

Proverbs 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Analysis

Forsake foolishness and live; proceed in the way of understanding. The Hebrew 'azab' (leave/forsake) and 'ashar' (go straight/proceed) command directional change. Leaving foolishness enables proceeding in understanding. The two movements are connected - can't walk wisdom's path while carrying folly. Repentance (forsaking) precedes progress (proceeding). Life results from wise walking; death from foolish persisting.

Historical Context

Biblical repentance involves both turning from (forsaking sin) and turning to (proceeding in righteousness). John Baptist preached: 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2). Jesus began ministry similarly: 'Repent, and believe the gospel' (Mark 1:15). Paul described his message as testifying 'repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ' (Acts 20:21). True conversion forsakes folly, embraces wisdom.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What specific foolishness do you need to forsake to proceed in wisdom's way?
2. How does continuing in folly prevent progress in wisdom, even if you're learning truth?
3. What would complete forsaking of particular foolishness and wholehearted proceeding in wisdom look like practically?

Interlinear Text

בִּיןָה: בַּדְּכָה אֲשֶׁר וְחַי פָּתָאִ מ עַזְבֵּן
Forsake the foolish and live and go in the way of understanding
H5800 H6612 H2421 H833 H1870 H998

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 4:11 (Parallel theme): I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

Luke 13:24 (Parallel theme): Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.