TABLE TALK

October 1, 2026

WISDOM OVER STRENGTH

Wisdom Takes You Where Strength Can't

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

Purpose

The passage teaches us that success is not guaranteed by strength, speed skill, or position. Life is unpredictable, but wisdom remains powerful. The passage encourages us to value and listen to godly wisdom, because wisdom can accomplish what human strength alone cannot.

BEING STRONG ALL THE TIME

Where in your life are you using strength to accomplish something that may actually require wisdom?









ECCLESIASTES 9:11–12 KJV

11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

STRENGTH DOESN'T GURANTEE THE OUTCOME

Solomon observes that the fastest and strongest do not always win because circumstances and unexpected events affect everyone.

When life suddenly changes i.e. job loss, family challenges, relationship shifts, or unexpected responsibilities, what helps you respond with wisdom instead of panic or simply trying harder?







ECCLESIASTES 9:13–15 KJV

13 This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:

14 There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

WISDOM CAN COME FROM UNEXPECTED PLACES

Solomon describes a small city threatened by a powerful king. A poor but wise man delivered the city through his wisdom despite lacking status or resources.

The wise man was poor and seemingly insignificant. Have you ever overlooked good counsel because of who it came from or because the person didn't have the title, success, or status you expected?







ECCLESIASTES 9:16–18 KJV

16 Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

17 The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

WISDOM IS POWERFUL, EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT POPULAR

Solomon concludes that wisdom is better than strength and even better than weapons of war, yet wise voices can be ignored.

Why do you think we sometimes listen to the loudest voice rather than the wisest voice? How can we become more intentional about recognizing wisdom?


THANK YOU