

“Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.” Proverbs 18:2 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 18:1-4

Awhile back I did a study on the word “fool” in book of Proverbs. There are four different words for fool. This one, is the Hebrew word Keciyl kes-eel’; prop. fat, i.e. (fig.) stupid or silly:—fool (-ish). This is the innocent by stupidity, the undisciplined, uneducated or just simple. To really get the point of the proverb we need to understand the viscous cycle that a fool can find themselves in. They are a fool, not just because they are not experienced, not taught or have difficulty in learning. They are a fool because they have made decisions that will not allow them to learn from their mistakes or from others. If you’ve ever repeatedly stubbed your toe or bit your tongue you’ve experienced a small taste of “not learning.” At some point a decision has to be made to realize a different outcome. If no change is made, the outcome will always result in pain, failure or foolishness. This is the most frustrating part of either BEING a fool, which must take a positive posture, lest they feel utterly defeated and want to give up OR you are trying to help an honest-to-goodness fool and they eventually end up back at the beginning, having learned nothing. Change is hard for everyone. Some embrace change and set their mind to curiosity and learning. Others have settled, maybe even believing they are incapable of learning or intelligence. But change for the Keciyl fool is extremely difficult because of the self-defeating pattern that eventually yields permanent brain-ruts or learning cycles. At some point, early on, it just becomes easy to give in and yield to these ruts and just accept the fact that they will always be or play the fool. As in any idiosyncrasy, or defiant patterns, it takes a miracle of enormous and consistent change to break free of the cycle. This is the true danger behind this characteristic of a fool - it’s partly true nature, but a lie that is reinforced over and over until it becomes permanent.

Dad,

I have experienced many times in my life where I saw the reality of playing this kind of fool. Both in myself and friends of mine. It is so horribly frustrating! Thank you for the transformation of Jesus in my life and that gives me hope for “fools” who are stuck.