

**Understanding True Wisdom**  
**Proverbs 3:1-12**  
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**Six characteristics of the wise:**

**1. The wise person obeys God (3:1-2).**

**2. The wise person loves God (3:3-4).**

**3. The wise person trusts God (3:5-6).**

**a. Exhortation (v. 5)**

**Prov. 14:12** There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

**Proverbs 26:12** Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

**b. Promise (v. 6)**

**4. The wise person fears God (3:7-8).**

**a. Exhortation (v. 7)**

> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

> All true wisdom and knowledge springs from the fear of God.

> The fear of the Lord is expressed in hatred of evil.

**Proverbs 8:13** The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

**Exodus. 20:18-21** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin."

The fear of the Lord is fear of fleeing out of his fellowship into the way of sin. Therefore, the fear of the Lord is full of peace and security and hope. It keeps us near to the merciful heart of God, our fortress, our refuge, our sanctuary, our shield, our sun. Isaiah 8:13 says, "The Lord of Hosts . . . let him be your fear, and let him be your dread, and he will become a sanctuary." **John Piper**

> **A woman who fears the Lord . . .**

- (1) **Is trustworthy (31:11-12)**
- (2) **Is hardworking (vv. 13-19, 27)**
- (3) **Is strong (v. 17).**
- (4) **Is merciful (v. 20)**
- (5) **Is not anxious (v. 25).**
- (6) **Speaks wisdom and teaches kindness (v. 26).**

**b. Promise (v. 8)**

**5. The wise person honors God (3:9-10).**

**a. Exhortation (v. 9)**

**b. Promise (v. 10)**

**Proverbs 11:24–25** One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.

**Treasure principle #6 - Randy Alcorn**

**6. The wise person submits to God (3:11-12).**

**a. Exhortation (v. 11)**

**Proverbs 12:1** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

**b. Reason (v. 12)**

**Proverbs 15:5**

A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

**Hebrews 12:5–11** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.