

A dramatic photograph of a stormy sky over the ocean. Dark, heavy clouds dominate the upper two-thirds of the frame, with some light breaking through near the horizon. The ocean is visible at the bottom, with white-capped waves breaking. The text "What happens when the storms keep coming?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, bold font.

**What happens when the
storms keep coming?**

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you... **When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**”**

Isaiah 43:1-2

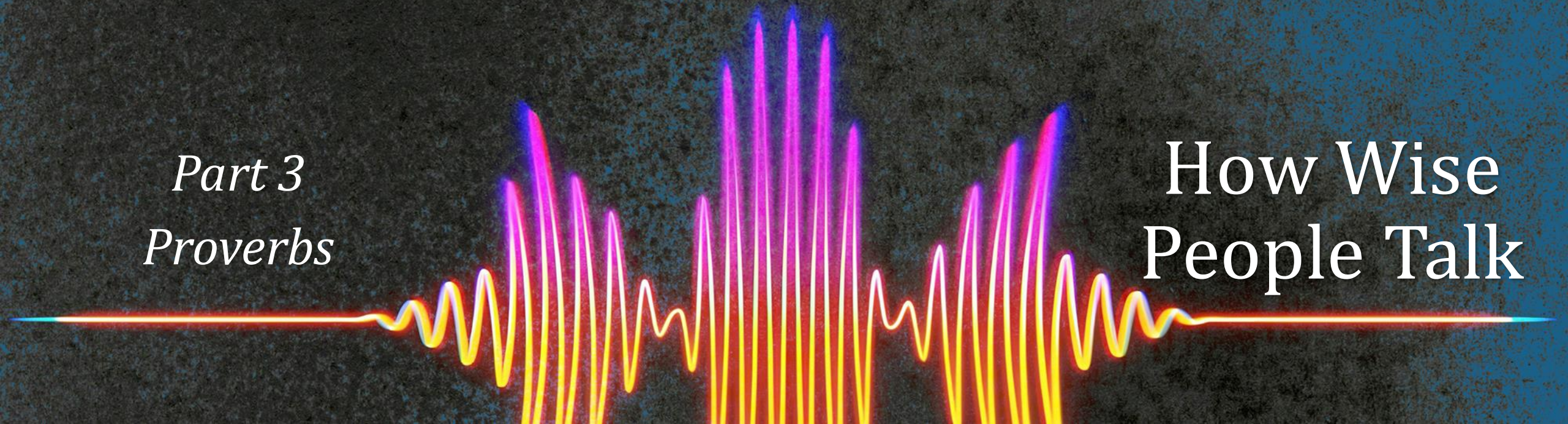
Don't measure God's faithfulness by the intensity of your storm. Measure it by the certainty of His presence.

WORDS MATTER

DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE... – PROVERBS 18:21

Part 3
Proverbs

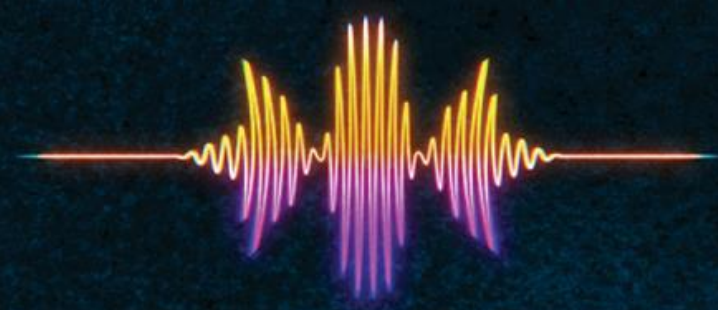
How Wise
People Talk



Take the Psalm 19:14 challenge!

