

Sayings of the Wise

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10 X

Text: Proverbs 1:5-6 (NKJV, NIV, AMP)

Wise people are always learning and increasing in knowledge and understanding. All wisdom has its foundation in the Word of God and the fear of the Lord. **Proverbs 9:10-11**

While all wisdom has its source in the Bible, not all wise sayings are found in the Bible. God inspires people to give wisdom concerning a multitude of areas, skills, ideas, advice, council, maximums, processes, specialties and endeavors. The entirety of the Bible is wisdom. The books of Proverbs, Psalms and Ecclesiastes are filled with short sayings that have deep meaning. These are inspired by God Himself.

A 10 X person is always learning and growing in wisdom. **Luke 2:52** Even the best of us are always growing and increasing in wisdom, learning, favor and stature. Part of that is being able to discern between what is wisdom and what only has a semblance of wisdom.

Ephesians 5:6-10

Not everything that smart, kind, well-meaning people say is actually wisdom. Any saying that contradicts the Word of God or does not line up with scripture is not wise no matter how profound it sounds. For instance, the saying – “just be yourself” sounds good but is contradictory to a God who calls us to die to ourselves. The better wisdom would be – “be who God created you to be.” Wisdom causes us to be critical thinkers which is different than being a critical person.

Wise people learn from wise people and avoid foolish, simple, silly, unserious folks. **Proverbs 13:20** Those who increase in wisdom go looking for it and are humble and teachable. **Proverbs 4:4-9** 10 X people like Daniel are not only filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit, but they also walk in wisdom. **Ephesians 5:15-17**

Sayings of the Wise – For years I have collected wise sayings. Many of them have found their way into sermons and teachings but have never been gathered into one place. The following is certainly not an exhaustive list. They cover a wide variety of things. All of them would line up with scripture. We will look at many of them, but they are primarily to be used as study and a resource in your life.

- ~ There's a difference between being decisive and being abrupt. Even smart people need time to process. It's okay to tap the brakes.
- ~ Ideas are powerful, but not as powerful as habits.
- ~ Most conflict happens when an under-reaction collides with an over-reaction

- ~ If you were to access the secret lives of legitimately successful people, you'd find a world of boring routines. Good habits create a good life
- ~ You can never spend too much time listening.
- ~ An inner circle is good. An inner compass is better.
- ~ To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is to be wrong.
- ~ You lose the respect of the best when you don't deal properly with the worst.
- ~ Address problems in a timely fashion.
- ~ Never make a permanent decision based on a temporary emotion.
- ~ The way we react to minor inconveniences says a lot about our character
- ~ If you cannot be corrected without being offended, you will never grow in life.
- ~ When dealing with a complaint or a compliment always consider the source.
- ~ Remember that one unguarded, unsanctified outburst can undo a lifetime of good.
- ~ When you correct, fire or discipline someone don't expect them to be happy about it or for everyone to understand it. Do it anyway because it is the right thing to do.
- ~ Refuse to allow rejection to move you unless it is God.
- ~ Trust but verify.
- ~ Inspect what you expect
- ~ Give your best wherever God puts you
- ~ The grass is greener where you water it.
- ~ Honest without love is cold and love without honesty is shallow, speak the truth in love
- ~ Until it is my turn I will keep clapping for others
- ~ Of two evils – choose neither
- ~ Don't ignore your spirit when it doesn't sit right with certain people, there is a reason
- ~ Show respect to people even when they don't deserve it, respect is a reflection of your character not theirs
- ~ Never argue with stupid people. They will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.

