

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Favorite Proverbs Bible Study - Part 1

Proverbs 1:1-14 Lesson #1

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Proverbs before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.
Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

1-6 **The proverbs of SOLOMON the SON of DAVID**, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, **to receive the instruction of WISDOM, justice, judgement, and EQUITY; to give PRUDENCE to the simple**, to the young man knowledge and discretion – a wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, **to UNDERSTAND a PROVERB and an enigma**, the words of the wise and their riddles.

• **Proverbs 15:33** “The _____ of the _____ is the _____ of _____, and before honor is _____.”

• **Proverbs 8:5** “O you _____ ones, _____, _____, and you _____, be of an _____ heart.”

Definition: “The proverbs of SOLOMON the SON of DAVID” – Solomon became king of Israel after King David, his father, and Solomon’s mother was Bathsheba. In the earlier part of his life, Solomon inclined his heart towards God and kept His commandments. The proverbs in the Book of Proverbs were written in this earlier part of his life, and were written under the influence of the Holy Spirit. **They are a collection of short sayings showing the difference between good and evil, and the consequences of disobeying God.** Unfortunately, later in life, **Solomon did NOT follow his own advice, he disobeyed God, and God did NOT use him to write any more Scripture during those years.** Much later in Solomon’s life, after he had sampled every worldly and fleshly pleasure possible, and he’d **“gone to the school of hard knocks”, he turned back to God.** **The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon to show how he had LEARNED the HARD way that God’s way is the best way**, and that everything else without God is all vanity and futility. In Ecclesiastes 1:12-18, Solomon, or “The Preacher” as he calls himself, tells how **he tried to learn by worldly “wisdom” all that the world has to offer, but he found it to be worthless and empty.** If he had been content with **God’s wisdom**, instead of trying to find out for himself, **he would have avoided a lot of pain in his life.**

• **I Kings 3:7-12** “Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant _____ instead of my father _____; but I am a little child: I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have _____, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an _____ to judge Your people, that I may _____ between _____ and _____. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?’ And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself _____ (wisdom) to discern _____, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a _____ and _____, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.’”

Definition: “To receive the instruction of WISDOM, justice, judgement, and EQUITY; to give PRUDENCE to the simple” – Solomon asked God for WISDOM, and God gave it to him. As long as he followed and obeyed the Lord, Solomon had God’s wisdom, but Solomon had free will, just like we do,

and God will not override our free will and force us to obey Him. **Solomon chose by his own free will to exceed the limits of the great wisdom that God gave him**, in order to experience the harsh, painful side of life first hand. Although Solomon did come back to the Lord later, he regretted his many years of disobedience, and tries to warn us not to do what he did. In Ecclesiastes 12:1 & 13 he says, "Remember also your Creator **in the days of your YOUTH**, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no delight in them.'" "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God and keep His commandments**, because this applies to every person." **We can choose to Obey God and get His WISDOM and PRUDENCE to carry us through life successfully**, or we can learn things the hard way, like Solomon did later in his life. **WISDOM means to judge rightly** and follow the soundest course of action, based on knowledge and good judgment. Prudence means careful management and economy. **EQUITY** means fairness, impartiality, justice. **Wisdom, understanding and knowledge are the basic theme of the Book of Proverbs.**

• **Ephesians 5:15-17** "See then that you walk _____, not as _____ but as _____, redeeming the time, because the days are _____. Therefore do _____ be _____, but _____ what the _____ of the Lord is."

• **Ephesians 1:15-18** "Wherefore, I (Paul) also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love for all the saints," Do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my _____; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may _____ to you the _____ of _____ and revelation in the _____ of _____; [that] the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Definition: "Circumspectly" – To look around, be cautious, **CAREFUL** to consider all circumstances and **POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES**. Sounds like another word for wisdom and discernment. Also, according to this verse in Ephesians, and throughout the Book of Proverbs, being **WISE** (having wisdom) is contrasted to being a **FOOL**.

• **Proverbs 18:2** "A _____ has no delight in _____, but [*only*] in expressing _____ heart (his own feelings and opinions)."

• **Proverbs 12:15** "The way of a _____ is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds (pays attention to) counsel is _____."

Definition: "To UNDERSTAND a PROVERB and an enigma" – An enigma means a puzzle or mystery. **Jesus taught the crowds of people in parables**, which would seem like a mystery or riddle to the unbelievers, but hold a spiritual **TRUTH** for those who were truly seeking God. The parables of Jesus are similar to the proverbs of Solomon.

• **Psalm 78:2** "I will _____ my _____ in a _____; I will utter dark _____ of old."

• **Matthew 13:34-35** "All these things Jesus _____ to the _____ in _____; and without a _____ He did _____ speak to _____, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the _____, saying: 'I will _____ my _____ in _____; I will utter things which have been _____ from the foundation of the world.'"

• **Psalm 49:4** "I will incline my ear to a _____; I will disclose my dark (hidden) saying on the harp."

7 **The FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of KNOWLEDGE, but FOOLS despise WISDOM and INSTRUCTION.**

• **Proverbs 2:1-2 & 5-6** "My son, if you receive My _____, and treasure My _____ within you, so that you incline your ear to _____, and

apply your heart to _____.” (Verses 5-6) “Then you will _____ the _____ of the _____, and find the _____ of God. For the Lord gives _____; from His mouth (God’s word, the Bible) come _____ and _____.”

