

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

Isaiah 43:1-2

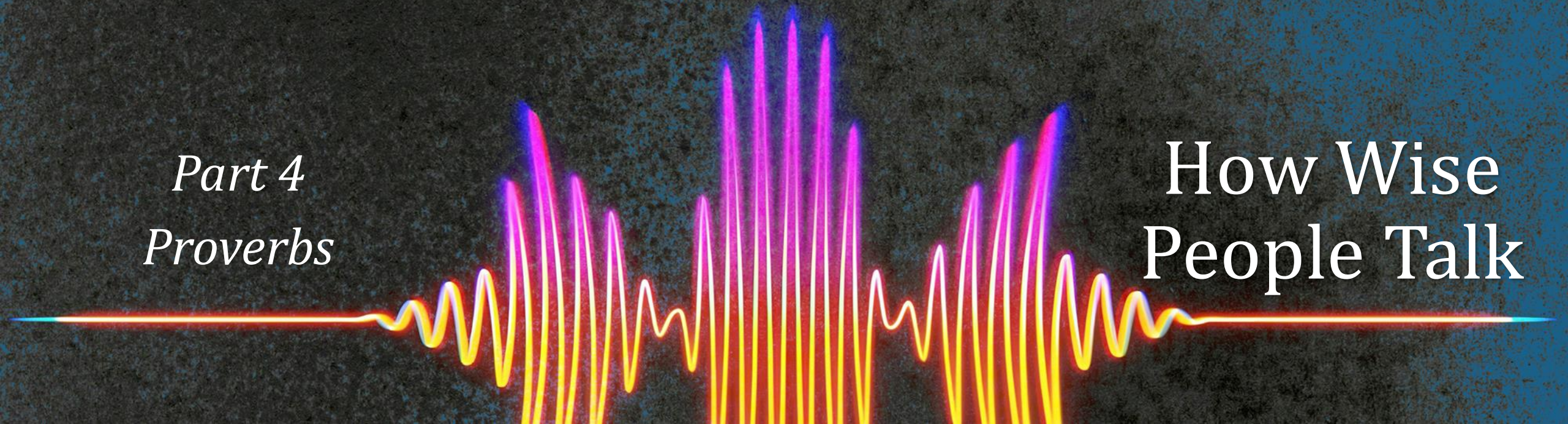
Don't measure God's faithfulness by the intensity of your storm. Measure it by the certainty of His presence.

WORDS MATTER

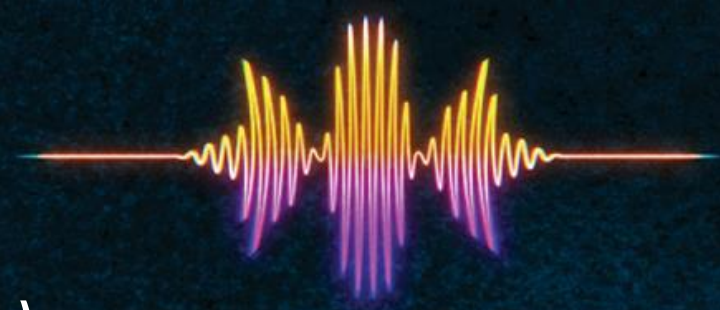
DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE... – PROVERBS 18:21

Part 4
Proverbs

How Wise
People Talk



Proverbs – overview



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

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

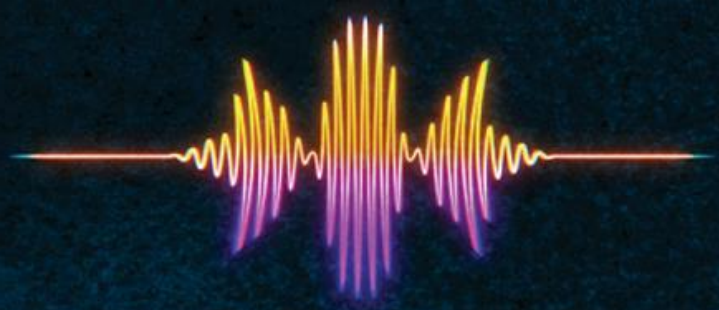
Chapters 1-9: *Journal of advice written from a father to his son [listening to good counsel; choose your friends carefully, avoid sexual temptation, value wisdom over wealth; wisdom brings life; foolishness brings destruction]*