- ~ Refuse to allow other people to hold the key to your peace of mind
- ~ Peace does not mean that you will not have problems. Peace meant that your problems won't have you
- ~ The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.
- ~ Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.
- ~ Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.
- ~ You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
- ~ You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.
- ~ Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right.
- ~ A new broom sweeps clean, but an old broom knows the corners. Learn to be flexible.
- ~ He who flees at the right time can fight again. Live to Fight another day. Not every hill is worth dying on.
- ~ He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.
- ~ Wise men may be learned. Learned men may not be wise.
- ~ A man who cannot tolerate small misfortunes can never accomplish great things.
- ~ When men meet foes in fight, better is a stout heart than a sharp sword.
- ~ Speaking without thought is like shooting without taking aim.
- ~ A lazy shepherd is a wolf's friend.
- ~ Three things in the world worth having: courage, good sense, caution.
- ~ Labor is bitter but the bread it buys is sweet.
- ~ When you're thirsty it's too late to think about digging a well.
- ~ Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes
- ~ Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and he'll eat forever.
- ~ Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.
- ~ Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.

- ~ Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself.
- ~ Little things make the difference. Everyone is well prepared in the big things, but only the winners perfect the little things.
- ~ Great people see everyone in the room. Small people only notice those who notice them
- ~ The most important space to be aware of in life is the space between being wounded and becoming bitter.
- ~ Focus on living - not reliving
- ~ Even if you were born for something you still have to learn how to do it.
- ~ How you describe someone when they're not around tells me more about you than it does about them
- ~ Being "seasoned" is different than being experienced.
- ~ Just because you've done the same thing over and over for many years doesn't mean you're automatically better at doing it. The key to enduring effectiveness is to IMPROVE with time, not just put in your time.
- ~ There is a vast difference between information and answers.
- ~ Great leaders empower. Poor leaders' control.
- ~ Life strategically. Love spontaneously.
- ~ The hero is the servant, not the gladiator.
- ~ Ministry is not a process of production, it's a process of reproduction.
- ~ Great people Turn Mistakes into Information.
- ~ There are certain inadequacies embedded into every person that are God-given shortcomings. They are what keep people humble and connected.
- ~ "There are the small-hearted who think people are disposable and easily replaceable, but a real leader finds the value in every person.
- ~ It takes a lot of Guts to stop a gossip midsentence
- ~ The most effective people have a reputation for wisdom, not just willpower
- ~ Confidence is different than boasting.
- ~ The most important thing a person communicates is warmth, not words.

- ~ If you can manipulate your way there, it's not a true achievement.
The best thing about climbing mountains is that you cannot fake your way to the top.
- ~ Loyalty is good. Blind loyalty is a disaster.
- ~ We imitate who we admire. So be careful who you admire.
- ~ Second choices are more important than second chances
- ~ 'Abandon ship' or 'stay the course'. It's the fork in the road every person comes to...
- ~ Confronting someone is entirely different than condemning someone.
- ~ Finding your 'ear' is more important than finding your 'voice'. It takes more guts to listen than it does to speak.
- ~ Never punish the next person because of the actions of the previous person
- ~ I'd rather be an advocate than an adversary.
- ~ Humility is the shortest path to deliverance.
- ~ One of the greatest privileges in life is to alleviate suffering.
- ~ People connect with your struggle before they connect with your success.
- ~ The absence of integrity keeps a gifted person from becoming an influential person
- ~ Revenge is no different than grudge-bearing. One actively destroys the other passively destroys.
- ~ It is impossible to help someone grow when they interpret correction as rejection
- ~ There is no such thing as trying to be honest
- ~ Put success on the bottom shelf so anyone can reach for it.
- ~ The leader is the one who loves more, not the one who knows more
- ~ No matter what type of organization you lead, DOCTRINE comes before VISION. What you BELIEVE is more crucial than what you SEE.
- ~ The irony of masks is that we wear them to appear strong - yet people are drawn to us when we take them off
- ~ Leadership is not about turning something small into something big - it's about turning something lonely into something loved
- ~ Listen to the person instead of trying to read their mind

