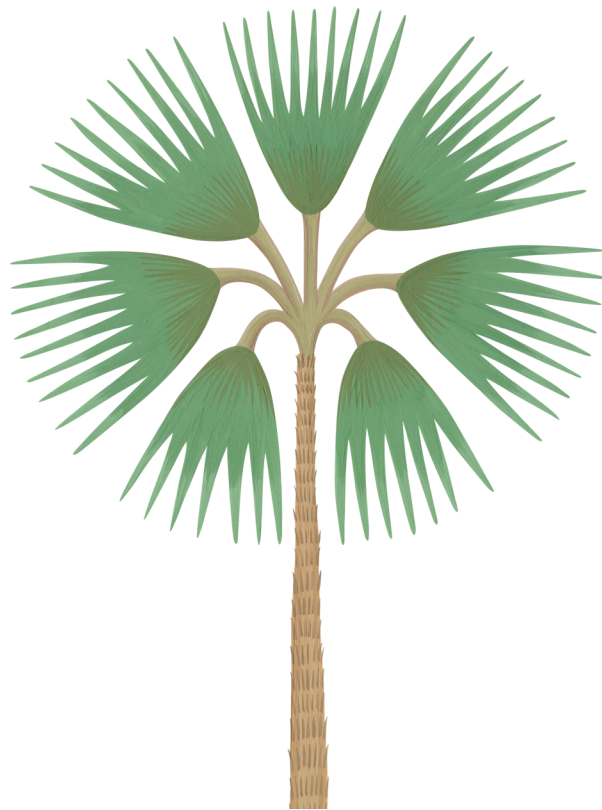
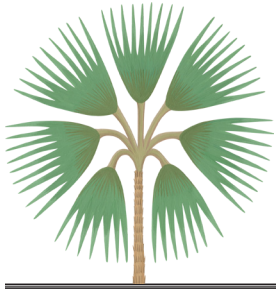


Becoming a Woman of Proverbs

HER CHARACTER

She is Righteous





Proverbs

HER CHARACTER: *She is Righteous*

I always thought of myself as a person who tells the truth. Oops...wait a minute, hold your horses, girl! I typed the first sentence way too quickly! I am ashamed to say it is not a true statement. When I was 7, I stole a small toy horse from a store (I still think about that). When one of my sisters sends a message to me to call, I tell her I am too busy (not wanting to talk to her). And I am ashamed to tell you this one: when I hid my new clothes for several months and then pulled them out to wear later. My husband would ask, "When did you buy that outfit?" I'd tell him, "Oh, I've had this outfit for quite a while" (thinking I would lessen the blow). I could go on and on, but I am sure you get the drift. I am continually convicted when deceit, lies, and evil pop up. Afterward, I feel regret and ask myself, "Why did I say that? Why did I do that? Why, why, why?"

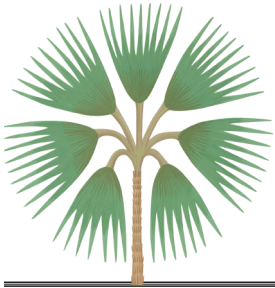
I do have a desire to follow His will, to submit and yield to the Holy Spirit. Of course, there are bumps along the way. I consider my sisters my teachers because in each difficult challenge with them, He shows me His better way, and I am learning and gaining wisdom. Although I repeat the same tests over and over again, I am slowly learning as the Lord shows me forgiveness, patience, love, peace, and how to pick myself up and try again with a focus on Him, not me.

"For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body" (James 3:2-3). This verse compares how a small bit in a horse's mouth can control a horse over 900 pounds in relation to our small tongue that has immense power to control our body and speech with good or evil. The question is, how and to whom are we going to yield?

During my high school and college years, I trained and competed in dressage. Dressage is a competition in which the horse and rider must perform precise, controlled movements in a marked arena from amateur to Olympic levels. The rider is judged on the horse's obedience, acceptance of the bit, and harmony between the horse and rider. I was by no means upper level, but I learned enough to know I loved dressage and the intimate connection between horse and rider. Dressage is amazing to watch because it is nearly impossible to detect the subtle movements of the rider's body, hands, arms, and legs as the horse executes predetermined movements.

