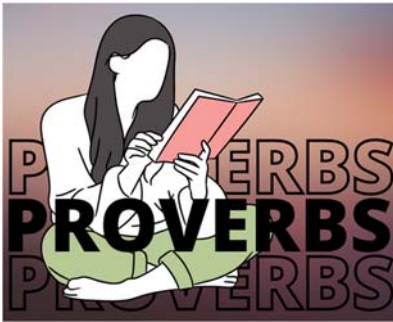




## What Can We Learn From One of the Wisest Men on Earth?

**1 Kings 4:29: (NASB) *Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore.***



To seek and acquire wisdom seems to be a lost art in our technology-laden world. Why spend the time seeking, gathering, learning, absorbing, internalizing, and applying wisdom when we can simply Google it and be told information? Why invest time and effort into trying to become a “wise person” when most of our friends and family are likely to disagree with such “wisdom” anyway? Face it; acquiring “godly wisdom” spells social media disaster! While this may be true, we need to step back for a moment and consider some things. Social media may rule the day but godly wisdom is timeless. It never changes, never diminishes, never loses its potency. It is always right and inevitably brings, supports and enhances life. Our first “words of wisdom” for today: Choose that which is eternal!



- He was the son of King David and Bathsheba.
- Among other things, he is famous for building Solomon’s Temple.
- Early in his reign as the third king of Israel, he asked God for wisdom and it was granted.
- He wrote three books - most of Proverbs, and also Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. It is thought that he wrote Proverbs in his younger years.



Most of us are familiar with the short sayings of the Proverbs that are usually one or two lines of smart advice. But the first nine chapters of the book are different. They are a poetic essay contrasting wisdom with foolishness that sets the stage for all those little independent gems of wisdom that follow. The Book of Proverbs is an Instruction Manual for a Godly Life, and for all ages and backgrounds.



I think through the different stages of life we can read the Proverbs and receive different lessons along the way. I value the Proverbs more than ever now because of a more mature perspective. With all the mistakes I have made along the way and the hurt I have received from others, the Proverbs help me to be more introspective and less judgmental. The Proverbs show us if we are living a God-honoring life or not.



The Proverbs are very personal. Solomon explains why he is talking about wisdom. For me, wisdom is one of the centerpieces of what I strive for in life. We have had a lot of experiences that require wisdom and I am always looking for, always studying and always praying for God's wisdom to overrule my own foolishness. Looking at the Proverbs is personal for me as well.

### Solomon gives us a basis before he begins his writings:

**Proverbs 1:1-6:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: <sup>2</sup>To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, <sup>3</sup>to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; <sup>4</sup>to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion, <sup>5</sup>a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, <sup>6</sup>to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.

Because God gave Solomon such *discernment and breadth of mind*, let's dig into the small steps with which Solomon sets up his writings in Proverbs 1:2-6:

- 📖 *To know wisdom and instruction* (chastening or correction) - the book of Proverbs helps us recognize the value of wisdom, and correction (being instructed) explains them to us.
- 📖 *To discern the sayings of understanding* - this recognition of wisdom and correction opens us up to discerning the deeper truths of life. Discernment is the ability to perceive right from wrong and everything in between; the ability to think clearly.
- 📖 *To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity* - the book of Proverbs gives us discernment of deep truths and helps us receive the necessary correction to be honorable in our moral behavior, our integrity and our treatment of others.
- 📖 *To give prudence to the naive* - the New Living Translation says - *to make the simpleminded clever*. If we ever feel we are not smart enough, take the Proverbs to heart. In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is made practical for those who are not philosophical.
- 📖 *To the youth knowledge and discretion* - in the book of Proverbs, the young will be taught to grasp principles and properly apply them.
- 📖 *A wise man will hear and increase in learning* - no matter what level of wisdom we have attained, the book of Proverbs can give us an opportunity to yet rise further.

inspiration@christianquestions.com



New Christians often write to us at [inspiration@ChristianQuestions.com](mailto:inspiration@ChristianQuestions.com) to ask where to begin. We suggest reading the book of Proverbs! Even the long-time student of the Bible will be amazed by the deep treasures.