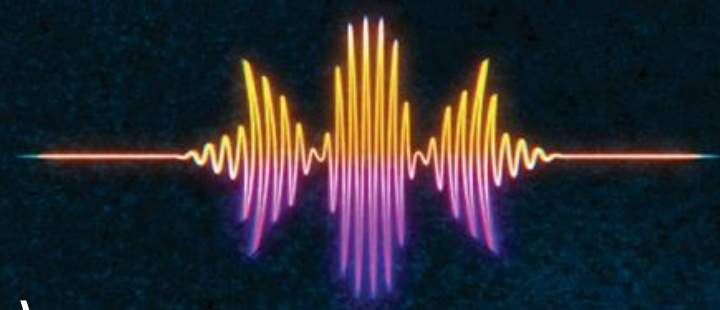


**“Let the words of my mouth and
the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my
strength and my redeemer.”**



**You are living in the world
your words are creating.**

Proverbs – overview



The Big Picture: *Wisdom* (one word theme)

Key Verse: *Pr. 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”*

Chapters 1-9: *Journal of advice written from a father to his son [listening to good counsel; choose your friends carefully, avoid sexual temptation, value wisdom over wealth; wisdom brings life; foolishness brings destruction]*

Chapters 10-31: *hundreds of short, memorable sayings [speech; work v. laziness, money, pride, anger, friendships, family, honesty. Integrity, discipline]*

One Great Question: *Will you walk in wisdom ... or will you walk like a fool?*

Wisdom - “*hokmah*”
Skill for living

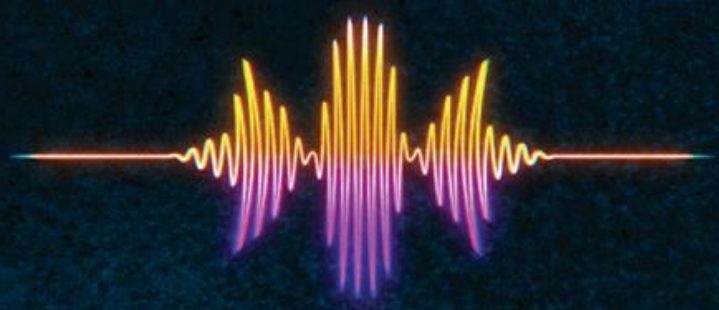


“Death and life are in the
power of the tongue, and
those who love it will eat
it’s fruit.”

Proverbs 18:21



WORDS
MATTER

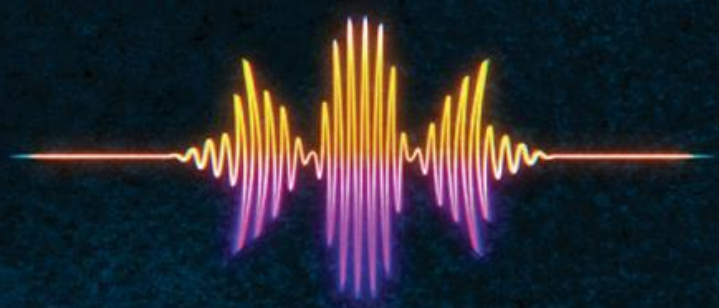


How Wise People Talk

1. **Wise people listen before they speak (*Pr. 18:13*).**

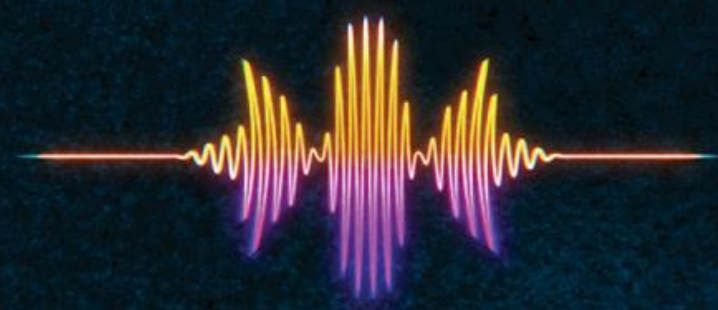
fool/foolish $\neq$ *low intelligence*
*someone who consistently
ignores God's wisdom*



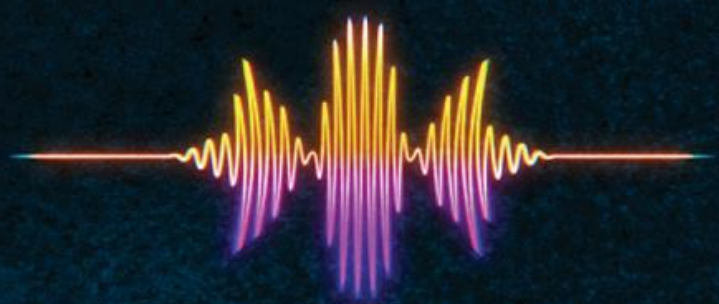


How Wise People Talk

1. **Wise people listen before they speak** (*Pr. 18:13*).
2. **Wise people heal instead of harm** (*Pr. 12:18*).