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?*

***Will I respond with
wisdom ... or foolishness?***



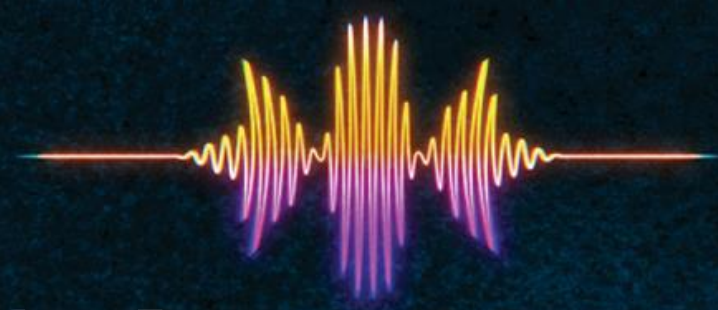


How Wise People Talk

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

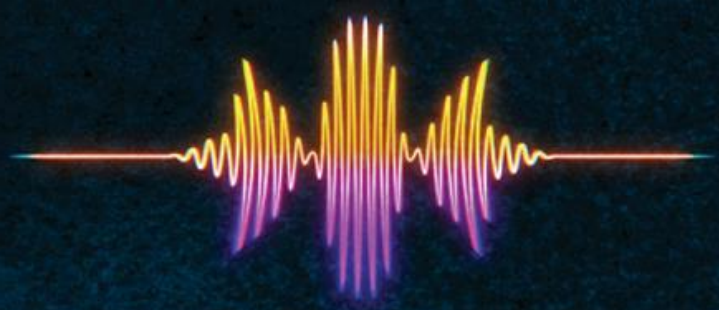
fool/foolish $\neq$ *low intelligence*
*someone who consistently
ignores God's wisdom*





**Listening is one of the
purest forms of love.**

*Listening is love with
your mouth closed.*



How Wise People Talk

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

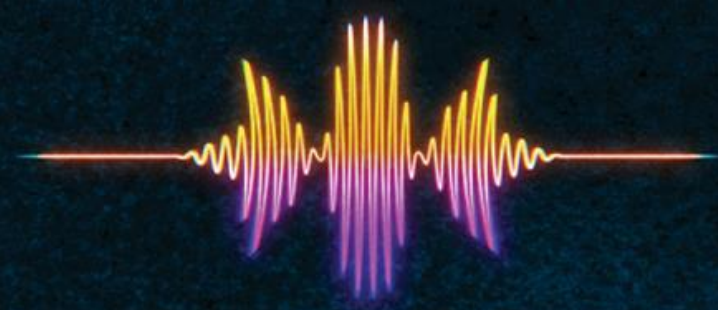
“health” / “healing”