📖 *And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles: the book of Proverbs brings insight into understanding difficult and veiled writings and sayings.*

### the bottom line

No matter who we are, the book of Proverbs helps us to learn how to decipher morality, integrity, wisdom, justice, righteousness and spirituality, IF our hearts are in the right place.

### Solomon concludes his introduction with a Pearl of Wisdom:

Proverbs 1:7: (NASB) *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Fear of the LORD* - meaning reverence. (Source: The Bible Project: Proverbs video)  
A moral mindset that recognizes I am not God. I do not get to make up my own definitions of good and evil and right and wrong. I need to humble myself before God and embrace God's definition of right and wrong, even when that's inconvenient for me.

### PROVERBS CHAPTER ONE:



### A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION TO HIS SON TO AVOID FOOLISH AND WAYWARD BEHAVIOR.

Each chapter synopsis will begin with a Pearl of Wisdom.

### Pearl of Wisdom! Passionately teach your children the ways of wisdom and godliness:

Proverbs 1:8-10: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; <sup>9</sup>indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.

Solomon begins by saying that godly parental instruction looks good on you. Wisdom is becoming.

<sup>10</sup>My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

In verses 11-19, Solomon goes on to warn his son against not hanging out with the wrong people. It is interesting to see that parenting concerns have not changed much in the last 3,000 years! The concerns are the same, and yet the same wisdom is perfectly attuned for the present day. Solomon speaks of wisdom being recognizable in our normal, daily life.

### Wisdom is poetically personified as a woman calling out loud from the streets:

Proverbs 1:20-23: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>Wisdom shouts in the street, she lifts her voice in the square; <sup>21</sup>at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings: <sup>22</sup>How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup>Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.





Aside from just the gullible and foolish, a “scoffer” makes fun of someone or something, often of religion or moral values. They laugh at what is really important. Here Lady Wisdom is not hiding - she is shouting over the noise of this world, ready to freely share her words to whoever will listen. Examples of wisdom and voices of reason are all around us.



Solomon has implied that those who have not applied themselves to thinking deeply, those who scoff and those who just do not want to know all, still have access to higher things. Just pay attention!

Wisdom does cry out in the streets but can be a voice we choose to ignore because it may not be fun, exciting or relevant to what we presently want. But wisdom is always there if we are looking.

**All thoughts, words and deeds bring some level of natural consequences for good or evil:**

Proverbs 1:29-33: (NASB) <sup>29</sup>Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD. <sup>30</sup>They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. <sup>31</sup>So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. <sup>32</sup>For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. <sup>33</sup>But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil.

There are natural consequences to rejecting wisdom.

(Source: Matthew Poole's Commentary on the Holy Bible) And as a wicked man's mind is oft full of anxiety in the midst of all his outward prosperity and glory, so the mind of a good man is filled with peace and joy, even when his outward man is exposed to many troubles.

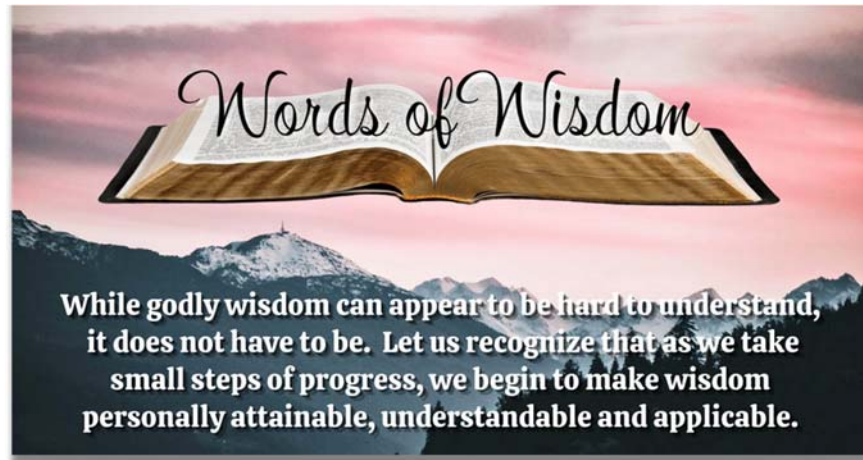
What a beautiful way to show the value of wisdom!

