

Proverbs 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Analysis

True wisdom paradoxically increases the wise person's hunger for more knowledge. This counters both arrogant complacency and despairing ignorance. The 'wise counsel' (Hebrew 'tachbulot') suggests skilled navigation, showing that growth in wisdom enables better life stewardship under God's providence.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom traditions often portrayed the sage as having arrived at complete understanding, but biblical wisdom maintains perpetual learner status, acknowledging only God possesses exhaustive knowledge.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does humility foster continued learning in your walk with God?
2. What new area of biblical wisdom are you currently seeking to grow in?

Interlinear Text

יִשְׁמַע	חָכָם	וְיִרְבֶּה	לְקַח	אִישׁ בֵּן
man will hear	A wise	and will increase	learning	and a man of understanding
H8085	H2450	H3254	H3948	H995
תִּחְבֹּל	אֶתְחַבֵּל			
unto wise counsels	shall attain			
H8458	H7069			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 12:1 (Parallel theme): Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

Proverbs 9:9 (Parallel theme): Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

1 Corinthians 10:15 (Parallel theme): I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

Job 34:16 (Parallel theme): If now thou hast understanding, hear this: hearken to the voice of my words.

Job 34:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.

Job 34:34 (Parallel theme): Let men of understanding tell me, and let a wise man hearken unto me.

2 Chronicles 25:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.