

Proverbs 1

1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David,
king of Israel:

2 To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,

3 to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;

4 to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—

5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

6 to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

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

The Enticement of Sinners

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,

9 for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.

11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;
let us ambush the innocent without reason;

12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

13 we shall find all precious goods,
we shall fill our houses with plunder;

14 throw in your lot among us;
we will all have one purse"—

15 my son, do not walk in the way with them;
hold back your foot from their paths,

16 for their feet run to evil,
and they make haste to shed blood.

17 For in vain is a net spread
in the sight of any bird,

18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood;
they set an ambush for their own lives.

19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for
unjust gain;

it takes away the life of its possessors.

The Call of Wisdom

20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;

Questions: When asking these questions, we sometimes think we already know the answers or think, I have no idea. Look at the text in Proverbs and see how it helps to answer these and answer them personally for yourself.

1. Would you like to understand things better than you do?
2. Would you like to deal with situations better?
3. Will you seek what is right?
4. Would you like to learn more about what is just and be able to bring justice to your relationships?
5. Would you like to feel more equal to others and to understand them better and treat them like equals?
6. What did you learn in your youth? Is it serving you well or would you like to learn more knowledge and discretion?
7. Do we often feel like we know it already or are we willing to learn?
8. Wisdom sometimes shows itself in riddles. We need to think about things and figure them out. Concrete thinking is just what is in front of you and Abstract thinking allows us to see principles and work things out.
9. The fear of the LORD means high love and respect. If we study and relate to God as He really is, we are awed and our faith grows, we understand His how He is Holy and perfect and made a way for us to relate to him through Christ. This is just the beginning of wisdom and learning. Looking down on learning to know Him and His love is really foolish.
10. Did you parents try to teach you what was right? Did you listen? How did not listening cause problems for you?
11. How does going with those who are not loving or following God lead to disappointment?
12. What problems have you had from going with those who are takers and not givers?
13. How does going the wrong way and doing the wrong things, trying to get ill-gotten or unjust gain, set an ambush for our lives?
14. If you face sin and those not doing right and say "I am not going to do it/that." You will be fighting what is in front of you. If you face God and His people, putting His Word(s) in front of you then the sin and evil will fall off behind. Sin means missing the mark and Repentance means changing your mind and facing the right direction.

²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
²² “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ If you turn at my reproof, ^[a]
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.
²⁴ Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,
²⁵ because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when terror strikes you,
²⁷ when terror strikes you like a storm
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
²⁹ Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
³⁰ would have none of my counsel
and despised all my reproof,
³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,
and have their fill of their own devices.
³² For the simple are killed by their turning away,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

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15. In what ways have you seen wisdom call you?
i.e. What things have happened that cause you to
want to get wisdom?

16 How long will it take for you to turn towards
wisdom?

17. How does scoffing keep us from receiving
wisdom?

18. What does it mean to turn at my reproof?

19. Does it feel like others are laughing at your
calamity? Are you willing to see that it is not too
late to turn?

20. What is the fruit or results of your ways?

21. Would you be willing to turn to God and
pursue Him long enough that you would be able to
have and live with the fruits of the Spirit?

Galatians 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against
such things there is no law.

22. How is it a choice to choose fear of the LORD?

23. How do we find security and not dread?

24. How do we listen to wisdom? In order to hear
or listen to anything we need to “incline our ears”.
This means to lean towards it or go to it and read it
or listen to it. This talks about God’s Word, His
precepts, laws, commands - His love and loving
others through His love and power.

The book of Proverbs in the old testament is
about wisdom. The book of John in the New
Testament is about Christ’s life. Christ says, “I am
the way, the truth and the life. He says He is “the
Light of the World, the Bread of Life, the Gate, the
True Vine, Good Shepard, Resurrection and the
Life, and The Living Water. The Holy Spirit is the
part of God who Christ sent to be with us when He
went to Heaven and Holy Spirit is connected with
wisdom.