

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Laying the Foundation  
for Wisdom

### Speaker:

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### Date:

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### Scriptures:

Proverbs 1:1-8

**Theme:** Lay the foundation for wisdom in your life by fearing the Lord

**Introduction:** The most important part of a building is its foundation. Any problems there will be compounded in the rest of the building. In this series in Proverbs, we will see how God gave us wisdom to navigate like skillfully. More than that, we will see that the fear of the Lord is the very foundation of all wisdom (Prov 1:7) and is therefore the key to living life well and making it through our inevitable trials.

There are 3 parts to this foundation:

### 1. Why wisdom matters (1)

This book is primarily authored by Solomon, who was famous for wisdom (1 Kgs 4:29-33). He is the clearest OT picture of wisdom, and he is passing it along. Solomon started his reign well, asking God for wisdom to be a good king. So he models the stance that we should take in life as well (Jas 1:5). We are all called by the Lord to live for him (Eph 4:1). And as we walk in his wisdom, he is glorified (1 Kgs 4:34; 10:9).

### 2. What wisdom consists of (2-6)

Proverbs as a genre are wise sayings that are often not straight-forward. They require thought and contemplation, leading to personal application. Proverbs especially offer us skill for living. This is not merely a matter of knowledge, but of growth in character. There is a virtuous cycle in our growth as we gain skill and discernment in life. This call to wisdom applies to all, young and old alike. We all need to grow in wisdom, even if we are already among the wise (Prov 1:4-5).

### 3. Where wisdom begins (7)

Verse 7 offers a stark contrast: *either* we fear the Lord and are growing in wisdom *or* we are fools who despise soundness. There are no other alternatives. To fear God is to regard him with reverent awe, which is true worship. He deserves our full reverence and awe. We give him our full attention, respect, deference, and obedience. Fear of the Lord also means that our priorities ought to reflect what he values, increasingly. Jesus especially is the embodiment of this. He *is* the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:24).

### Questions:

1. How do you want to grow in wisdom? How have you already grown?
2. Where do you recognize folly in your life? Have you repented and known the Lord's forgiveness?
3. What folly and danger do you see in the world? How does God's wisdom speak to those areas?