Compare the beauty of that with what Solomon said - *the waywardness of the naive will kill them* - they will wander into self-destructiveness - *the complacency of fools will destroy them*. Solomon is warning us in the beginning of the book of Proverbs that there are consequences. We need to take heed, look around, look above and find something worth following.



We will wrap up each segment with what we will call “Words of Wisdom.” For many years I have heard this phrase every time someone in my family had a birthday. When we would celebrate birthdays at our Sunday dinner around the big, old table at my mom and dad’s house, after all of the cake and the singing, my dad would clear his throat and say, “Okay Rick, now you're a year older; what words of wisdom do you have for us?” (He would ask this to whoever’s birthday we were celebrating.) He would get quiet and we’d need to respond. It became a big thing in our family. Sometimes members of the family would come with written comments. When my grandson, Dominic, was five years old, these were his first words of wisdom: “Always wear socks with sneakers so your feet don't stink.” You need to start somewhere!





Wisdom is there for us. We need to take the steps to find it and make it part of our lives.

Solomon’s message begins with an encouraging and profound truth - wisdom is not only meant for those who are wise!

**Solomon is telling us godly wisdom is important and available. What must we do to acquire it?**

It is fascinating to realize that God endowed King Solomon with godly wisdom. As Solomon seeks to share that wisdom, his first point is because he was blessed with this godly gift, he will explain to others what they need to do to have it as well. Solomon’s wisdom was driven by a humble desire to give to others what he himself had been given.

**PROVERBS CHAPTER TWO:**



**A PLEA FOR THE YOUNG TO PASSIONATELY SEEK TRUE WISDOM AND FIND TRUE REVERENCE FOR GOD.**

**Pearl of Wisdom! Be one who chooses to gratefully receive godly wisdom:**

*Proverbs 2:1-8: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>My son (my child), if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, <sup>2</sup>make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup>for if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; <sup>4</sup>if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.*

*Seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures - if we know there is money hidden somewhere, or if we lost it, we stop what we were doing to search for it. We should be searching for wisdom with even greater excitement and anticipation.*



Solomon was saying: “Receive the words, treasure the commandments, listen attentively, ask questions, seek and search to discover, and thereby learn to reverence and know God.” Solomon had a way of saying a lot with just a few words.



*<sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. <sup>7</sup>He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, <sup>8</sup>guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones.*

Solomon is clear that God is the source of our wisdom. The passion to receive it is rewarded with knowledge, understanding, protection and preservation.

*Guarding the paths of justice - We are starting to see a pattern about paths.*

Proverbs 2:12-15: (NLT) *<sup>12</sup>Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose speech is corrupt. <sup>13</sup>These people turn from right ways to walk down dark and evil paths. <sup>14</sup>They rejoice in doing wrong, and they enjoy evil as it turns things upside down. <sup>15</sup>What they do is crooked, and their ways are wrong.*

Seeking true wisdom and reverence for God means to carefully guard our input. That includes our music, television, social media and our friends. We will become what we hear and see. Do you want godly wisdom? Stay away from those people and things that *turn things upside down*, confusing your sense of right and wrong, your discernment.



**PROVERBS CHAPTER THREE:**



**EXTOLLING THE TRANSFORMING PROPERTIES OF WISDOM. ADDING THE CHARACTER THAT GOES WITH IT AND GIVING PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF HOW TO BE WISE AND FULL OF INTEGRITY.**

**Pearl of Wisdom! Keep, cherish and apply the godly wisdom you have been given:**

Proverbs 3:1-8: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>My son (my child), do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; <sup>2</sup>for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup>Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.*

The positive, natural consequence of remembering, holding, displaying and feeling godly wisdom is being a respectable and upright person in the sight of God and man.

*<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup>It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.*



This is a special set of scriptures for me. My wife had verses 5 and 6 engraved in my wedding ring. This has been the theme of our marriage - to trust in God, acknowledge Him and to look for His leadings.

The results of gratefully receiving and passionately applying godly wisdom is being able to trust that which is above us for guidance and insight beyond our own capacity. This humble trust revives our very being.



Proverbs teaches us good judgment, and that begins with our heart's commitment to mercy and truth. A 2018 study from Cornell University estimates the average adult makes about 35,000 remotely conscious decisions each day.

