

Hello, I am Daniel Obrien, and I want to encourage you today, as we continue on this journey to seek his face, to becoming fruitful and free in 2023. Proverbs 4:7- "The way to be Wise is to acquire wisdom, and with all your acquiring get understanding." One way to become fruitful and free, is to acquire wisdom and gain understanding.

Jesus gives an example of this when he tells us the parable of the wise builder and the foolish builder. Mathew 7:24-27 (Paraphrase) There were two men, a wise builder and a foolish builder. The wise builder built his house on the Rock. The foolish builder built his house on the sand or the soft foundation. When the rain came and the Land flooded, the man who built his house on the Sand lost everything. His house fell down and it washed away because he put his foundation on something that wasn't solid. Jesus called this man foolish. However, the Man that built his house on the Rock, dealt with the same rain and flooding as the other man. However, his house stood because his foundation was on the solid rock. Jesus said this man was considered to be wise.

We live in a day and age in which we have more information being given to us than we have had in all human history. Between all the news sources, social media outlets, television, magazines, and radio, we have countless opinions put before us every day. However, not all information is truth, and in these days, we need to assess who we will receive our truth from. Just like in the Story, the Wise builder and the foolish builder both built houses, but I am willing to bet, both men had to gain information on where to build and how to build. Clearly, the foolish builder did not use wisdom when he built his home. The wise builder probably went and acquired knowledge and understanding about how to build a sturdy home.

As followers of Jesus, we also need to be like the Wise builder, we need to get our information from an eternal source [hold up bible]. There is a lot of Truth in the world, but truth has a shelf life. The truth that I used yesterday, may not be what I need today. This is where wisdom and understanding from the Holy Spirit come into play. When I utilize both wisdom and I gain

understanding, this will give me Discernment into what I need to act on today. So, if you want to be fruitful and free in 2023, do what the book of proverbs says to do. Acquire wisdom and gain understanding. Let's pray.