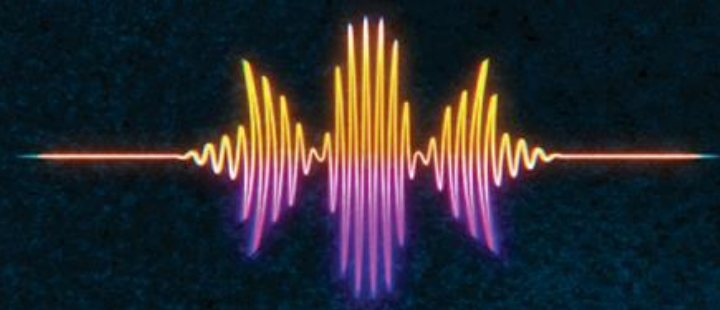
**Every morning you choose
whether your tongue will
become a knife or medicine.**



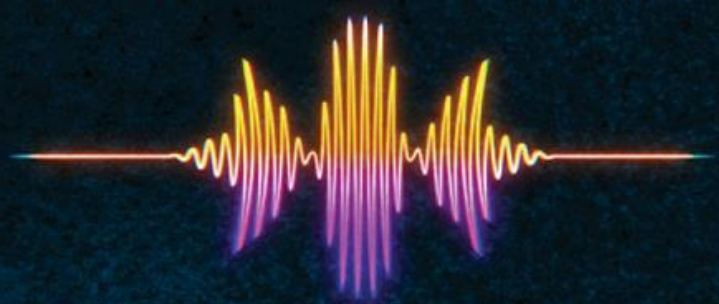
How Wise People Talk

1. **Wise people listen before they speak** (*Pr. 18:13*).
2. **Wise people heal instead of harm** (*Pr. 12:18*).
3. **Wise people treasure truth** (*Pr. 12:22*).
4. **Wise people protect instead of gossip** (*Pr. 11:13*).

The Gossip Tests

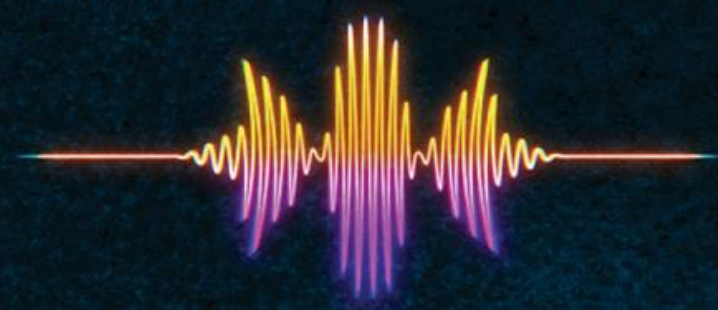


- Would I say this if they were standing beside me? If not, why am I saying it now?
- Am I helping solve the problem or simply spreading it?



How Wise People Talk

1. **Wise people listen before they speak** (*Pr. 18:13*).
2. **Wise people heal instead of harm** (*Pr. 12:18*).
3. **Wise people treasure truth** (*Pr. 12:22*).
4. **Wise people protect instead of gossip** (*Pr. 11:13*).
5. **Wise people speak the right word at the right time** (*Pr. 25:11*).



**The right words at the wrong
time are still the wrong words.**

**“Death and life are in the
power of the tongue, and
those who love it will eat
it’s fruit.”**

Proverbs 18:21



WORDS
MATTER

Jesus - the Word

*“the Word became flesh and
lived among us”*

John 1