- ~ Every time you brag about yourself you become less noticeable
- ~ Behavior does not affect love, but it does affect trust.
- ~ It's not what you plant - it's what you cultivate
- ~ The problem with a bad foundation is that it can take several years to discover it.
- ~ At the end of the day, a good reputation is based on two things. Keeping your cool and keeping your promises.
- ~ We need people who speak from their hearts instead of speaking their minds. There is a difference.
- ~ No matter how busy, tired, scattered or frustrated, great leaders are always in control of what's coming out of their mouth
- ~ There's a big difference between a genuine problem and an imagined one -don't get trapped and distracted by a false reality
- ~ EXECUTION - performing as planned. EXCELLENCE - forcing myself to do it the right way every time. EFFORT - staying strong through the struggle
- ~ Great people notice the positive before they notice the negative
- ~ Adversity is rarely about the difficult task - it's usually about the difficult person
- ~ Leadership is different than management. Managers make sure it's functioning - leaders make sure it's reaching its potential
- ~ Discernment is not the ability to know right from wrong - it's the ability to know right from almost right
- ~ The most difficult spot in leadership is the space between faithfulness and fruitfulness, so stay encouraged and stay the course
- ~ The hardest part of leadership is correcting someone you love - it's much easier to correct a stranger
- ~ Leadership is not about making the hard decision - it's about making the wise decision
- ~ You cannot threaten people into Loyalty
- ~ When it comes to leadership, it doesn't matter if the crowd laughs or applauds - but only whether or not they trust you
- ~ Your destiny is about your decisions not your talents
- ~ When you're in a leadership role your private life matters more than your public life

- ~ The anxiety leading up to the confrontation is always worse than the actual confrontation.
- ~ BEING ANGRY is vastly different than FEELING HURT
- ~ Successful people know that Credible always comes before Incredible
- ~ If it requires lying - don't do it
- ~ The Attitude is always louder than the answer
- ~ Panic begets panic - that's why it's imperative you remain calm through the chaos
- ~ People get weary of following a person who talks big but never follows through
- ~ The cowardly will always resent the brave
- ~ The secret to happiness is really no secret. Live well - love well - serve well
- ~ Worry hits the mind. Anxiety the stomach. Worry is about tomorrow. Anxiety is about today. Both are at work to destroy me.
- ~ A Good reputation is based on two things Keeping your cool and keeping your promises.
- ~ There are two types of people in life - those running toward something and those running from something
- ~ Burnout is not the result of fatigue - it's the result of anxiety. You don't overcome burnout by working less. You overcome burnout by worrying less.
- ~ Too many young people have become obsessed with being discovered instead of investing their lives in discovery
- ~ People keep reinvesting in bad decisions because of their pride - humility is the only way to break the cycle
- ~ Never demean someone's sincere attempt at something
- ~ One of the great privileges in life is when God uses you, even in small ways, to alleviate the suffering of another person
- ~ Young people often have the energy but lack the influence, older people often have the influence, but lack the energy - that is why transgenerational teams have the greatest potential
- ~ Great people understand that you have to change an atmosphere before you can change a culture
- ~ Focus on wisdom and better decision making will naturally follow

- ~ Never follow a person who refuses to say they were wrong
- ~ Rejection is what they do to me - dejection is what I do to myself
- ~ Words are rarely neutral. They do not wash off the soul like highway graffiti - they either heal or wound.
- ~ Things do not compete for your time - they compete for your affections
- ~ Don't worry about the credit - people never forget who inspired them
- ~ INTEGRITY simply means that what you thought, what you said, and what you did are all the same
- ~ Destiny is never instant. Great leaders give things a chance - they never dismiss people or opportunities after one glance
- ~ The secret to high-capacity people is knowing how to turn personal criticism into personal improvement
- ~ A passion for leadership begins with a love for people
- ~ Confidence is instilled, not inherited. No matter where a child starts in life the presence of an inspiring mentor can change everything
- ~ Some birth, some build, some bless - you will be invited into all three dimensions during your journey
- ~ No matter how mundane it gets - stay relentless about your family - the rewards are immeasurable
- ~ Every person gets tested by two things - demotion and promotion
- ~ Good people follow up - great people follow through
- ~ Just because you disagree with someone doesn't mean their actions should offend you
- ~ Support them - don't rescue them. Just encourage them to listen and learn through the difficulty. It's how we grow.
- ~ A good attitude is more powerful than a good idea
- ~ Simplicity is a sign of brilliance
- ~ The fastest way to taste the contents of your heart is to hear your enemy complimented
- ~ Great people know the difference between patience and procrastination.
- ~ Great people notice and praise incremental successes

