

# The Source of Wisdom, part 1

“Knowledge is horizontal. Wisdom is vertical— it comes down from above.”  
Billy Graham

## Proverbs 1:1-7 Christian Standard Bible

### The Purpose of Proverbs

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

2 For learning wisdom and discipline;  
for understanding insightful sayings;

3 for receiving prudent instruction  
in righteousness, justice, and integrity;

4 for teaching shrewdness to the inexperienced,<sup>[a]</sup>  
knowledge and discretion to a young man—

5 let a wise person listen and increase learning,  
and let a discerning person obtain guidance—

6 for understanding a proverb or a parable,<sup>[b]</sup>  
the words of the wise, and their riddles.

7 The fear of the Lord  
is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and discipline.

### Something to think about...

What are some specific instances of foolish words or behavior that you have witnessed? What are some examples of wise words or behavior that you have witnessed?

#### CSB Footnotes

a. 1:4 Or simple, or gullible

b. 1:6 Or an enigma

## A CLOSER LOOK

Verse 2 begins to tell us why the Book of Proverbs was written: primarily, for attaining wisdom, discipline, and understanding. The Hebrew word for “wisdom” means “skill or expertise in living.” Just as a person might be a skilled craftsman, musician, or mediator, so a person might be skilled in the living of life. The purpose of Proverbs is that a person might gain such skill. Even after a person knows how to live skillfully, he must have the personal discipline to do so, thus the emphasis on understanding which can also be interpreted as discernment. In summary, then, the purpose of Proverbs is that the reader might gain skill for living life, the discipline to carry through with it, and the discernment to know whether one is “on course.”

For many of us we know what to do we just don’t know how to start doing it. Verse 7 helps us with that difficult first step of where to begin. The fear and awe of the Lord provides perspective, as we revere, honor, and prioritize our creator and Lord. If a person does not start out at the right place, he cannot expect to end up at the right place.

**Revere God. Honor him in your life. Give him first place. Everything you want in life is based on this decision.**

## “LET US PRAY...”

Father we want to thank you for your words of wisdom. May we gain wisdom as we grow in reverence of You. Grant us discernment O Lord, there is so much that is unknown in this season, yet we trust that you are in control. Help us to profit from a life “on course” with You. Amen

NEXT WEEK... *The Source of Wisdom, part 2 — Proverbs 22:17-21*