

Good morning! One of the books of the Bible that has influenced me more than any other - except for the Psalms - is the book of Proverbs. It's a practical book. While the Bible doesn't specifically address the details of every situation (one example might be the recent dust-up between Apple and the FBI over encryption) it usually provides solid principles for us to follow in our daily lives. The one I have chosen for this morning is kind of like hearing from my Mom again; let's read it together:

The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

Prov. 13:19

This sounds like your mom or dad, right? The writer tells us here that it is important to choose well when choosing relationships. When I was growing up, Dad didn't tell me who I could or could not hang out with but he did tell me that some of them would not be good for me...and he was right. To be fair, I'm not sure if they were bad influence on me or the other way around. They might have been hearing from their parents too! At any rate, the writer tells us that being with wise people will help us to become wise and being with fools will harm us. When I was 17 years old, I was a regular drug-user. I would get high every day. One day, my friends and I were sitting under the bleachers at school smoking pot. I looked around and realized that everyone in the group I was in sounded like a fool. At that moment I realized that I must be foolish too and stopped using drugs from that moment on. I have been fortunate in my life to have known some people who were wise, people who have been through a lot and who understood more about life than I did. You probably have, too. God knows we need such people and if you take some time to think about it, there are probably people you know whose experiences and wisdom can help you grow into Christ. Do you want to become wise? Look around for those people who God has already put into your life who have lots of experience in loving God and doing the right thing. Be intentional about walking with the wise... God has put them into your life for a reason!