. And then I'd forget it at home and I'd be like, man I feel good. I'm having such a good day. And then I'd realize, Oh-it's because I'm not checking my my email nineteen thousand times...(when he does carry it) I'm less able to be where I am, a little bit."

1 Kings 19:11-13

(As Elijah is depressed and emotionally healing in a cave)...And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a **low whisper**.

¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said,
“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

John 1:23

(John) said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

The Need for Wisdom

Alice came to a fork in the road.

"Where do you want to go?" responded the Cheshire Cat.

"I don't know," Alice answered.

"Then," said the cat, "it doesn't matter."

- Lewis Carroll,
Alice in Wonderland



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The Need for Wisdom

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.”
C.S. Lewis – Great Divorce

“waywardness” – literally turning away from God and His Love.

“Foolish Peace” – thinking life is just fine with me on the throne.

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I will mock when terror strikes you...

When I say (or my heart tells me):
“Oh no...I should never have _____. Now I’m in trouble.”
“I should have listened to _____.”

**This is NOT a mean God mocking you, wagging his “I told you” finger!
It is personified wisdom instilling regret that draws us back to Jesus.**

The Hope of Wisdom

²⁰ Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;

John 1:23

(John) said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Lady Wisdom is pointing to Jesus,
who doesn't simply tell us the way but IS The Way.

This is partly about everyday decisions...
And partly about our eternal decision.

²³ If you **turn** at my **reproof**,
behold, I will pour out **my spirit** to you;
I will make my words known to you.

Reproof

Consequences for our foolish decisions, not out of anger but in an attempt to draw us back to himself.

Repent

“turn” – agree with God that we’ve chosen our foolishness over his love.
(vs. “turning away” = we all turn, either from or toward Jesus)

Renewal

“pour out my Spirit” – God has given us his personal and intimate presence inside of us, to guide, draw us to himself and remind us of His love.

John 16:7

...it is to your advantage that I (Jesus) go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Romans 8

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword... ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer of Repentance
(Adapted from Puritan's Prayers)

O God of Grace,

You have given my sin to Jesus, and have given Jesus' righteousness to my soul, clothing me with a bridegroom's robe, decking me with jewels of holiness.

I need my tears to be washed; I have no robe to bring to cover my sins, no loom to weave my own righteousness; I am always going into the far country, and always returning home as a prodigal, always saying, "Father, forgive me," and you are always bringing forth the best robe.

Every morning let me wear it, every evening return in it, go out to the day's work in it, enter heaven in it, shining as the sun.

Grant me never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, the exceeding wonder of grace.

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