

# THE MANY “FACES” OF WISDOM

Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

ECCLESIASTES: LIFE UNDER THE SON

“The main point is that finding purpose in life apart from God is futile (Ecc. 12:13-14). The things of this world – pleasure, work, achievement, possessions, friends, etc. – are all meaningless when pursued as ends unto themselves. True purpose and joy in life is found in God.”

*Deepak Reju*

*Fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*

Ecclesiastes 12:12-13



Identify your own **personal earthly vanities**,  
your **earthly-empties** (idols you are living for),  
and **take prayerful measure** of them in light of the  
**fear of the Lord** and your own **mortality**.



# I. Godly Wisdom Applied to Earthly Authority (2-9)



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The face of **discretion** (wise judgment) – 2-6, **Proverbs 8:12**



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The face of **discretion** (wise judgment) – 2-6, **Proverbs 8:12**

Discretion helps you...

...patiently pause...

...prayerfully ponder...

...prudently promote...

...God's **truth** in the matters of life. The idea here is that you will apply godly discretion in your relationship to any and to all expressions of **earthly authority**.

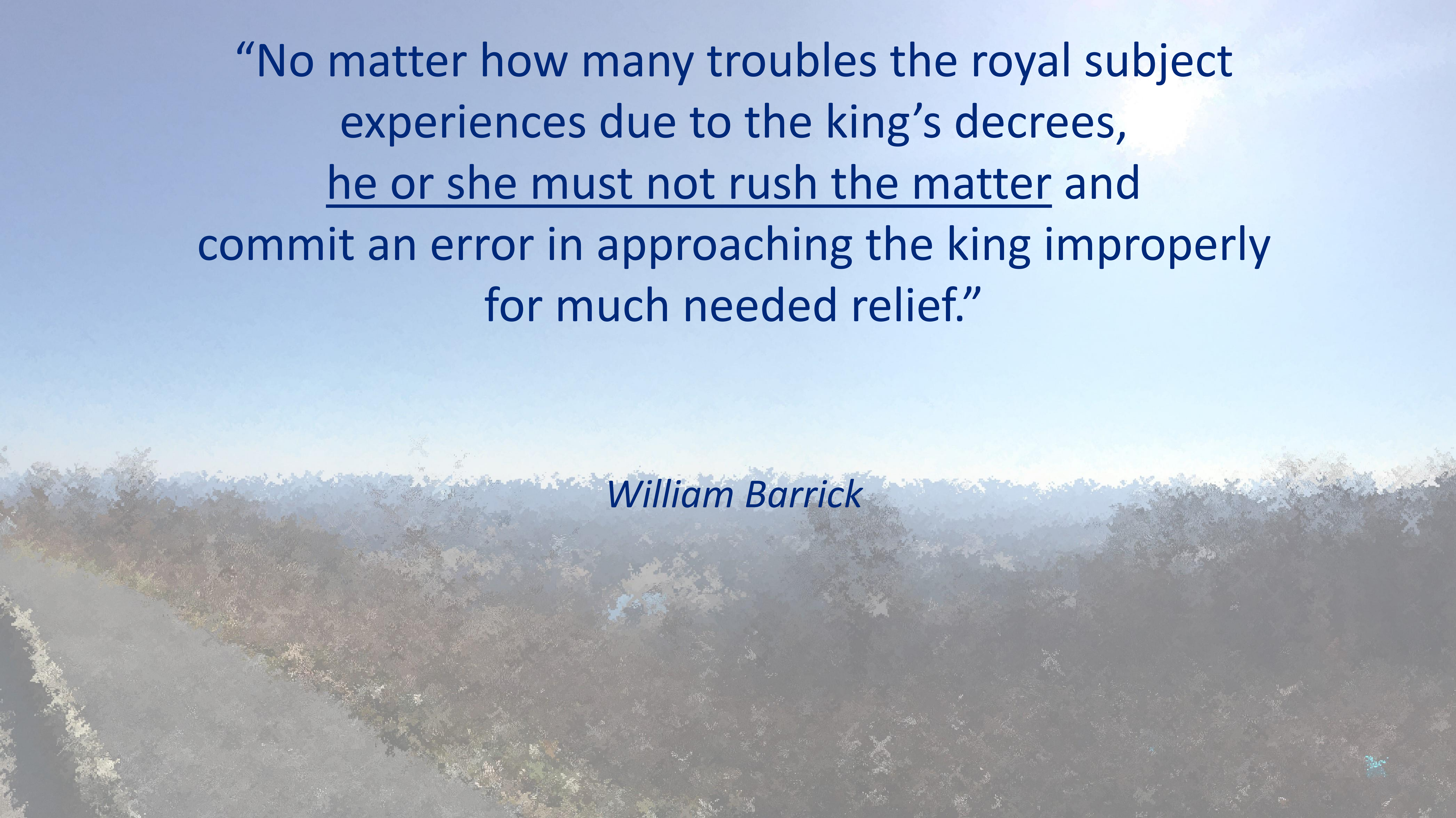
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The face of **discretion** (wise judgment) – 2-6, **Proverbs 8:12**

*v.2 Keep the command of the King*

*v.3 Do not be in a hurry to leave him;  
Do not join in an evil matter*





“No matter how many troubles the royal subject experiences due to the king’s decrees, he or she must not rush the matter and commit an error in approaching the king improperly for much needed relief.”

