

PART HANDOUT PROVERBS 3: 21-26 “Encouragement and the Reward of Faithfulness”

READ PROVERBS 3: 21-26 These Verses Make Clear that When We Walk with God, Embracing Godly Wisdom and Understanding...We Will Have Sound Judgment and Wise Discretion...We Will Walk With Confidence and Rest in the Security that His Plan is Perfect for Our Life!

VS 21-22 ASV, "Let Them Not Depart from Thine Eyes...So Shall They be Life Unto Thy Soul"

Stern Warning: Wisdom and Discretion Can Be Lost, Escape, Slip Away, or Depart from Our Eyes...Therefore, a Constant Guard must be Posted Against Such a Disaster.

VS-23 “*Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will Not Stumble*”. Here it becomes very clear that Wisdom Means “Walking with God”. “Doing His Will”... “Keeping His Commandments...Continually”.

- Ps 119:1 “*Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD*”. The Promise of Blessing Means “*We Will Walk in Safety and Not Fall into a Snare*”!

VS 24 “*When You lie down, You will Not be Afraid; when You lie down, Your Sleep Will be Sweet.*”

- Promise: Those who base their lives on His Wisdom & Word Will Have Sweet Sleep.

So Why do So Many Christians Wrestle With Issues that Keep them Up at Night? It's Because they DREAD [WORRY] about some Future Possibility! **Fact:** One of the Greatest Sins That Christians Allow is WORRY! They Worry about what Might Happen Instead of Keeping Their Eyes on God and Trusting His Plan!

Worry is Simply Previewing a Future Without God In It. Worry is the Opposite of Faith...When We Find Ourselves Worrying...We Need to Confront it with Truth.

- In John 16:33 Jesus told us Not to be Surprised as we Go through Trials. He said, “*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*”.

Solomon says, “Keep Sound Wisdom and Discretion”. **Sound Wisdom Means to have Wisdom that is “Applied” to Your Life. Applied**, Sound Wisdom Brings a Continuing Success in Walking in God's Ways. **Discretion is having a Purpose or Plan that Guides You in All You Do. It's to have a Worldview or Plan for life that is based on the Wisdom of God's Word.**

There is Only One Way to Get this Sound Wisdom and Life Plan or Life Purpose which is by being in God's Word and learning so we see things as God sees them. *God's Truth Gives Us Understanding to the Steps We are to Take Through Life.* And Sound Wisdom is a Lifestyle of Following After God and His Word.

- *When We Hold Fast to God's Wisdom We're Transformed!* Our Mind, Will and Emotions are directed by God's Wisdom. Our Mind is Instructed. Our Will Commanded and Our Emotions are Quieted by God's Wisdom.
- Then We Have God's Peace in Every Circumstance. **PHIL 4** “*Rejoice in the Lord always...Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

POINT: For the person who Doesn't Understand God's Omniscience (Knowing All Things) and His Omnipotence (Power Over All Things) and Loving Providence – Life is Terrifying!

- *Dread and Terror make it Difficult to Sleep at Night and they Easily Turn to the World's ways to Combat their Situation...* But God Makes Clear that *It is NOT a Pill or Some Secret Meditation or Calming that is Self-Taught and Self-Empowered.* *Instead, it is Godly Wisdom Infused Into the Soul.*

Meditating on God's Word Gives You Greater Understanding of What God Wants from and for You and Give You Comfort During Times of Trouble and an Enhanced Sense of Joy! **No Other Source Offers the Peace We Receive from God. And it Can't be Taken Away!**

Without Our Sight, Perspective, and Discernment Centered on Wisdom, We Will Be Detached from “TRUTH” and Will Make Decisions that are Self-Destructive.

- However, If we Cling to Wisdom, Knowledge, and Discretion, they Will Be Life for Our Soul and We'll Enjoy a Healthy and Vibrant Existence. Wisdom Unlocks the True Path to a Successful Life!

“Life for Your Soul” alludes to the Creation event. The Hebrew words for life (“Chay”) and Soul (“Nephesh”) are present in Gen. 2:7: *“Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Chay), and the man became a living being” (Nephesh).*

The Picture: God breathed life “Chay” into man, that he might become a living soul “Nephesh”. Likewise... Wisdom Breathes Life into Our Souls, that We Might Live a Fullness of Life as Intended by Our Creator.

- **KEY:** When You Fix Your Sight On God's Word and Trust In and Follow His Wisdom, You Will Walk Securely and Your Foot Will NOT Stumble. Wisdom Protects You from Facing the Consequences of Foolish Choices—It Guides You through Any Circumstance, Whether It Is Welcomed or Dreaded.

The Phrase “Your Foot Will Not Stumble” Means You Will Walk in Wisdom Even Through the Irritations of Encountering Stumbling Blocks. You Will be Able to do this Because the “Focus is on Your Godly Character [Trusting God is In Control] Rather than On Your Circumstances”.

KEY *With a Mature Godly Character, You will Have Hope and Understanding. You will Trust what You Cannot Control and Make Sound Decisions in what You Can Control. You Will Have A Character That Will Endure Any Obstacle. **Not because You're in Control, Because You Trust The One Who Is In Control!***

Vs 25, 26 Solomon Instructs: Have No Fear of Sudden Disaster. Life is full of moments where things Go Wrong...But We Don't Have to Worry. **Chuck Swindoll says it this Way: “We Are All Faced with a Series of Great Opportunities...Brilliantly Disguised as Impossible Situations!”**

- Wisdom Allows Us to Set Aside Worry, for We Know when the time comes, these Negative Circumstances Cannot Change Who We Are...Or Gods Plan for Our Lives.
- Solomon's Cure for Anxiety is to Simply say to Ourselves, *“When Bad Things Come, the Lord Will be At My Side and Will Keep My Foot from Being Snared!”*

KEY: If We Act in Wisdom [*Following and Trusting God is in Control*] Then There is No Disaster That Can Trip Us Up.” And That Allows Us to Live in Perfect Peace. **Free from Self-Destructive Anxiety.**

Today, You May Be Bound by Anxiety or Fear of Some Possible Future Event. *You May Believe that You Have to “Control” one or more of those steps to prevent a Possible or Imagined Disaster. IF SO... YOU ARE TRAPPED in a DOUBLE ILLUSION: One: that You Know the Future. Two: You Can Control the Future...TRUTH...YOU CAN'T!!!! GOD SAYS, TRUST ME...I HAVE IT COVERED!*

- There is Only 2 Things You and I Can Actually Control: **Trusting God and Acting in His Wisdom.**

If You Will Trust God and Make Decisions based on His Wisdom, You will please God and fulfill His Plan For Our Life. And You Will Walk Securely Through Every Day of Your Life and Your Foot Will Not Stumble.

Worry is Simply Previewing a Future Without God In It. Worry is the Opposite of Faith...When We Find Ourselves Worrying...We Need to Confront it with God's Truth.

Solomon Gives Us the Practical Outcome of Following God's Wisdom and Keeping His Principles at the Center of Our Lives! And it is Today's Life Point...

“LIFE” POINT: In Every Situation...We Will Walk with Confidence...And We Will Not Stumble!