***Each decision carries consequences, and we might use good or bad judgment. The mental faculty of judgment is the final “filter” of our thoughts before we lead with our words, work with our hands or move with our feet. — Tim Malinowski***

Use judgment and discernment before the action. If these are properly trained, our reactions will be godly. Consider, look above and look outside of ourselves because life is bigger than we are.

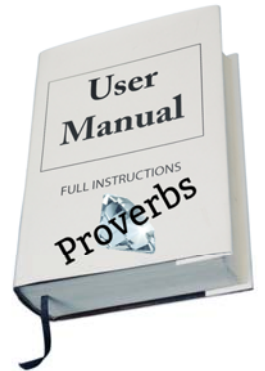
**In this state of humble receiving and trust, here are practical ways wisdom can drive us:**

**Proverbs 3:27-32:** (NASB) <sup>27</sup>*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.* <sup>28</sup>*Do not say to your neighbor, Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it, when you have it with you (do not wait).* <sup>29</sup>*Do not devise harm against your neighbor, while he lives securely beside you (do not look to make trouble).* <sup>30</sup>*Do not contend with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.* <sup>31</sup>*Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways.* <sup>32</sup>*For the devious are an abomination to the LORD...*

Such actions are the living proof of godly wisdom being gratefully received, cherished, applied and being humbly trusted.

**As an Instruction Manual for a Godly Life, Proverbs answers many of life's questions, including how to get a good night's sleep:**

**Proverbs 3:21-24:** (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*...keep sound wisdom and discretion.* <sup>22</sup>*so they will be life to your soul and adornment to your neck.* <sup>23</sup>*Then you will walk in your way securely and your foot will not stumble (another path of direction).* <sup>24</sup>*When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*



**PROVERBS CHAPTER FOUR:**



**EXAMPLES OF WHAT WISDOM WILL DO FOR YOU WHILE ON YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS.**

**Pearl of Wisdom! Godly wisdom brings grace and honor to those who humbly receive it:**

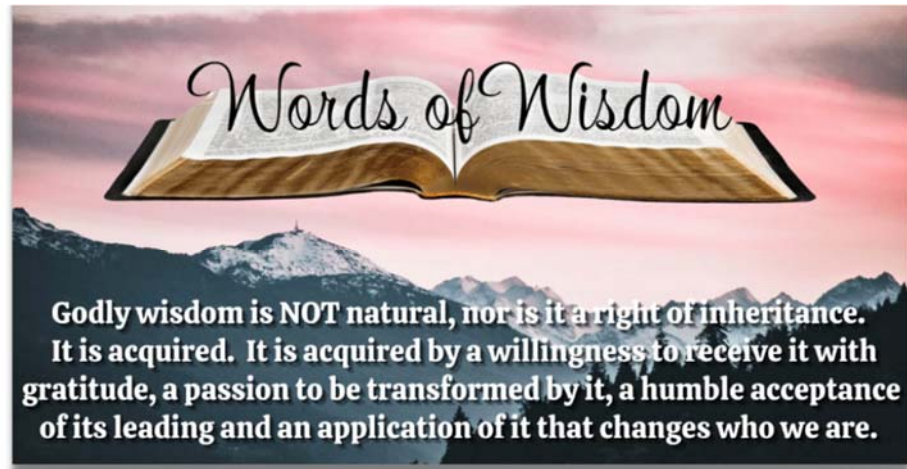
**Proverbs 4:5-9:** (NASB) <sup>5</sup>*Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth (it takes work).* <sup>6</sup>*Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; love her, and she will watch over you (wisdom is protective).* <sup>7</sup>*The beginning of wisdom is: acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding.* <sup>8</sup>*Prize her, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.* <sup>9</sup>*She will place on your head a garland of grace; she will present you with a crown of beauty (wear it in your everyday life).*

Wisdom is not a free gift; we must work for it.

**Here is another contrast of the paths:**

**Proverbs 4:18-19:** (NLT) <sup>18</sup>*The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.* <sup>19</sup>*But the way of the wicked is like complete darkness. Those who follow it have no idea what they are stumbling over.*





To learn, absorb and apply wisdom is no easy task. It requires a focus and desire that give us a willingness to be renewed!