*William Barrick*

# I. Godly Wisdom Applied to Earthly Authority (2-9)

The face of **understanding** – 7-9

- **Proverbs 9:10**

- **Proverbs 2:11**

I. Godly Wisdom Applied to Earthly Authority (2-9)

II. **Godly Wisdom Applied to Heavenly Authority (10-17)**



I. Godly Wisdom Applied to Earthly Authority (2-9)

II. Godly Wisdom Applied to Heavenly Authority (10-17)

The face of **knowledge**. Proverbs **1:7; 2:5**

The fear of the Lord, or **reverent awe** for God and His ways, is the **basis** of a godly knowledge for navigating the matters of life.

I. Godly Wisdom Applied to Earthly Authority (2-9)

II. Godly Wisdom Applied to Heavenly Authority (10-17)

The face of **knowledge**. Proverbs **1:7; 2:5**

“The fear of the Lord is a state of mind in which one’s own attitudes, will, feelings, deeds, and goals are exchanged for God’s.”

*MacArthur Study Bible*

## **His conclusion:**

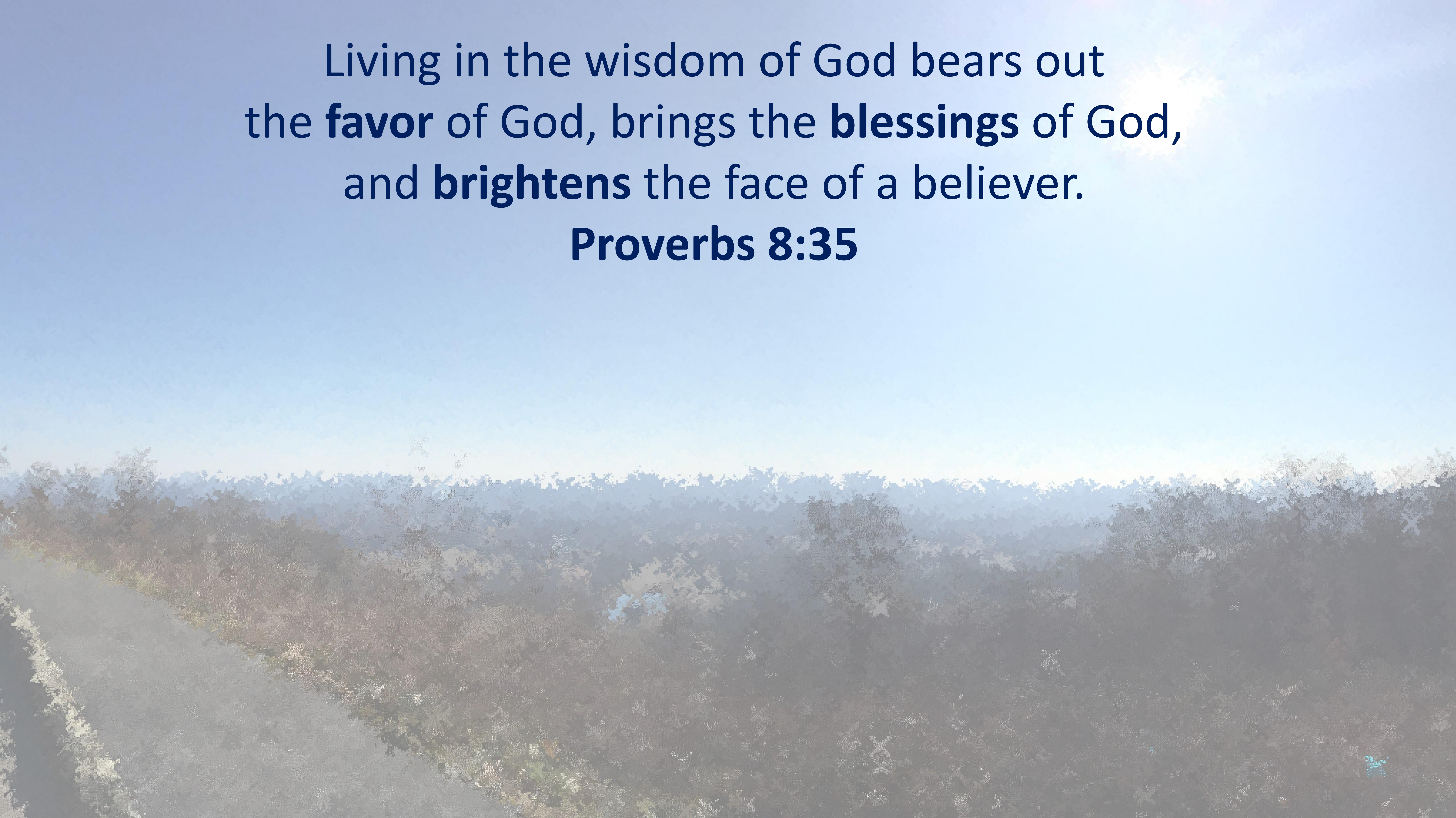
Man cannot discover the work which God has done in the past nor the work He will do in the future as it concerns the matters of life.

No one can know this but God Himself.

“Wisdom softens one’s face as a reflection of the softened heart . . . that individual becomes more gracious, merciful, and forgiving.”

*William Barrick*



A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road on the left side, leading into a dense forest of trees. The sky is bright and clear, with a sun flare visible in the upper right corner. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Living in the wisdom of God bears out  
the **favor** of God, brings the **blessings** of God,  
and **brightens** the face of a believer.

**Proverbs 8:35**



**Don't waste** the joys and blessings of  
the gifts of God in this life...

1. by **chafing** against God's authority to act as He chooses, or
2. by **chasing** explanations for God's inscrutable actions in the everyday affairs of mankind.

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

1 Corinthians 1:20-25 (NASB)



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