



The Restoration Road Worksheet: The House of Leadership (Proverbs 24:3-4)

Introduction

Do you have a blueprint for success? In your business, family, or non-profit institution, do you have building plans to positively influence your target audience? Tucked away in the Bible's *Thirty Sayings of the Wise* is God's secret blueprint for any organization or movement to successfully lead its culture. It is *The House of Leadership*.

(1) The footer is humility.

We must first dig down before God lays our foundation. Solomon taught, "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2). Whereas, pride is a hard heart that makes itself higher than others, *humility* is a soft heart that makes itself lower than others. Therefore, humility is bending the knees of our hearts first toward God and then toward people. Solomon's theme of Proverbs states, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). *The fear of the LORD* is *humility* toward God, our first step in the House of Leadership. This is the starting point for building a satisfied life: "Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life" (Proverbs 22:4).

In order to lead any movement, we must be the first and most frequent to bend the knees of our hearts to God, as in the case of Moses (Numbers 12:3). This prayerful clay heart translates in humility toward our peers. We listen more than we talk, we learn more than we teach, and we serve more than we are served, as God becomes the architect of our lives. Solomon declared God's role in the construction of any successful movement as a nonnegotiable: "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain"



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(Psalm 127:1). When we soften our hearts from pride to humility toward God and others, we are in the position for God to pour the footer and lay the foundation of wisdom in our lives.

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Are you characterized and known by humility? Dig down for a heart transformation and bend the knees of your heart to God and others. Listen more than you talk. Learn more than you teach. Serve more than you are served.

(2) The foundation is wisdom.

After we humble our hearts to God, He lays our foundation. Left to ourselves, our foundation is foolishness, a progressive hardening of our hearts from wet cement to cured concrete in direct opposition to God. We deceive ourselves into believing that our foolishness represents a solid foundation when in reality it is quite brittle. We begin as simple fools, progressing to stupid, then stubborn, followed by scorning, and finally secular—a journey from gullible to godless. However, Solomon communicated, “By wisdom a house is built” (Prov. 24:3a). *House, bayith* in Hebrew, refers to any organization or movement. The foundation is where the vertical intersects with the horizontal—the definition of wisdom: God’s heart (vertical) intersecting with street smarts (horizontal). Wisdom helps us apply our vertical relationship with God to our horizontal circumstances.

The Jews’ ultimate name for God was *Wisdom*. The apostle Paul defined the wisdom of God not as a principle, but as a person—Christ (1 Corinthians 1:24). He went on to define Christ as the only foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11). This was not a new idea.



Proverbs, the book of wisdom, described the pre-incarnate Christ as the wisdom of God (Prov. 8:22-31). When we exchange foolishness for wisdom as the foundation of our lives, God begins to transform the rubble of our foolish failures into triumph in Christ.

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Is the foundation of your life the rubble of foolishness or the firm foundation of wisdom? Begin a plan to read a chapter in Proverbs each day, correlating with the date of the month. Before you read, ask God to reveal the wisdom of Christ to you. Apply one verse from your daily reading to your calendar, seeing your entire day through its lenses.

(3) The framework is understanding.

After digging our footer and laying our foundation, God builds our framework. Solomon continued, “And through understanding it is established” (Proverbs 24:3b). *Understanding* is *insight* that occurs through the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 9:10). *Established* means “to build up.” In order to build upon our foundation of wisdom, we must be equipped with the framework to see inside others. Too often, we bring confusion to our relationships during interpersonal conflict when we take control, and are closed, heated, and blind. However, with understanding, we become (1) Spirit-led (Proverbs 9:10; 3:5-6), (2) teachable (Proverbs 15:32; 19:25; 17:10), (3) cool (Proverbs 17:27), and (4) insightful (Proverbs 20:5; 14:33; 28:11). Consequently, understanding sees inside a person’s heart where we would like to build a bridge, moving us through interpersonal conflict, laden with misunderstandings, to divine insight into others.