**What are the practical benefits of living by godly wisdom in a world that has run far away from God?**

So far, Solomon has inspired us to make the seeking of God's wisdom in our lives a priority. We have seen its beauty and transformative power. Now Solomon speaks plainly regarding the everyday life issues that come before an average life. He will plant godly wisdom into the middle of many dilemmas as a way to wade through our issues.

#### PROVERBS CHAPTER FIVE:



**ONCE INSTRUCTED, FOLLOWING WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING CAN KEEP US FAR FROM ANY IMMORAL AND UNGODLY BEHAVIOR WHICH ONLY LEAD TO DESTRUCTION.**

**Pearl of Wisdom! Godly wisdom provokes us to keep fidelity to morality always and undeniably intact:**

Proverbs 5:1-5: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>My son (my child), give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding; <sup>2</sup>That you may observe discretion and your lips may reserve knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For the lips of an adulteress drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech; <sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. <sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of Sheol (the grave).

Proverbs 5:6: (NLT) For she does not care about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't even realize where it leads.

Again we see two paths. There is a smooth, straight path of the LORD versus a crooked, dark path with obstacles in the way to trip over. There is no progress on such a path because you keep tripping over things like secrets, alibis, lies, shame and regrets. Using the discernment and diligence of wisdom certainly will make our lives less complicated and more fulfilling.





If godly wisdom has been ingrained in us, we cannot use the fact that someone does not know better as an excuse for our sin:

Proverbs 5:7-9, 12-13: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Now then, my sons, listen to me and do not depart from the words of my mouth. <sup>8</sup>Keep your way far from her and do not go near the door of her house, <sup>9</sup>Or you will give your vigor to others and your years to the cruel one. <sup>12</sup>And you say, How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! <sup>13</sup>I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors!

Going down the wrong path turns your life over to that which is not healthy and will bring destruction. *Listen to me* - Solomon is beginning to repeat himself, and repetition is a worthy instructor. I am responsible for the godly wisdom that I have been given.

And while Solomon is warning against immoral women, the sin of seduction of course applies to both men and women. We have to assume Solomon would have known about the tragedies created by the sin of his father David with his mother Bathsheba. This warning of sexual immorality and adultery was probably a very personal warning to his own son. It was an appropriate warning both 3,000 years ago and now. Our temptations today are more common and accepted.

**PROVERBS CHAPTER SIX:**



**WISE ADVICE AGAINST BAD BUSINESS DECISIONS AND COUNSEL TO IMMEDIATELY DEAL WITH WHATEVER COMMITMENTS YOU HAVE MADE. KNOWING AND AVOIDING THINGS THAT ARE DESPISED BY GOD.**



We call this “being an ostrich,” where you put your head in the sand and pretend not to see anything. Do not be an ostrich!

**Pearl of Wisdom! Godly wisdom inspires extraordinary diligence in all business matters, correcting bad judgments and carrying out responsibilities, while always remaining above sinful behavior:**

Proverbs 6:1-5: (NLT) <sup>1</sup>My child, if you have put up security for a friend’s debt or agreed to guarantee the debt of a stranger <sup>2</sup>if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said <sup>3</sup>follow my advice and save yourself, for you have placed yourself at your friend’s mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. <sup>4</sup>Don’t put it off; do it now! Don’t rest until you do. <sup>5</sup>Save yourself like a gazelle escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.

Stand up and pursue that which is right. Realizing a bad judgment is important, but immediately acknowledging and correcting it is a mark of diligent adherence to higher standards. This is wisdom in action!



**Check out our CQ Kids videos:**  
**WHAT IS WISDOM**  
[christianquestions.com/youtube](http://christianquestions.com/youtube)

**Being diligent in carrying out all of our responsibilities is just as important:**  
 Proverbs 6:6-8: (NASB) *‘Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, <sup>7</sup>which, having no chief, officer or ruler, <sup>8</sup>prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest.*

A *sluggard* means someone who is sluggish - a lazy person. Those who are lazy need to go to Ant School! Ants appear only twice in the Bible - both times here in Proverbs as an example of hard work and diligence. Have you ever seen an ant just sitting around, doing nothing?



