



Proverbs – Wisdom for Today

Proverbs 1

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Introduction:

David's son Solomon, the wisest man to ever live because of God's gift of wisdom to him, begins sharing his extensive knowledge concerning the nature of wisdom and how we should live before God. He himself struggled to live out what he was taught, and his life became an example in many ways of what not to do. He knew wisdom and the right path, and he wishes that he would have taken it and that those who come after him would take it. If we are wise, we will take his God-breathed advice and live according to how God wants every person to live.

A wise man is one who desires to increase learning. He takes in wise teaching, seeks to acquire understanding, and longs to learn what wise behavior is. Wisdom will lead to righteousness, justice, and being fair and impartial with others. These qualities are particularly important for a king as Solomon was, but they are something every person should seek and strive for on a daily basis.

- Proverbs = Moral rules applying to one's character.
- Devotionally = Practical wisdom for everyday life that is directed to the "sons of God."

Proverbs teaches wise sayings that will profit anyone and describes the difference between the wise man and the foolish man along with that strange woman and the virtuous woman.

- **Proverbs 1:1-6** = The Purpose of the Proverbs.
- **Proverbs 1:7-19** = Warnings against Violence.
 - Most importantly this all begins with a reverent respect, fear of the Lord, and the rejection of foolish ways.

As we evaluate our life, most of us have to admit that we are just beginning to learn about the fear of the Lord. We want the presence of God, but we know that we need to grow in our reverence and fear of God. Our flesh naturally wars against our spirit so we must put in effort by exercising our rightful authority over our flesh.

The Fear of the Lord:

1. It is the beginning of wisdom: Proverbs 9:10
(Pr. 1:7, 2:5, 15:33)
2. It motivates to be holy: Proverbs 8:13
(Pr. 3:7, 16:6)
 - A person whose heart respects the LORD and has a desire to NEVER bring dishonor or pain to the Lord has an understanding of the TRUE fear of the LORD. It should cause pain in our hearts when we bring dishonor to our LORD.

3. It prolongs life: Proverbs 10:27
(2 Kings 17:39)

- Now, we know that God can take us at any moment, but the scriptures do say that generally those that fear the Lord are more likely to live a longer life.
- Something to think about...60% of human illness can be traced directly or indirectly to fear, sorrow, envy, guilt, hatred, and many other emotional stresses . . . these stresses can then lead to life threatening illness . . . alcoholism, drug addiction, anxiety, etc.

4. It produces a sense of security: Proverbs 14:26
(Ps. 25:14)

- Walking in the fear of the Lord we can know for sure that God is always there for us and on our side, which should cause us to have less doubts when going through trials in life.

5. It makes life better: Proverbs 15:16

- When you are walking in the fear of the Lord, your care is HIS responsibility.
- A life lived with things and riches is full of trouble, BUT a life with a Biblical fear of the LORD is literally carefree.

6. It produces satisfaction and safety: Proverbs 19:23
(Ps. 33:18)

- Living with fear of the Lord will cause a satisfied person. You will have a goal and that goal will be to always be pleasing to the LORD. You will never have a fear of going to Hell, you never have to fear man or things of this evil world. By your walk it will bring great joy to the LORD.

7. It brings great blessing: Proverbs 22:4

- Choosing to walk in the fear of the LORD can allow you to rest assured that your decision will bring great blessings in your life. It produces the greatest life that any person could have.

➤ **Proverbs 1:20-33** = Result of Rejecting Wisdom

The Fear of The Lord:

- Must be sought (Pr. 1:29-30)
- Must be learned (Deut. 4:10, Ps. 34:11)
- Must be desired (Neh. 1:11)
- Requires obedience (Ecc. 12:13)