- ~ A big part of leadership is the ability to make complete strangers feel at ease
- ~ Maturity is about doing less - not more
- ~ Make the decision with them - not for them
- ~ The reality of life is that you spend as much time pulling weeds as you do planting flowers
- ~ No matter how busy, tired, scattered or frustrated, great people are always in control of what's coming out of their mouth
- ~ The best way to distinguish yourself is to include others
- ~ Failure is never final - neither is success
- ~ The secret to longevity is simple - don't self-destruct.
- ~ The worst kind of selfishness is self-pity - it takes the energy out of everyone in the room
- ~ Leadership is a tough calling. It requires coping with uncertainty, boredom, loneliness, rejection, and on rare occasions, success
- ~ One of the most important functions of a leader in intervention: limiting the duration of a crisis.
- ~ Your humility is more important than your gifts.
- ~ Just because you are important doesn't mean you have influence.
- ~ A big part of life is knowing when to shut-up
- ~ A leader has to know the difference between a symptom and a cause
- ~ Discernment is not the ability to know right from wrong - it's the ability to know right from almost right
- ~ Poor people rise against - great people rise above
- ~ Anything done with sincerity has the power to grow
- ~ Spreading division starts by spreading dissatisfaction
- ~ Start Where you are, use what you have, Do what you Can
- ~ Confidence is different than courage. Confidence helps you stand - courage helps you stand alone
- ~ You intuitive (natural born) skill sets can only take you so far - high performance people also demands relentless study

- ~ The best way to stop thinking about something is to stop talking about it
- ~ The encourager is always the most memorable person in the room
- ~ A leader helps people stay enthusiastic about the right things
- ~ Most solutions are not obvious - that's why it requires a leader
- ~ Every person of substance has at least one story of betrayal along the way
- ~ A wise person can see the good inside the bad and the bad inside the good - it's called discernment
- ~ You cannot hide your heart - whatever fills spills
- ~ I've never seen a control freak successfully lead an organization over the long haul
- ~ Faith removes the mountain in front of you - but only humility can remove the mountain inside of you
- ~ There are only two kinds of people. Those who love power - and those who love people
- ~ Nothing has a shorter shelf life than applause
- ~ The only way to keep fear from ruling your life - is to first keep it from ruling your day
- ~ The worst possible scenario for any organization is to have an insecure and wounded leader holding power and making decisions
- ~ Never insult suffering by confusing it for inconvenience
- ~ Wise counsel protects you from being double-minded
- ~ A smart leader sees potential in the outcast
- ~ Honesty speeds up the solution
- ~ I would rather be naive than calloused
- ~ Be persuasive - just don't exaggerate or lie while doing it
- ~ The 4 most important words in leadership - LET THERE BE LIGHT - because secrecy equals self-destruction
- ~ The only thing a leader can impart to their protégé is their burden. They cannot give them their gift - gifts come from above
- ~ If you like jumping to conclusions, being highly opinionated and holding onto grudges, you may not be the person other people need

