

Daniel 2:12

This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the **wise** men of Babylon.

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Daniel 2:13

So the decree was issued to put the **wise** men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

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Daniel 2:14

When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the **wise** men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact.

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Daniel 2:18

He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the **wise** men of Babylon.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 1:27

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the **wise**; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 2:4

My message and my preaching were not with **wise** and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

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1 Corinthians 3:10

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a **wise** builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

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1 Corinthians 3:18

Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are **wise** by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become **wise**.

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Judges 16:13

Delilah then said to Samson, “All this time you have been making a **fool** of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied.” He replied, “If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.” So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric

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Judges 16:15

Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a **fool** of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.”

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1 Samuel 13:13

“You have done a **foolish** thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

2 Samuel 15:31

Now David had been told, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” So David prayed, “LORD, turn Ahithophel’s counsel into **foolishness**.”

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2 Samuel 24:10

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very **foolish** thing.”

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1 Chronicles 21:8

Then David said to God, “I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very **foolish** thing.”

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2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are

4 Realize that everyone is fallible. As you gain your own wisdom and experience, you'll find that those you looked up to as mentors have their own failings. Don't hold people to such high standards that their mistakes shock and repel you. Strive to see people's humanity, which means not holding them up on pedestals but taking the bad along with the good.

2 Think before acting. Take as much time as you need to deliberate on a problem before making a decision. Think about the pros and cons, taking your experience as well as others' advice into account, so you make the wisest possible choice.

2 Find wise mentors. Who in your life strikes you as wise? Wisdom comes in many forms. It could be a pastor who gives people something important to reflect on each week. It could be a teacher who has the ability to inspire people with his or her knowledge. Maybe it's a family member who reacts to every difficult situation with a level head.^[4]

1 Try new things. It's hard to gain wisdom when you stay in and do the same thing day after day. You get wiser when you put yourself out there and give yourself the opportunity to learn, make mistakes and reflect on the experience. If you tend to be on the inhibited side, work on cultivating an inquisitive spirit and the willingness to put yourself in new situations.^[1] Every time you experience something new, you open yourself up to the possibility of learning and getting a little wiser for having tried it.

3 Read as much as you can. Reading is a way to absorb other people's perspectives, no matter what subject they're writing about. It gives you an insight into the way other people think that's impossible to get in any other way. Reading up on both sides of important matters gives you the information you need to form valid opinions and make reasoned decisions.

1 Be humble in new situations. As Socrates said, "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing." It's difficult to fully grasp this concept until you're faced with a life situation that completely stumps you. No matter how smart you are, and how many experiences you've had, you'll encounter times when the line between right and wrong seems fuzzy and you aren't sure what choice to make.^[5]

3 Make an effort to talk to people you don't know very well. Talk to people from different backgrounds and with different perspectives from yours, and pay attention to what you can learn from them. Try not to judge them based on your own narrow point of view. The more you're able to empathize with others, the wiser you will be.^[2]

4 Learn from your mistakes. Even a carefully considered decision can end up being the wrong one. Each time you have a new experience, reflect on it and think about what went well and what didn't. When you realize you've made a mistake, see what new findings you can apply the next time you face a similar situation.^[6]

4 Be open-minded. Instead of judging things you don't know much about, consider them from every angle and make an effort to understand.^[3] It's easy to base our views on the limited experiences we've had in life, but that's not the way to gain wisdom. You can't help that you've grown up in a certain place with certain people, but you can decide how open you are to learning about different ways of life.

2 Step out of your comfort zone. If you're afraid to do something, perhaps that's the very thing you should try to do. When you have to deal with an awkward or scary situation, you come out on the other side better equipped to handle fear the next time you face it. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face . . . we must do that which we think we cannot."

Proverbs 12:15

The way of fools seems right to them, but the **wise** listen to advice.

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Proverbs 12:18

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the **wise** brings healing.

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Proverbs 13:1

A **wise** son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not respond to rebukes.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Proverbs 13:14

The teaching of the **wise** is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

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Proverbs 13:20

Walk with the **wise** and become **wise**, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

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Daniel 2:21

He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the **wise** and knowledge to the discerning.

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Daniel 2:24

[*Daniel Interprets the Dream*] Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the **wise** men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the **wise** men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”

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Daniel 2:27

Daniel replied, “No **wise** man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about,

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Daniel 2:48

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its **wise** men.

A Wise Ruling

16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. **17** One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. **18** The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

19 “During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him. **20** So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. **21** The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn’t the son I had borne.”

22 The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.”

But the first one insisted, “No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.” And so they argued before the king.

Job 2:10

He replied, “You are talking like a **foolish** woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

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Job 5:2

Resentment kills a **fool**, and envy slays the simple.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Job 5:3

I myself have seen a **fool** taking root, but suddenly his house was cursed.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Job 12:17

He leads rulers away stripped and makes **fools** of judges.

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Psalms 14:1

[*Psalm 14*] [*For the director of music. Of David.*] The **fool** says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;

1 Samuel 25:25

Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means **Fool**, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent.

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1 Samuel 26:21

Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a **fool** and have been terribly wrong.”

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2 Samuel 13:13

What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked **fools** in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you.”

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2 Samuel 15:31

Now David had been told, “Ahithophel is

Genesis 41:33

“And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and **wise** man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

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Genesis 41:39

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and **wise** as you.

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Exodus 7:11

Pharaoh then summoned **wise** men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts:

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Deuteronomy 1:13

Choose some **wise**, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Deuteronomy 1:15

Numbers 12:11

and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so **foolishly** committed.

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Numbers 22:29

Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a **fool** of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.”

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Deuteronomy 32:6

Is this the way you repay the LORD, you **foolish** and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?

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Judges 16:10

Then Delilah said to Samson, “You have made a **fool** of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied.”

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Judges 16:13

Delilah then said to Samson, “All this time you

Proverbs 3:7

Do not be **wise** in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Proverbs 3:35

The **wise** inherit honor, but fools get only shame.

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Proverbs 6:6

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be **wise**!

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Proverbs 8:33

Listen to my instruction and be **wise**; do not disregard it.

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Proverbs 9:8

Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the **wise** and they will love you.

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Proverbs 9:9

1 Corinthians 3:19

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the **wise** in their craftiness";

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1 Corinthians 3:20

and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the **wise** are futile."

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1 Corinthians 4:10

We are fools for Christ, but you are so **wise** in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!

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1 Corinthians 6:5

I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you **wise** enough to judge a dispute between believers?

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Matthew 7:26

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a **foolish** man who built his house on sand.

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Matthew 23:17

You blind **fools**! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?

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Matthew 25:2

Five of them were **foolish** and five were wise.

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Matthew 25:3

The **foolish** ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

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Matthew 25:8

The **foolish** ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

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1 Corinthians 1:19

For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the **wise**; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

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1 Corinthians 1:20

Where is the **wise** person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

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1 Corinthians 1:25

For the foolishness of God is **wiser** than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

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1 Corinthians 1:26

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were **wise** by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

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Proverbs 14:1

The **wise** woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

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Proverbs 14:3

A fool's mouth lashes out with pride, but the lips of the **wise** protect them.

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Proverbs 14:16

The **wise** fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure.

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Proverbs 14:24

The wealth of the **wise** is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Proverbs 14:35

A king delights in a **wise** servant, but a shameful servant arouses his fury.

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Galatians 3:1

[*Faith or Works of the Law*] You **foolish** Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

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Galatians 3:3

Are you so **foolish**? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

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