

Getting Wisdom – Week 1 – The Fear of the Lord...

Proverbs 1:1-7 NIV

Purpose and Theme

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ² for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young— ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— ⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. ⁷ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge**, but fool despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 NIV

¹⁰ The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of **wisdom**, and **knowledge** of the Holy One is **understanding**.

- Parallelism – To fear God is to know God

Psalms 111:10 NIV

¹⁰ The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of **wisdom**; all who **follow** his precepts have good **understanding**. To him belongs eternal praise

- Parallelism – To follow God is to know God

Proverbs 14:27 NIV

²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

Proverbs 15:33 NIV

Wisdom's instruction is to fear the LORD, and humility comes before honor.

There is a flow to growing in wisdom:

A. **Understanding God's Rulership:**

- His Power & Authority
 - Like an electrical plant... It can provide useable power or it can kill. The result is based on our understanding how we respect that power.
- His Judgement
 - **Hebrews 10:26-31 NIV** ²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "**The Lord will judge his people.**" ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- His Wisdom, Purposes & Plans
 - He has plans for our lives. He has design us for a purpose/s. We are not a mistake or an accident. Our response is to seek Him to find out the best use of His design for our lives.

B. **Responding in Humility:**

- God is god, I am not...
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NIV** ¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.** ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

- It's a correct understanding of our position. If you start with truth you have a much better chance at ending with truth!
- It helps us avoid the pride trap
 - We may have developed the gifts/talents that God has given us, but the fact remains that every good thing is a gift from God (James 1:17). The ability to develop and grow is also a gift from Him.

C. Growing in Trust:

- As we get to know God in His incredible power, vastness and love, we begin to trust Him.
- As God sees that we are willing to “take up our cross and follow” Him, He can trust us.
- **Psalm 25:14 NIV** ¹⁴The LORD *confides in those who fear him*; he makes his covenant known to them.

D. Developing in Relationship:

- **John 15:12-15 NIV** ¹²*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴*You are my friends if you do what I command.* ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

The fear of God brings good results rather than bad. Those who are scared of the fear of God (they fear the fear of God) should contrast the lives of those who fear God and those who do not. They will quickly see the differences. All through Proverbs, Solomon has contrasted the two kinds of life. Solomon in his early life was greatly impacted at the revelation of God. Even into his later life, these thoughts stayed with him. Note the perspectives of the fear of the Lord from one of the wisest men on earth.

	<u>Ways of those who Fear the LORD</u>	<u>Ways of the foolish</u>
Proverbs 1:7	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge	Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Proverbs 8:13	The fear of the LORD is to hate evil	Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.
Proverbs 9:10	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.	
Proverbs 10:27	The fear of the LORD prolongs life,	But the years of the wicked will be shortened.
Proverbs 14:26	In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.	
Proverbs 14:27	The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.	
Proverbs 15:16	Better is a little with the fear of the LORD,	Than great treasure and turmoil with it.

Proverbs 15:33	The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor [comes] humility.	
Proverbs 16:6	By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.	
Proverbs 19:23	The fear of the LORD [leads] to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.	
Proverbs 22:4	The reward of humility [and] the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.	
Proverbs 23:17	But [live] in the fear of the LORD always.	Do not let your heart envy sinners,
Proverbs 24:21	My son, fear the LORD and the king;	Do not associate with those who are given to change;
Proverbs 29:25	But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.	The fear of man brings a snare,

A good sleep. Extra long life. Riches. Wisdom. Confidence. Do these things sound good to you?! Of course. Solomon says they only come from the fear of the Lord. Why is it today, then, that many assert a secular lifestyle is better? **Why is it that the fear of the Lord brings so much goodness?**

When a people fear God, they listen to what He says. When they listen to what God says, their minds and decisions are influenced by God's own judgment. Maybe we could compare this to having a market insider giving tips to the best investment. Because an insider knows what is going on behind the scenes, his perspective has advantages over others who depend solely on the charts. He knows, for example, that a company is coming out with a new product or is going to be sold. God is the designer of our lives and wants to bring His insight into our lives. We have abandoned our Creator but if we allow, He is gracious enough to welcome us back and give us this inside 'advice' for our daily lives.



Biblical Foundations for Freedom - By Paul J. Bucknell