• **Psalm 111:10** “The _____ of the _____ is the _____ of _____; a good _____ have all those who _____ His _____.”

• **Proverbs 9:10** “The _____ of the _____ is the _____ of _____, and the _____ of the Holy One is _____.”

Definition: “The FEAR of the LORD” – Reverential and worshipful AWE and RESPECT for God, especially as EVIDENCED by OBEDIENCE to His commands and **DOING His will**. The New Testament equivalent is HOLY LIVING and being FILLED with the SPIRIT. As we OBEY God’s commands that we see in His word, even the simplest ones, He will REVEAL **more of His will** for our lives to us. Why should He give us more detailed information if we don’t even obey His will that is revealed in His word?

• **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** “And now, Israel, what does the Lord _____ of you, but to _____ the _____ your God, to _____ in all His _____ and _____ Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your _____ and with all your _____, and to _____ the Lord’s _____ and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your _____?”

• **I John 3:22** “And whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we _____ His _____, and _____ those things which are _____ in His _____.”

• **II Corinthians 7:1** “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us _____ ourselves from all _____ of the flesh and spirit, perfecting _____ in the _____ of God.”

8-9 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be **graceful ornaments on your head, and chains about your neck**.

• **Proverbs 4:1** “Hear, my _____, the _____ of a _____, and give _____ to know _____.”

Definition: “Graceful ornaments on your head, and chains about your neck” – The ornaments on the head refers to a crown given to someone who WINS a race, and the chains about the neck would be like getting the GOLD MEDAL at the Olympics. It does not mean chains of imprisonment, but MEDALS of HONOR for being a WINNER. This promise is for those who “hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother.” The “instruction of a father” would be the same as OBEYING GOD’S WORD. We receive BLESSINGS and come out as WINNERS when we OBEY God and His commandments. Our incentive for OBEYING GOD and living a HOLY LIFE is: a) To please the Lord. It pleases God when we live in holiness and obedience; b) To be blessed. The blessings of God will not and cannot come into our lives if we are disobedient - all the wonderful promises of God’s word are **CONDITIONAL to our OBEDIENCE to His commandments**; c) To have our prayers answered - our prayers are hindered by our disobedience or by unconfessed sin in our lives; d) To experience joy and fulfillment in life - we will never be truly happy or have real joy if we continue in a sinful lifestyle; and e) To avoid the negative consequences of sin and disobedience - It would be foolish of us to fail to mention that sin has negative consequences. It doesn’t mean punishment from God, but just that the word of God says we will reap what we sow. The term used

most often in the Old Testament for being obedient to God and having a **realistic knowledge of sin's painful consequences** is "the fear of the Lord."

• **Psalm 33:8 & 18** "Let all the earth _____ the _____; let all the inhabitants of the world _____ in _____ of _____. Behold, the _____ of the _____ is upon them that _____ Him, upon them that _____ in His _____, to _____ their soul from _____, and to keep them alive in famine."

• **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man _____, that will he also _____. For he who _____ to his _____ will of the flesh reap _____ (sickness, poverty, death, etc.); but he who _____ to the _____ shall from the Spirit reap everlasting life (the blessings of God)."

• **Proverbs 13:14-15** "The law of the _____ (God's word) is a fountain of _____, to turn one away from the _____ of _____. Good _____ gains favor, but the _____ of the _____ is _____."

10-14 My son, if **SINNERS entice you, do NOT CONSENT**. If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse -

• **Proverbs 4:14-15** "Do not _____ the _____ of the _____, and do _____ proceed in the _____ of _____ men. Avoid it, do not pass by it, _____ from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; and they are robbed of sleep _____ they make some _____."

• **Proverbs 1:15** "My son, do _____ walk in the _____ with them, keep your feet from their path."

Definition: "If SINNERS entice you, do NOT CONSENT" – The first thought that comes to mind is young boys being ENTICED into joining a gang! It could also just be so-called friends trying to convince someone to commit a crime, because they want a **"get-rich-quick" scheme**. In Isaiah 57:14, God says, **"Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstacle out of the way of My people."** We must **remove obstacles and stumbling blocks out of our way**. Don't keep things around that remind you of your addiction or **your past sinful life** in any way - they are stumbling blocks. This includes **friendships** with people who do not encourage you in your recovery or in your walk with Christ. Don't be friends with people who drag you down. Don't hang out with friends who are still drinking or using drugs, if that is your area of weakness. Don't go to unsaved family or friends for **counsel or advice**, especially if they are full of negativity, or pull you down into depression. Don't go out with old friends who are living a sexually immoral life, if that is your area of weakness. Fellowship with people who will **BUILD you up, not tear you down or cause you to stumble**. Read, study and meditate in God's word "day and night" to build up your faith and your **spiritual strength to stand against and RESIST evil**.

• **Psalm 1:1-2** "Blessed is the man who does _____ walk in the _____ of the _____, nor stands in the way of (hangs out with) sinners, nor sits in the seat of the _____ (scoffers); but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night."

• **Isaiah 57:14-21** "And it shall be said, 'Build up, build up, prepare the way, _____ every _____ out of the _____ of My _____.' For thus says the High and Exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high

and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly (humble) of spirit, in order to revive the heart of the contrite.”