



5/14/26

*One thing that really hit me from today's passage is that we are always listening and learning. The question is, who are we listening to and learning from? That will deeply impact the way we think, act, and live. I pray that you and I will let God's voice, through His word, be the loudest voice we hear.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Proverbs 1:1-16*

*In Ephesians 6:4, Paul called us to "bring the children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Solomon, who was considered to be the wisest man in history through the gift of God, wrote a whole book about the discipline and instruction of the Lord. He addressed it to his son. So this passage will give me insight into how I can be a coach, a trainer, for my grandchildren and for anyone the Lord puts in my path to help. I can also apply these things to my life... In fact, I need to do that first, or I will be an insincere and ineffective trainer. It's never okay to say, "Do as I say, not as I do."*

*So... what do I need to do, and then model for others?*

*Vs. 1-4 ~ Solomon wants me to know, to perceive, wisdom and instruction. In Proverbs 12:1, he says, "Whoever loves discipline (training) loves knowledge. Whoever hates reproof is stupid." Yikes!!! Wisdom and instruction are necessary for me to gain and understand insight. Do I need insight? Yes! When I don't have understanding, I make really bad choices!!! I hurt people. I hurt myself.*

*He says I need to "receive" instruction of wisdom. The Hebrew word for "receive" can also be translated, "seize, acquire, marry." I need to be married to wisdom. The alternative is foolishness, and nothing good comes from that. Wisdom will be displayed in my righteousness. Fools choose unrighteousness and disregard the consequences as long as they can feel good in the moment. O Lord, I have been a fool MANY times in my lifetime. Through You, I have been given the gift of righteousness. Let me not waste it!*

*Wisdom is also displayed in justice, making right decisions, and in equity, showing no favoritism. Being unjust and partial would make me untrustworthy.*

*Wisdom from God makes even the simple wise. Lord, in myself, You and I both know how simple I am... how easily I can be drawn away to things that have no eternal value. Please help me to pay attention, to love what You love and hate what You hate! Help me to have understanding as to why pursuing You is the best place to be so that I won't get caught in the undercurrent that would subtly drive me away from You.*

*Vs. 5-7 ~ I praise You that there is never an end to growing in wisdom. No matter how much I have, there's always more to hear and more to learn. There's always more understanding to be gained so that You can guide me through all the "riddles" of the wise that make no sense to my simple soul, but open to me the treasures of wisdom as I seek You to guide me.*

*Vs. 7 is crucial for me to understand. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." No knowledge, no wisdom, no instruction comes without the fear of the Lord. What is the fear of the Lord? It is reverent awe... trust... worship of the Lord. It is acknowledging Him for who He is and placing Him at the center of my life with all authority over me. It is what Jesus said in Luke 9:23, to "deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow Him."*

*Here are just a few verses that give me insight, wisdom, and understanding of the blessings of fearing the Lord ~*

- *"In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and His children will have a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death." ~ Proverbs 14:26-27 ESV*
- *"The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and he makes known to them His covenant." ~ Psalms 25:14 ESV*
- *"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones." ~ Proverbs 3:7-8 ESV*
- *"Oh, how abundant is Your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear You and worked for those who take refuge in You, in the sight of the children of mankind!" ~ Psalms 31:19 ESV*

*Everything begins with the fear of the Lord!!! In fact, here's one more verse to clarify why this is so important. Proverbs 16:6b says, "By the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil." I cannot turn away from the evil of unrighteousness, foolishness, and voluntary ignorance WITHOUT turning to the Lord in worship and trust. He is the one who helps me overcome. If this is the only thing I grasp in this passage, it is the most important... and I need to model this and teach it to anyone who God places in my sphere of influence.*

*Vs. 8-9 ~ Now Solomon specifically speaks to his son. I love that he speaks not only of the need to hear his instruction, but also to learn from the mom's teaching. Both parents have a very important and unique role in training our kids. Hearing and learning from wise teaching gives grace and honor to those who allow it to take root in their soul first and foremost by worshiping and trusting the Lord. O Lord, please help me model and teach what gives grace and honor to those whom You place in my path.*

*Vs. 11-16 ~ Now Solomon moves to the alternative of listening and learning. Really, he understood that we always have a choice before us. We're always learning and listening to someone. Who will it be? The Lord or evil? The evil of this world does not sit idly by while we fear the Lord. Evil is always trying to entice us and our kids away from the Lord.*

*Solomon says, "If sinners entice you, do not consent." This is so important for a parent to see... the friends who come around their kids WILL have an influence on them. It's important for a parent to pay attention to who their kids hang with. I remember a woman speaking at a conference. Here's a paraphrase of what she said, "My dad was a traveling preacher, so he wasn't always around to see who I was with. I was getting ready to go on a date, and my dad asked if the guy loved the Lord. I rolled my eyes and said 'Yes, Dad. He goes to church.' My dad said, 'That's not what I asked. I asked if he loves the Lord.' I said, 'It's just a date. Let's not make a big deal out of it.' So my dad asked me to stand on a chair. I reluctantly got up on a chair. As we stood there, me on a chair on my dad on the floor, he said, 'Okay, now pull me up on the chair with you.' Of course, I couldn't. But he made me try. Then he continued to hold my hands and talk to me, and suddenly, he yanked me down off the chair... with no problem. He said, 'This is why it's important that the person you're going out with loves the Lord. It's a lot easier to pull someone down than it is to lift them up.'"*

*When our girls were growing up, we told them... be friends with everyone. But only lean on those who love the Lord. If any friend doesn't love the Lord, not just in word but in the way they live, consider them to be ministry friends. Be a loving light to them, but don't lean on them for support. And then we stayed actively aware of who their friends were... and we talked about things with them. It doesn't mean we never missed anything. But we stayed involved... and we PRAYED A LOT!!! We trusted that God sees what we don't see and asked Him to reveal to us what needed to be revealed.*

*Why is it so bad to be enticed by sinners?*

- They ambush the innocent. How? By gossiping, spreading rumors, mocking... and they're not satisfied until they can get others to join them. They can disguise it with things like, "This person really hurt my feelings... I have a prayer request about someone... I heard that they said this terrible thing about YOU."*
- They steal... maybe not always physical, tangible things. They may steal someone's integrity. They may steal friends who are afraid of being "canceled". Or they may actually steal stuff.*

- *They encourage others to join them, maybe partially so that they can hold it over their heads when they do. Maybe partially so they can justify their own behavior.*

*Solomon says... Don't walk in the way with them. Hold back your foot from going down their evil paths. This is important. The first "step" is NOT doing what they do. The first step is being ENTICED by what they do. What would entice someone? They make it look good... but it goes nowhere good. It just takes one step at a time to veer down the wrong path. The most wonderful news is that it only takes one cry to the Lord for them to get off that path.*

*The best thing I can do to help anyone see that the enticement of sin is destructive is not to focus on the sin, but to focus on the Lord... to model a genuine worship and trust of the Lord and to talk about it with my kids, grandkids, friends, women I counsel... whoever... when I "sit in my house (or my office) , and when I walk by the way, and when I lie down, and when I you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:7).*

*O Lord, I don't trust me, but I trust You. Without You, I WILL go down the wrong path. All of this begins with worshiping You and trusting You!!! Please be the focus, the center, the pursuit, the motivation of my life. Let nothing derail my devotion to You. You are so worth it! I praise You that You will never lead me down a destructive path. Your word says that "all YOUR paths are steadfast love and faithfulness" (Psalm 25:10). ALL Your paths. Let my feet always be walking to You.*