This is an analogy of the relationship between a horse and rider and the Holy Spirit and me. I hope you can follow! The rider (Holy Spirit) cues the horse (me) to the direction and speed I should travel within the confines of the defined arena (area). As the horse, I have two choices: either yield to the rider (Holy Spirit) with harmony or deny the Holy Spirit, causing friction and disruption.

In dressage, it takes many years to train a horse and rider to high levels of dressage. This is comparable to us and our walk with God. The ultimate goal for the horse and rider is to collaborate and work smoothly together. I ask myself: did I train and collaborate well throughout the years? Am I the obedient servant yielding to God, or am I rejecting and deviating from Him? Who ultimately is directing and holding the reins? God has subtle ways of speaking to us, just like the rider uses aids to communicate with the horse. Is our desire to continually conform to His perfect will? There is nothing more precious than an intimate



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relationship with the Master! May the Spirit of God work through each of us daily as we yield and conform to His righteousness!

There is a message for each of us as we work through “Her righteous character” this week. We will **observe** each verse slowly and carefully. At each section, read the verses three times, then write each verse. Writing is an important part of **Observation**, and I urge you not to bypass putting pen in hand. Following **Observation** is **Interpretation** and then **Application** (applying the verses to us). This is a wonderful way to learn God’s Word verse by verse.

- She fears the Lord (1:7; 14:16)
- She hates what is false (13:5)
- She shuns evil (3:7; 14:16; 16:6)
- She does what is righteous (2:20)
- She speaks the truth (22:21)

SHE FEARS THE LORD

Write out the following verses:

Proverbs 1:7 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

Proverbs 14:16 *“A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident.”*

OBSERVATION

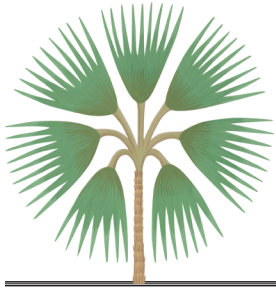
1. What begins when the LORD is feared?

2. Who despises wisdom and instruction?

3. Who are the three characters in the verses above?

4. Circle the duplicated words with different colors. (Example: “And” is written three times)

5. What details are associated with fools?



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6. What details are associated with the fear of the Lord/wise man?

INTERPRETATION

Proverbs 1:7 is considered the theme of the Book of Proverbs. The “beginning” is the principal part of true knowledge, which leads to wisdom. King David’s son Solomon explains to his son the benefits of the life of wisdom. The fear of the Lord is respecting God’s Name, His Word, His Wisdom, and His Knowledge. God desires wisdom for our lives, and we then learn the rewards of a rich life in Him. In contrast, fools despise and reject God’s Word. The beautiful treasure of gaining wisdom is that we are more dependent on God.

7. When speaking to a fool, what will they despise? (Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 23:9 KJV)

“Speak not in the ears of a fool; for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.”

8. Job 28:28 *“And to man He said, Behold the _____ of _____, that is wisdom, and to depart from _____ is understanding”*

9. Solomon was widely known for his wisdom. Whom did Solomon ask for wisdom? (1 Kings 3:9-12)

10. Look up the Bible’s meaning or use descriptive words for **fear of the Lord**.

11. To what kind of person does Jesus liken us to when we hear His Word and act upon it? (Matthew 7:24)

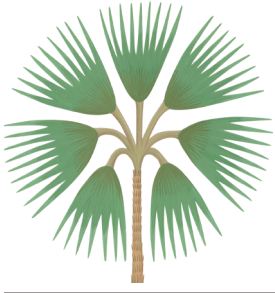
12. What happened to Solomon? Did he remain wise in God’s eyes and continue to fear the Lord? (1 Kings 11:4-9)

APPLICATION

Solomon faltered and did not stay wise in God’s eyes. We all falter. Fearing the Lord is an ongoing process in our walk with the Lord. How we respect Him, reverence Him, and our relationship with Him is the key.

