

Proverbs 1:5

A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel

So many are quick to respond to what others say or post on Social Media without even stopping to ponder what was said or written, and they are not acting wise and taking in the words of wisdom, either spoken or written. Yet giving a quick response to words of wisdom does not show a person's wisdom, but rather their ignorance, just as James points out.

† **James 1:19-20** *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

One way to tell if someone's response contain words of wisdom or not, is how they respond. A lot of times their response will have nothing to do with what you said or posted. His or her response goes way into left field and you even have to wonder how they got their response based upon what you said or posted.

Another sign of ignorance is when someone responds with their opinion verses responding with God's word. Just as everyone has two eyes, two ears, one nose and one mouth, so does everyone have their own opinion. But if they can't back up their opinion with God's word, it usually means that the person is trying to get their own way and they want everyone to think the same way they do. It doesn't matter if they are right or not, because for them, it's not about right or wrong, it's about what they like or dislike. Proverbs speaks of these people as well.

† **Proverbs 12:15** *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.*

† **Proverbs 21:2** *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.*

Sound familiar? It should, because that's what this world has turned to with everyone having their own opinion and wanting everyone to think like they do, even if it is against God's word. Same sex marriages and relationships, living together outside of marriage, using others to get what they want. Seeking to get rich without having to work for it (think the lottery). Kids voicing their own opinions, which are wrong and belittling to parents and adults who know better than the kids do. Sure it's ok for a child or even an adult to voice their opinion, but if it is wrong based upon God's word, then we are to correct them, showing them in God's word what the truth is, in love. But if it's your opinion verses theirs, then it has turned into a battle of ignorance, and wits, but not of truth.

Read over these next few Proverbs about a fool and see if you can relate to any of them. Maybe about others you may know, or also about yourself.

† **Proverbs 15:2 (NLT2)** *The tongue of the wise makes knowledge appealing, but the mouth of a fool belches out foolishness.*

† **Proverbs 26:7 (NLT2)** *A proverb in the mouth of a fool is as useless as a paralyzed leg.*

† **Proverbs 17:28** *Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.*

Everyone wants to be wise and smart and have knowledge, but there are two type of people who all want the same thing.

The first wants wisdom and knowledge and they want to appear to be smart, only because they want everyone to notice them, and they want everyone to think how great they are with all their so called smartness.

The second wants the same thing, which is wisdom and knowledge, but notice I left out “*appear to be smart*” because the second wants wisdom and knowledge, not for themselves, but rather for others so that they can help others. They could care less if they appear to be smart or not, they simply want to share Godly wisdom and knowledge with those in need, so that they can make Godly decisions.

When you read the purpose of sharing wisdom in Proverbs, written by the wisest man (next to Jesus) to walk this earth, King Solomon, notice he never say to share wisdom so that you can bring attention to yourself or look good in the eyes of others, but rather for the benefit of the one receiving the wisdom.

† **Proverbs 1:1-7 (NLT2)** *These are the proverbs of Solomon, David’s son, king of Israel. Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles. Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

Do you feel that the Lord has given you wisdom, yet are you quick to give your opinion, without even pondering what you heard or read?

Maybe it's time to stop talking and start listening. Because sometimes silence is spoken by those with the greatest wisdom.

† **Psalm 119:15 (MSG)** *I ponder every morsel of wisdom from you, I attentively watch how you've done it.*

† **Joshua 1:8 (MSG)** *And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed.*