

Keys to a Better Life
Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

1. Be a person of character

*A good name is better than precious ointment,
And the day of death than the day of one's birth; (1)*

2. Don't avoid funerals

*Better to go to the house of mourning
Than to go to the house of feasting,
For that is the end of all men;
And the living will take it to heart. (2)*

3. Accept the seasons of life

*Sorrow is better than laughter,
For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. (3)*

4. Welcome constructive criticism

*It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise
Than for a man to hear the song of fools. (5)*

5. Be patient

*The end of a thing is better than its beginning;
The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. (8)*

6. Pursue wisdom

*Wisdom is good with an inheritance,
And profitable to those who see the sun.
For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense,
But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it. (11-12)*

7. Trust God in everything

*Consider the work of God;
For who can make straight what He has made crooked?
In the day of prosperity be joyful,
But in the day of adversity consider:*

*Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other,
So that man can find out nothing that will come after him. (13-14)*