

Proverbs 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Analysis

Whoever is simple, let him turn in here. Identically to Wisdom's invitation (9:4), Folly addresses the simple. The Hebrew 'pethiy' (simple/naive) describes the undecided, gullible, easily swayed. Both wisdom and folly target the same audience - those not yet committed. The simple must choose between competing invitations. Neutrality isn't option; passivity defaults to folly. Active choice for wisdom is required.

Historical Context

Joshua challenged Israel: 'Choose you this day whom ye will serve' (Joshua 24:15). Elijah confronted: 'How long halt ye between two opinions?' (1 Kings 18:21). Jesus taught: 'He that is not with me is against me' (Matthew 12:30). Throughout Scripture, neutrality is impossible. The simple must actively choose wisdom or passively default to folly. No middle ground exists.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you remaining 'simple' - uncommitted between wisdom and folly?
2. How does recognizing that passivity defaults to folly motivate active choice for wisdom?
3. What decision for wisdom are you delaying that requires immediate commitment?

Interlinear Text

מִי	פֶּתִי	יָסֵר	הֵנָּה	וְחָסֵר
H4310	Whoso is simple	let him turn in	H2008	hither and as for him that wanteth
	H6612	H5493		H2638
לִבִּי	וְאֵל מִכָּה	לֹא		
understanding	she saith	H0		
H3820	H559			

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