13. Is there an area in your life you find yourself held back from reverencing the Lord? What are you avoiding? Is it forgiveness? How will you move forward?

Because of the Lord’s mercy and grace, we can ask Him for forgiveness. He forgives, and He will set us on the straight path to wisdom if we are willing to turn our hearts to the Lord.



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SHE HATES WHAT IS FALSE

Write out the following verse: Proverbs 13:5 “*A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.*”

OBSERVATION

14. Who are the two characters in the verse?

15. Circle the linking word (contrasting conjunction) that connects the righteous man and the wicked man.

16. Complete: *A righteous man hates...*

17. Complete: *A wicked man is...*

INTERPRETATION

God does not tolerate lying and hates what is false. Our nature is inclined to lie. “*Remove from me the way of lying and grant me Your law graciously*” (Psalm 119:29). David was a righteous man and despised lying. He wanted to do what was right, but he stumbled many times. “*For your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way he should choose*” (Psalm 25:11-12 ESV).

18. Circle the correct phrase from Proverbs 13:5.

- a. A righteous man does not lie
- b. A righteous man hates lying

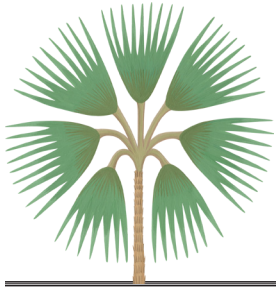
19. What does the Lord detest, and what does He delight in? (Proverbs 12:22)

20. What do other Bible translations write for **loathsome** and **shame**?

21. Who protects the righteous? “*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all*” (Psalm 34:19).

APPLICATION

We all struggle with deceit and lying, but it does not mean we are not righteous. No one is perfectly complete in victory. We are Christian women in the making, and this is a continuous walk. Let’s not be discouraged. Victory will start when our heart is right.



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22. If you have a lie or falsehood that dwells within you, now is the time to give it to Jesus. Find a quiet location to sit or kneel in reverence and pray. If there is another person involved, the Holy Spirit will lead you and direct you in the way you should go. Write your name, the other person's name, and your progress, and add today's date.

SHE SHUNS EVIL

Write out the following verses:

Proverbs 3:7 *“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.”*

Proverbs 14:16 *“A wise man fears and departs from evil; but a fool rages and is self-confident.”*

Proverbs 16:6 *“In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.”*

OBSERVATION

23. What goes before truth? (Proverbs 16:6)

24. Draw lines from Column A to Column B to complete the phrases.

Column A

Depart from

A wise man

In mercy and truth

Fear

A fool

Do not be

By the fear of the Lord

Column B

evil

rages and is self-confident

one departs from evil

wise in your own eyes

fears and departs from evil

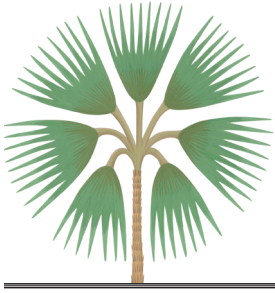
the Lord

atonement is provided for iniquity

25. Circle **wise** in the verses above. Draw a square around **depart from evil**. Highlight **fear of the Lord**.

INTERPRETATION

26. John states in 1 John 2:5-6 *“But whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is _____
_____. By this we know that we _____.”* God wants us to be wise through the reading of His Word to discern good and evil.



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27. Proverbs 16:6 states, “*In mercy and truth, atonement is provided for iniquity.*” Who provided atonement? (Romans 5:11 KJV)

“*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Ephesians 5:15-17).

28. We are not to be unwise but to understand what the _____ of the _____ is.

Isaiah 5:21: “*Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*” Isaiah is speaking to a group of morally confused people who are destroying God’s standards. They were full of pride and revering the wisdom of man over the Word of God.

27. Read the NLT version of Isaiah 5:21: “*What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.*” What word is used for **woe**? Or look for a synonym.

APPLICATION

The words we speak reveal our hearts, where good or evil shows up. “*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks*” (Luke 6:45).