Just a few ant facts:

- Ants live peaceably in a community and assist each other in their work.
- They unite to carry things too large or heavy for them.
- They make good locations for their food in the ground away from rain.
- Ants have brains and are considered to be one of the smartest insects.
- They communicate between individuals and can solve complex problems.

A warning to avoid those things that God despises:

Proverbs 6:16-19 ChristianQuestions.com

There are six things **which the LORD hates,**  
 yes, seven **which are an abomination** to Him:

1. haughty eyes
2. a lying tongue
3. hands that shed innocent blood
4. a heart that devises wicked plans
5. feet that run rapidly to evil
6. a false witness who utters lies
7. one who spreads strife among brothers

This particular collection of sins is focused on how we treat others. *Haughty eyes* is also translated as a “proud look.” The Hebrew word means “to lift up,” “raise up,” “exalt oneself” - an arrogant person looks down on others. Picture Satan’s demeanor when he tempted Jesus three times in [Matthew 4:1-11](#).

And what is the difference between *a lying tongue* and *a false witness who utters lies*? We all know what lying is, but bearing false witness carries with it the intent to harm. It is an act of deception to misrepresent the life, words or actions of another person.

This awful list of seven things God despises are actions in direct contradiction to godliness, so wisdom has no part in them. Godly wisdom knows what pleases AND what displeases God. Do that which pleases Him and blessings will follow.

PROVERBS CHAPTER SEVEN:



**FURTHER PRODDING TOWARDS THE NECESSITY OF HAVING WISDOM THOROUGHLY INTEGRATED INTO EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR PHYSICAL DESIRES AND YOUR SEXUALITY.**

**Pearl of Wisdom! Godly wisdom helps us to see those things which entice and entrap others for exactly what they are, snares of evil:**

**Proverbs 7:1-8:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>My son (my child), keep my words and treasure my commandments within you. <sup>2</sup>Keep my commandments and live, and my teaching as the apple of your eye. <sup>3</sup>Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>Say to wisdom, you are my sister, and call understanding your intimate friend; <sup>5</sup>That they may keep you from an adulteress, from the foreigner who flatters with her words.

We want to heed these warnings to avoid an immoral woman or man.

(Source: Bible Commentary by David Guzik) The task of keeping men and women from sexual immorality sometimes seems impossible. This is due to many factors, including:

- A secular, sexually saturated and permissive culture
- The widespread availability of pornography
- Laws making divorce easy and impossible to contest
- Social media technology making anonymous meetings easier

<sup>6</sup>For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, <sup>7</sup>and I saw among the naive, and discerned among the youths a young man lacking sense, <sup>8</sup>passing through the street near her corner; and he takes the way to her house.

naive, youth, young man lacking sense - there is no mistaking he is talking about a young person here! Youth has passion, energy and overconfidence, so if they can learn wisdom principles at this stage, the path of life will be a lot easier. They will avoid hard consequences and will not have to unlearn bad habits. But we have seen how Solomon is clear that his advice is for every age.

The story is one of a compromised and ruined life. Solomon concludes:

**Proverbs 7:24-25:** (NASB) <sup>24</sup>Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. <sup>25</sup>Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths.

For temptations, resistance is a lot easier when the decision has already been made. Do not wait to see what happens.



**Episode 1182:  
Can I Get What I Want  
Through Seduction?**

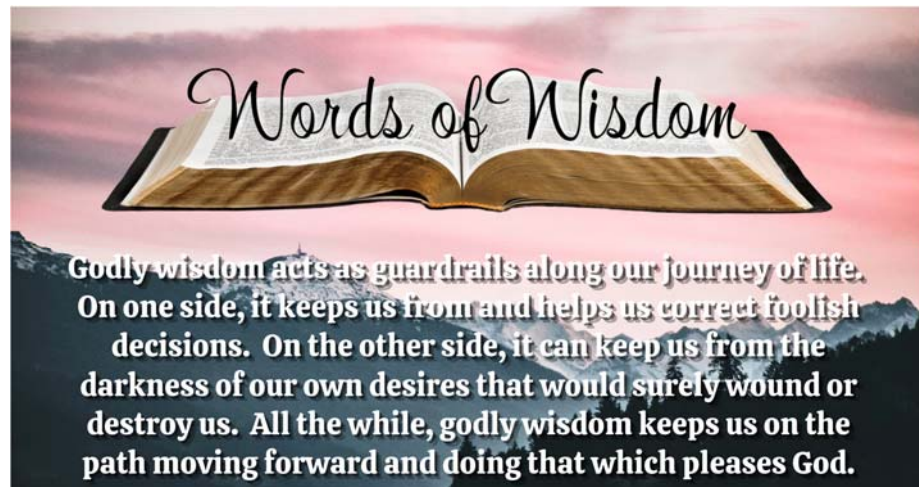
Revealing the dark and destructive results of seductive behavior

