

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#2) Five Ways A Proverb Helps 1:1-4:

Just as Jesus explained why He spoke in parables ([Matthew 13:10-17](#)), Solomon begins in [Proverbs 1:1-4](#) by explaining why “proverbs” should be understood:

1. “To know wisdom and instruction”
God wants us “to know,” that is, to have confidence in helpful information we gain. Certainty is a confidence ignored, minimized, or ridiculed by many in the “Education Profession,” because if pupils are uncertain of what they learn, they’ll keep hiring the “professionals.” But, what makes the “professionals” *certain* of anything? Teachers of false things emphasize that pupils must be “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” ([2 Timothy 3:6-7](#)). By contrast, however, there is certainty in God’s Word, for He “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” ([1 Timothy 2:4](#)). **“Wisdom”** may be defined as “learned lessons” which are gained by experience and/or study, either or both of which are easier when God interprets it. **“Instruction”** refers to the “discipline of teaching” or the “how to” manual. All three of these mean someone whose life follows God’s insight by obeying His instructions, will have certainty in the outcome!
2. “To perceive the words of understanding”
Perception is a clear vision of the words of understanding. “Understanding” is horse sense or common sense. Though often missing, it is obvious when it is! Duh!
3. “To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity”
These first three are how wisdom is obtained: “know,” “perceive,” “receive.” When a teacher gives out proper information, good pupils accept it. Since no one can live long enough to experience everything, “wisdom” is learned either by one’s own experiences, or someone else’s. God’s insight into human behavior cannot be excelled, for it is absolutely accurate. “Justice” is what is right; “judgment” is awareness of responsibility for action(s); “equity” is evenness or consistency.
4. “To give prudence to the simple”
“Prudence” is the use of good judgment. “Simple,” once a virtue meaning “honest, without complexity,” in this Book, carries the idea of one who refuses to complicate life with any advice or instruction from God or man! “Simple,” “scorner,” “fool” are interchangeable in the Book of [Proverbs \(1:22\)](#). The