- ~ Leadership happens over time - not over night
- ~ Nothing of meaning ever goes uncontested
- ~ Whether physical or emotional - you have to clean the wound before you close the wound. Infection can be deadly
- ~ Procrastination doubles the price of everything
- ~ When you aggressively speak of the role others played in your success, people instinctively know you can be trusted - never hide your sources
- ~ Insecurity will emotionally rearrange everything you see and hear
- ~ Nothing improves on its own
- ~ How to tell if a relationship is unhealthy or free - when you see (or think about) the person is there anticipation or anxiety?
- ~ A wrong hire is subtraction by addition
- ~ It's impossible for an exhausted person to stay motivated - it takes rest to run
- ~ It's not about handling the crisis; it's about handling the frustration - because the LITTLE thing is the BIG thing
- ~ Managing distractions is the new skill set that separates the average from the excellent
- ~ Teach, problem solve, encourage and present good ideas - do these things well and opportunities will find you
- ~ Momentum doesn't require something monumental - just approach your next inch with passion - you'll be fine
- ~ You are helping people live up to their potential - not your expectations
- ~ Hard is different than impossible
- ~ Leading the charge is entirely different than being in charge
- ~ It's tough to lead when you're in a bad mood - Try not to guide or decide anything until after your emotions get rejuvenated
- ~ Negativity is a cancer. Kill it or it will kill you.
- ~ Put God first and your family second. Your ministry is not the same as God.
- ~ Work like it depends on you, pray like it all depends on God.

- ~ I would rather have one God idea than a thousand good ideas
- ~ Enjoy the journey, look around and be thankful for where you are
- ~ If you think for long about a missed opportunity, Chances are you will miss the next one too.
- ~ Even if people take advantage of you, stay generous.
- ~ Nothing cures apathy like a good crisis.
- ~ Your character is measured by your reaction to the unexpected.
- ~ Never dismiss someone because they are not like you
- ~ Never allow a negative person to be the gatekeeper.
- ~ Whatever you neglect will deteriorate.
- ~ Life is a constant choice between character and caricature between living the part and playing the part.
- ~ Life is filled with moods and moving parts, stay focused and genuine.
- ~ How you enter a room matters.
- ~ Criticizing someone is how the underachiever compliments themselves
- ~ The anxiety leading up to the confrontation is usually worse than the actual confrontation.
- ~ Always keep your heart twice the size of your brain.
- ~ People want to be mentored not monitored.
- ~ Procrastination doubles the price of everything
- ~ Good people speak the truth, great people speak the truth under pressure.
- ~ Deception never presents itself as a contrast, it always comes in the form of similarity.
- ~ The fastest way to lose influence is to pout
- ~ Don't brush the person aside who has been to hell and back. You want them on your team. They have finally become the person everyone hoped for.
- ~ It's not whether you are outstanding today, but whether or not you are still standing tomorrow.
- ~ The only way to become exceptional is to never see yourself as the exception.

- ~ Honesty speeds up the solution.
- ~ Productive people are a mystery to nonproductive people.
- ~ Behavior does not affect love, but it does affect trust.
- ~ More is always more it is never less. So, think twice before making new commitments.
- ~ The worse kind of selfishness is self-pity. It takes all of the energy out of a room.
- ~ Your most important mental skill is to think twice. Think twice speak once
- ~ Worship God, Love people, Manage things.
- ~ Not being chosen is only a crisis if you make it one
- ~ Leadership is a tough calling. It requires coping with uncertainty, boredom, isolation, negativity and on rare occasions success
- ~ The oldest leader in the room has the ability to bestow blessing in a way no one else can.
- ~ You don't have to be ridiculously gifted. You just have to be ridiculously committed.
- ~ The Smartest person in the room is never you, it is always the Holy Spirit seek out His advice first.
- ~ Gratitude is the fastest way to reorganize your emotions.
- ~ Our world desperately needs its most talented leaders to take on the toughest assignments.
- ~ Delay is God's issue. Procrastination is my issue.
- ~ Secrecy is different than confidentiality
- ~ The extra mile is where the treasure is.
- ~ Some of the most necessary things for success are located at the bottom of the pit, not the top of the mountain.
- ~ The encourager is always the most memorable person in the room.
- ~ Fear is a temporary situation
- ~ The most important facet of mentoring is connection not correction
- ~ The best leaders are those who have a good relationship between their mind and their mouth.
- ~ If it's deep in your heart, then how hard it is won't matter.