THE SAD TRUTHS OF *seduction*

The moment we begin to slow down and consider that which is seductive, we openly invite that seduction to show us more.

Be aware, be prepared and stand for that which is right.





Godly wisdom is one of the most practical tools of guidance that any Christian can have and lean upon each and every day.

**Godly wisdom changes our personal lives.  
What will we see when we step back and view the big picture?**

Next, we will see godly wisdom personified in several ways. Solomon does this to show us how broad, powerful and influential it is. One of the most important wisdom factors that appears in Proverbs 8 is that the wisdom Solomon is teaching about does come from our God and Creator. Wisdom began with God and has been passed down to us.

#### PROVERBS CHAPTER EIGHT:



#### FURTHER EXAMPLES OF THE BREADTH OF WHERE AND HOW WISDOM SHOWS ITSELF AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HEEDING ITS GUIDANCE.

**Pearl of Wisdom! Godly wisdom is attractive. It draws attention to itself because it is so virtuous and powerful:**

There are a lot of ways we can draw attention to ourselves. As Christians, we want people to be drawn to the peaceful, drama-free, godly wisdom in us, reflecting Jesus and our heavenly Father, not our own selves. Wisdom's attractiveness is not about ME.

Proverbs 8:1-5: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Does not wisdom call, and understanding lift up her voice?<sup>2</sup>On top of the heights beside the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup>beside the gates, at the opening to the city, at the entrance of the doors, she cries out: <sup>4</sup>To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. <sup>5</sup>O naive ones, understand prudence; and, O fools, understand wisdom.

Again, Lady Wisdom is everywhere and not hard to find! She is accessible to everyone. She is on the hilltop, she is at the crossroads of the street, she is at the entrance to the city - one literally has to pass by her in order to get through.





Stop and pay attention or we will miss out on godly wisdom around us. Wisdom’s voice beckons to all, even those who are not philosophical or learned. It is for everyone!

**Wisdom is personified as being of the Lord - it is shown to be the implemented will of God:**

Proverbs 8:12-13,15-17: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. <sup>13</sup>The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate. <sup>15</sup>By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. <sup>16</sup>By me princes rule, and nobles, all who judge rightly. <sup>17</sup>I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.

The more we love God, the more we will hate evil - but not the individual.

Wisdom is personified as being with the LORD from the very beginning. Proverbs 8:22-31 is a clear prophetic reference to the Logos (Jesus in his pre-human existence - God’s *only begotten son* in John 1:18,) being a primary expression of the ultimate wisdom of God.

**For example:**

Proverbs 8:22-23: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. <sup>23</sup>From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.



Wisdom is much bigger than our individual circumstances. It is everywhere because it is from God, the Creator of all things. It is expressed through His will and through His only begotten son. We can all be a part of this!

**PROVERBS CHAPTER NINE:**



**WISDOM IS PERSONIFIED AS A WOMAN CALLING OUT TO THE NAÏVE TO COME TO HER AND LIVE IN UPRIGHTNESS. SHE IS AT ODDS WITH ANOTHER, A WOMAN OF FOLLY WHO IS BOISTEROUS AND NAÏVE.**

**Pearl of Wisdom! Godly wisdom needs no fanfare or advertisement. Its life-altering power and foresight are enough to draw any and all who seek:**

Proverbs 9:1-6: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; <sup>2</sup>She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table; <sup>3</sup>she has sent out her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city: <sup>4</sup>Whoever is naive, let him turn in here! To him who lacks understanding she says, <sup>5</sup>Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup>Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding.

Godly wisdom has all in order and invites any and all to come and be fed and nourished.