Making something whole again

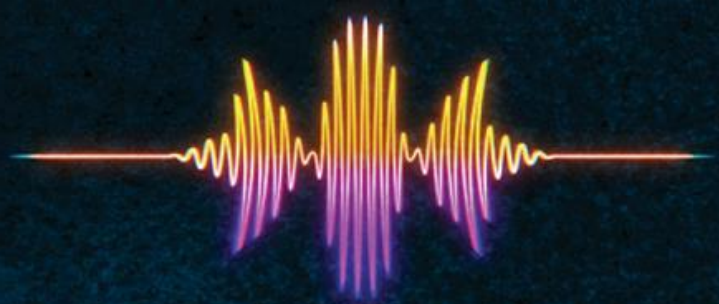
Not simply making someone feel better

Helping restore what has been broken





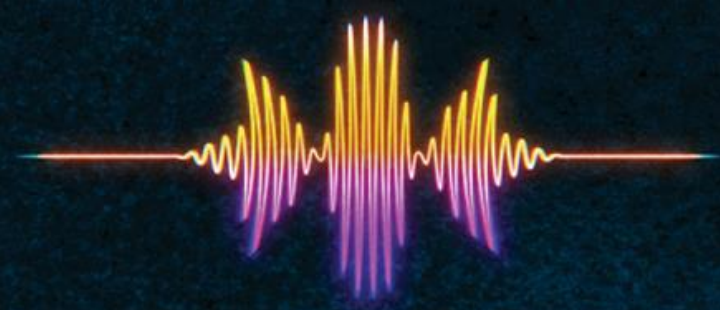
**Every morning you choose
whether your tongue will
become a knife or medicine.**



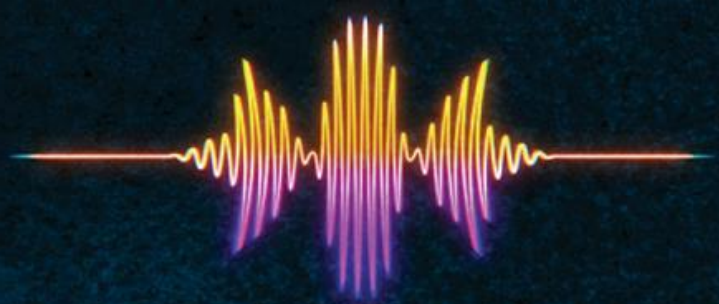
How Wise People Talk

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

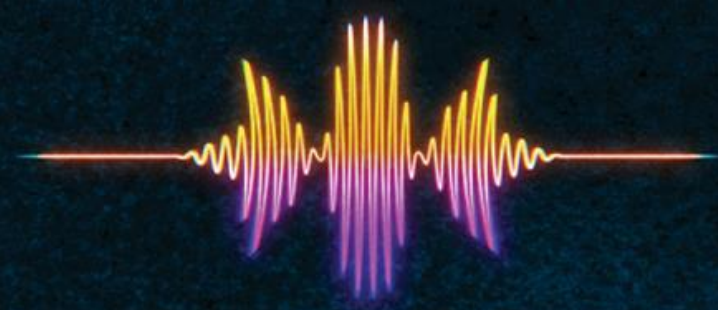


- Would I say this if they were standing beside me? If not, why am I saying it now?
- Am I helping solve the problem or simply spreading it?
- Would I want someone saying this about me?



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*).

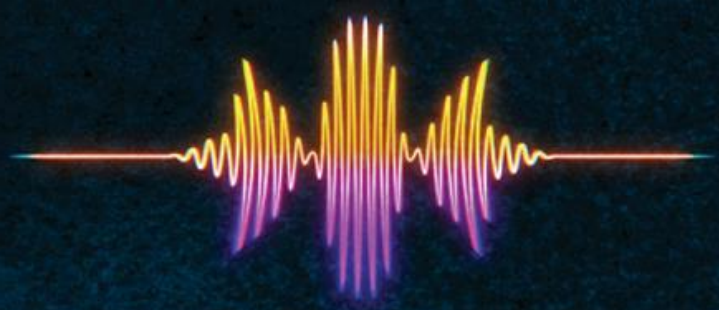


**The right words at the wrong
time are still the wrong words.**

Prayer before difficult conversations:

***“Lord, what does this person
need from me right now?”***





If someone spent one day with a truly wise Christian, what would they hear?

They would hear someone ...

- 1) Who listens before speaking.**
- 2) Who heals rather than harms.**
- 3) Whose words can be trusted.**
- 4) Who protects the reputation of others.**
- 5) Who knows exactly the right word at the right time.**

**“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