- ~ It's rarely over because you've run out of time; it's usually over because you've run out of desire.
- ~ Wise things are rarely spoken harshly
- ~ Thoughts and emotions rarely travel at the same speed. Sometimes one has to slow down and wait for the other to catch up.
- ~ Brokenness and failure are necessary parts of being all that Christ has called us to be.
- ~ When someone looks forward to meeting you, make the experience exceed the rumor.
- ~ One of life's greatest gifts is to be free from your secrets
- ~ We learn far more in life from the word NO than we do from the word YES
- ~ Correct the person just don't insult them
- ~ It takes tremendous courage to not admit that you were right
- ~ Never trust a person who wants to be famous.
- ~ A good reputation has nothing to do with your success. It's all about how you've treated people.
- ~ Leadership is about stepping toward the unknown, not the understood. No one is ever given the whole story first.
- ~ Stop living suspiciously. Start smiling at people that you don't know.
- ~ What something looks like initially is rarely what it looks like ultimately.
- ~ The best leaders are self-aware. Before they walk in a room, they ask themselves, "How will my mood affect their mood."
- ~ A huge part of good decision making is knowing what to ignore and what not to ignore.
- ~ Even if the good goes undetected, it will never go unrewarded. God always sees.
- ~ Happiness is never achieved through comparisons. We will always be surrounded by things that are greater or lesser than ourselves in some way.
- ~ It's difficult to understand the value of time until after it has passed, or the value of money until after it is spent.
- ~ The moment someone hears blame or excuses in your explanation, they know that you are still processing and not ready yet.

- ~ Even the best version of you still has flaws.
- ~ Preparation is different from planning. Planning is about budgets and calendars – preparation is about the mind and the heart.
- ~ There is nothing more dangerous than an articulate fool
- ~ It's nearly impossible for two people with pride to reconcile.
- ~ Dysfunctional people spend too much time assigning blame and too little time accepting responsibility. Saying you are sorry is different than taking responsibility.
- ~ Mature people know how to maintain their emotional well-being in less than perfect situations.
- ~ The real value is found in making complex things simple not making the simple things complex
- ~ Hang around the accomplished not the popular
- ~ It's impossible to build a team if no one enjoys being around you.
- ~ The best thing about having close friends is that they can tell when your faking it
- ~ Don't fear the ordinary, some things were never meant to be one of a kind
- ~ Listening is entirely different from not talking.
- ~ Good looks are not where God looks, His criteria is what's in the heart.
- ~ Always think long and hard about severing a valued relationship, because a piece of you will be leaving with them
- ~ Successful people possess two characteristics they are well grounded and well surrounded.
- ~ When I compare myself to someone else, I always lose my way
- ~ Whatever you can't talk about owns you.
- ~ You can't force people to stop feeling something. You can only help them to start feeling something new.
- ~ Don't squander precious energy trying to prove that people were wrong about you.
- ~ What you say matters. How you say it matters even more.
- ~ It's difficult to make progress when your mind is somewhere else.

- ~ Giving up on someone becomes your loss, not theirs
- ~ It's not what you plant but what you cultivate.
- ~ Success has two inconvenient demands, getting started and finishing well.
- ~ Those who overcome see opportunity, those who don't see opposition
- ~ A Smart person sees the potential in the outcast
- ~ Listen to the person instead of trying to read their mind
- ~ Never feel badly about helping someone remember their promises.
- ~ Never downplay where you have come from.
- ~ It takes courage to tell someone you are mentoring that you see their gaps not just their gifts and that you are equally committed to both.
- ~ It takes a tremendous amount of energy to live life avoiding people.
- ~ Even when you are doing something familiar, never go through the motions.
- ~ There is nothing wrong with being invisible and laying low, it is good for your soul.
- ~ Don't spend your life monitoring people who wronged you years earlier.
- ~ Fast humility cleans up a lot of messes
- ~ Being your best is entirely different from trying to be better than someone else.