Lady Wisdom is shown to be a gracious woman offering hospitality.



But now Solomon contrasts her with a foolish, unpleasant woman who knows nothing and is calling out to corrupt the innocent who do not know any better:

Proverbs 9:13-18: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>The woman of folly is boisterous, she is naive and knows nothing. <sup>14</sup>She sits at the doorway of her house, on a seat by the high places of the city, <sup>15</sup>calling to those who pass by, who are making their paths straight: <sup>16</sup>Whoever is naive, let him turn in here, and to him who lacks understanding she says, <sup>17</sup>Stolen water is sweet; and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. <sup>18</sup>But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol (the grave).



Lady Wisdom says, *Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!*  
The Foolish Woman says, *Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!*  
Both are speaking to *him who lacks understanding*.  
Two choices, two ways to be fed, two paths and two end results!

 **Episode 1202:**  
**Is Anyone Listening to the Wisdom of the Bible?**  
Uncovering how true wisdom works and why it is so rare

**PROVERBS CHAPTER TEN:**



**NOW THAT THE VALUE OF WISDOM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED,  
SOLOMON GIVES US HUNDREDS OF SIMPLE AND WISE STATEMENTS  
TO LEARN FROM AND ABIDE BY.**

**Pearl of Wisdom!** The countless facets of godly wisdom can be expressed with simplicity and wit.

Proverbs 10:5: (NASB) *He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.*

Simply do the next right thing that needs to be done.

Proverbs 10:7: (NASB) *The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.*

Am I one who stands for something, or one who falls for anything?

Proverbs 10:9: (NASB) *He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.*

You can run but you cannot hide, so why not just stand for what is right, right from the beginning?

Proverbs 10:19: (NASB) *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

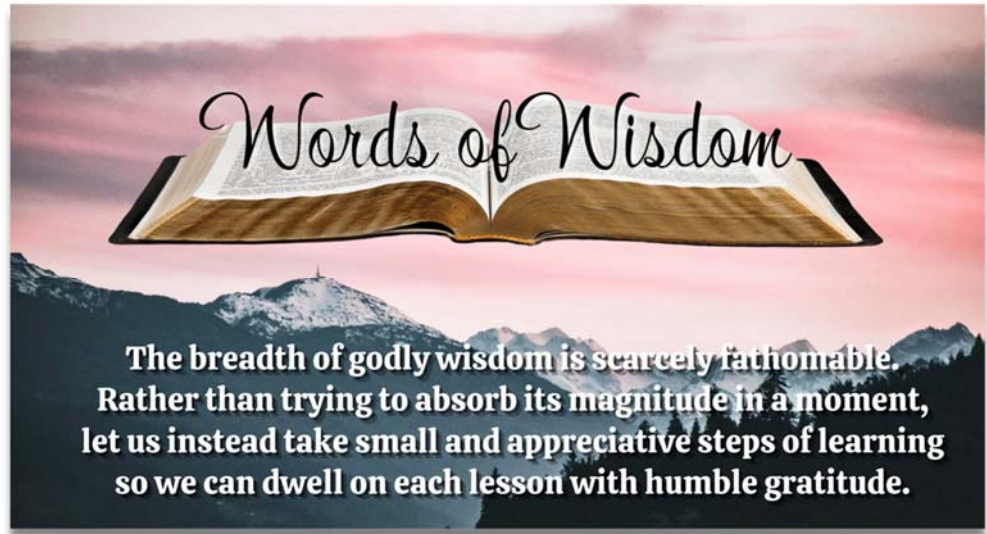
Do not crowd out the truth with chatter. Rather, speak the truth with clear and simple wisdom.

Proverbs 10:32: (NASB) *The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverted.*





Are my words expressions of wisdom that bless, or devices of division that destroy?



Wisdom is important, godly and necessary. We are not gifted these things; we are gifted the opportunity to learn these things.

*So, what can we learn from one of the wisest men on earth?  
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Join us next week for our podcast on September 5, 2022  
Ep. 1245: Is God Really Omnipotent?  
Contradictions Series

Christian Questions Weekly  
Newsletter

CQ Rewind Show Notes and  
Study Questions

Text  
**CQREWIND**  
to **22828** to get started.

