

## **Proverbs 18**

The Power of Words, Wisdom, and Relationships

### **I. The Fool Rejects Wisdom (vv. 1–2)**

- The isolated person seeks their own desires (v. 1).
- A fool is not interested in understanding (v. 2).
- Fools prefer expressing opinions rather than learning the truth.

\*Wisdom requires humility and a teachable spirit.

### **II. Sin Brings Shame (vv. 3–8)**

- Wickedness is accompanied by disgrace (v. 3).
- Wise words are deep and **life-giving** (v. 4).
- Partiality and injustice are condemned (v. 5).
- Foolish speech leads to conflict and destruction (vv. 6–7).
- Gossip wounds deeply and spreads harm (v. 8).

\*Our words reveal our character and carry consequences.

### **III. Diligence and Trust (vv. 9–11)**

- Laziness destroys just as surely as wastefulness (v. 9).
- The Lord is a strong refuge for the righteous (v. 10).
- Wealth can create a false sense of security (v. 11).

\*True security is found in God, not possessions.

### **IV. Humility Before Honor (vv. 12–15)**

- Pride leads to destruction (v. 12).
- Humility precedes honor (v. 12).
- Listening before answering demonstrates wisdom (v. 13).
- A healthy spirit helps endure hardships (v. 14).
- The wise continually seek knowledge (v. 15).

\*Humility and a teachable heart open the door to wisdom.

## **V. Wisdom in Conflict and Decision-Making (vv. 16–19)**

- Gifts can open opportunities (v. 16).
- Hearing both sides is necessary for justice (v. 17).
- Wise methods can resolve disputes (v. 18).
- Broken relationships are difficult to restore (v. 19).

\*Seek fairness, wisdom, and reconciliation in relationships.

## **VI. The Power of Words (vv. 20–21)**

- Words produce consequences, good or bad (v. 20).
- The tongue has the power of life and death (v. 21).

\*What we say shapes lives, including our own.

## **VII. Blessings of Healthy Relationships (vv. 22–24)**

- A godly spouse is a blessing from the Lord (v. 22).
- Poverty and wealth often affect how people speak and are treated (v. 23).
- Many companions are not the same as true friends (v. 24).
- A true friend remains closer than a brother (v. 24).

\*Value genuine relationships built on faithfulness and love.

## **Four Main Movements of Proverbs 18**

### **1. Wisdom vs. Foolishness (vv. 1–8)**

Choose understanding over self-centered opinions.

### **2. Trusting God Instead of Self (vv. 9–15)**

Find security in the Lord and walk in humility.

### **3. Handling Conflict with Wisdom (vv. 16–19)**

Listen carefully, judge fairly, and pursue peace.

### **4. The Power of Words and Relationships (vv. 20–24)**

Use words to give life and cultivate faithful friendships.