Pastor Jon Courson spoke about an acrostic for THINK:

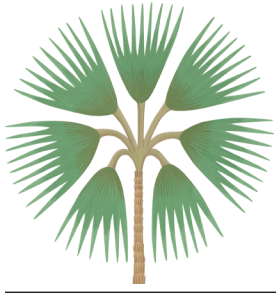
- T** - Truthful
- H** - Helpful
- I** - Inspiring
- N** - Needful
- K** - Kind

“It would do us well to at first think about what we’re about to say to someone. Is it truthful, is it helpful, is it inspiring, is it needful, is it kind? If so, go ahead and speak. Otherwise, keep quiet!”

28. Use THINK this week and discuss the successes and challenges with your group.

SHE DOES WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS

Write out the following verse: Proverbs 2:20 “*So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness.*”



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OBSERVATION

29. Circle the connecting (conjunction) word in the verse.
30. Underline the two action words (verbs).
31. Who is walking in the way of goodness?
32. Who is keeping to the paths of righteousness?

INTERPRETATION

Strong's Concordance of the Bible translates the following words in Hebrew from Proverbs 2:20.

Walk – *follow, carry, come.*

Way – *journey, toward, direction, course of life.*

Goodness/good – *joyful, best, bountiful, moral.*

Keep – *guard, have charge of, and give heed.*

Path – *road, well-trodden road, race, manner, byway.*

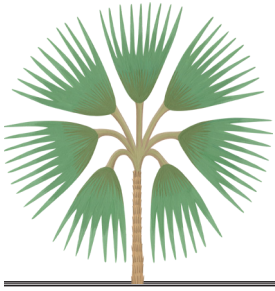
Righteousness – *just, correct, lawful, right, cleanse.*

33. Write the verse in your own words. You can utilize the words above.
34. If one leaves the “path” of uprightness, then what “path” do they walk on? (Proverbs 2:13)
35. Who is the only one who keeps us on the path of righteousness? (Psalm 23:1-3)
36. Write a Bible definition for **righteous**.
37. What word describes both Noah and Abraham? (Genesis 7:1, James 2:23)
38. Who will bless the righteous, and how will they be protected? (Psalm 5:12)

APPLICATION

“*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry*” (Psalm 34:15).

Our relationship with God starts within each of us. Our spirits changed because of Him, not us. Let's continue walking and keeping to the right paths.



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39. How will you walk in the way of goodness and keep on the path of righteousness? What will you do differently today to stay on the straight path? Can you share with a Christian woman you know and trust?

SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH

Write out the following verse: Proverbs 22:21 *“That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may answer words of truth to those who send you.”*

OBSERVATION

40. Circle the word **truth** in the verse above. Underline the word **you**.

41. What will you know, and what will you answer?

42. Who will make you know?

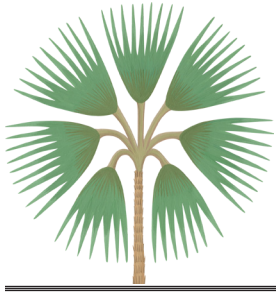
43. Who will answer words of truth? (See the New Living Translation of this verse.)

INTERPRETATION

From David Guzik’s commentary: “The pursuit of wisdom makes us more confident in the truth, not less. Wisdom discovers that some things are more complicated and doubtful, but in general, it sees God and His truth with more clarity and certainty.”

44. Write two synonyms for **certainty** and two synonyms for **truth**.

45. *“Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom”* (Psalm 51:6). Where is truth desired? What will you know in the hidden part?



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46. Who do we fear and serve in truth? (1 Samuel 12:24)

APPLICATION

47. How do you verify the words of truth? Do you hold on to it or share it? Write a person's name whom you will commit to sharing truth with this week and follow up in weeks to come.

“Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God” (1 John 3:19 NLT).

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord’” (1 Corinthians 1:30).

Dear Lord, Thank You for Your beautiful treasure of wisdom which leads us to more dependency on You! Amen.