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Be plugged into the Holy Spirit. Live by the *Five Second Rule*. Before every telephone call, text, email, encounter, or meeting, ask the Spirit of God to lead you. Prior to words or actions flowing from your body, ask Him, “*What do you want me to do?*”

Be teachable. Follow the *Times 2 Rule* by asking someone to coach you in an arena of your life where you can grow in understanding. Find someone who is wiser than you in that selected discipline. Meet at least once each month to pursue specific areas of improvement.

Be cool. Practice the real *Ten Second Rule*. Take your anger to God. As you begin to heat up, ask Him to *cool* you down keeping you *silent* (Proverbs 11:12), *patient* (Proverbs 24:29), and *straight* (Proverbs 15:21).

Be insightful. Apply the *Twenty Second Rule* and look inside others. Take twenty seconds after each conversation to look past every person’s words in order to peer inside his heart. Don’t merely focus on his vocabulary, but reflect on what resides in his heart that he was attempting to describe.

(4) The furnishings are knowledge.

Once our house is built, it is time to furnish it. Solomon concluded, “Through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures” (Proverbs 24:4). *Knowledge* is the connection of the innermost part of two or more persons through the Spirit of God. Consequently, knowledge is not merely information; rather it is *intimacy*, an experiential connection with others. In essence knowledge is a bridge we can cross to connect with the heart of another. Therefore, The House of Leadership is primarily about developing wise relationships.



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The *rooms* refer to the inside of a house that is imagery for any collection of relationships assembled to achieve a common goal—whether the association be in marriage, family, ministry, or the marketplace. Those relationships comprise *rare and beautiful treasures* in our hearts, the only riches on earth that will last for eternity. Consequently, we must pursue relationship over remuneration in every association. If we don't, we build walls rather than bridges.

Left unchecked in conflict, we build four walls that disconnect us from others. First, we hold on to conflict, mulling over our selfish perspective of the two objects attempting to occupy the same space at the same time. Second, we foolishly seek the satisfaction of our selfish motives, neglecting to discover the motives of others involved in the conflict. Third, we fail to effectively communicate our motives. If we attempt to do so, we usually describe only our selfish desires, speaking with pride and foolishness. Finally, we leave the conflict unresolved. Today, marriages, families, ministries, and marketplace relationships fail from a lack of intimacy, or knowledge.

Proverbs tells us that knowledge: (1) deepens our relationships and (2) increases our strength to resolve conflict. Solomon added, “A man of knowledge increases strength” (Prov. 24:5b). Therefore, knowledge intimately navigates us through conflict to community in our relationships. Solomon gave us four steps to wisely connect with the innermost part of the person(s) with whom we are having conflict: (1) surrender our conflict to God (Proverbs 1:7), (2) seek the motives of the persons involved (Proverbs 18:15), (3) spell out our motives humbly and wisely (Proverbs 15:7), and (4) solve the conflict by discovering common ground (Proverbs 11:9).



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Surrender your conflict to God through prayer. Surrender your *motives, the person(s) involved, the problem, and the outcome*. Ask God to shape your heart and desires to reflect His, giving you the knowledge for wise conflict management. Stop white knuckling any selfish desires.

Seek the motives of the person(s) involved in your conflict by *asking* and *listening*. Move from focusing on the outside to exploring the inside of your counterpart(s). First, *ask* questions that reveal motives of the heart: “What do you desire? Why?” Second, *listen* to what motives the person is attempting to describe. Finally, beware of the fool; it might be you.

Spell out your motives *humbly* and *wisely*. Use *restraint* by keeping *proud* and *foolish* words in the dark. Always remember to demonstrate *concern* for the poor.

Solve your conflict by discovering common ground in your motives with those of the other person(s) involved. Use words that build *bridges* rather than put up *walls*. Don’t be in a hurry to force someone into a manufactured quick fix.

Conclusion

The House of Leadership is God’s blueprint for success. This was His design when He created the earth: “By wisdom the LORD laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew” (Proverbs 3:19-20). God’s House of Leadership restores our marketplace and ministry lives where He transforms us from pride to humility, from foolishness to wisdom, from confusion to understanding, and from disconnection to



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knowledge. This was the Apostle Paul's prayer, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colossians 1:9). However, our entrance to the House of Leadership is impossible outside a fully surrendered relationship with God in Christ because: "There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD" (Proverbs 21:30).