

Proverbs 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Whoever is simple, let him turn in here. Wisdom addresses the simple/naive. The Hebrew 'pethiy' (simple/naive) describes the gullible, unformed, undecided. Wisdom doesn't require sophisticated brilliance but welcomes the simple. Those who know they lack wisdom can come and receive. The prerequisite isn't intelligence but humility - recognizing need and responding to invitation.

Historical Context

Jesus similarly welcomed the simple: 'I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes' (Matthew 11:25). Paul wrote: 'Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise' (1 Corinthians 1:26-27). Wisdom welcomes the simple who know they need her.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What false sophistication prevents you from coming to wisdom as 'simple' one needing instruction?
2. How does humility about your ignorance position you to receive wisdom?
3. In what areas do you need to acknowledge simplicity/naivety and seek wisdom's instruction?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| מִי | פֶּתִי | יָסֹר | הֵנָּה | חֲסֹר |
| H4310 | Whoso is simple | let him turn in | H2008 | hither as for him that wanteth |
| | H6612 | H5493 | | H2638 |
| לְבָב | אֶתְּמַרְהָ | לּוֹ: | | |
| understanding | she saith | H0 | | |
| H3820 | H559 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 6:32 (Parallel theme): But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

Proverbs 9:16 (Parallel theme): Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Proverbs 8:5 (Parallel theme): O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Matthew 11:25 (Parallel theme): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.