



7/16/26

Proverbs 16:1-9, 18-20, 32

The 3rd reason to rehearse the gospel to ourselves every day is that it is the only thing that is labeled, "the power of God." God's power is displayed in volcanoes and stars that travel at lightning speed. But only the gospel is called "the power of God." Rehearsing the gospel to ourselves daily helps us experience a deeper sense of the power of God in our lives. When we're in difficult situations, knowing the power of God displayed in the gospel gives us courage. Amen!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

I think of the passages from Sunday that we can pray for ourselves and our spouses (and anyone, really), and I'm challenged to continue these passages as prayers, because I know when I pray the word of God, I pray the will of God. So... here I go, praying through these words of wisdom. But I'm gonna pray them out of order. 😊 I want to start with vs. 20 because I feel like it's the crux of the matter...

Vs. 20 ~ "Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord."

O Lord, it's so easy for me to let my mind be filled with thoughts that stir fear in me, or frustration. I know that the person I listen to the most is myself!!! So please help me to fill my mind with YOUR word. When the fearful thoughts come, help me to answer them with Your truth. That's when I discover truth. That's when it's so much easier to put my confidence in You. Your word is truth.

Vs. 6 ~ "By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil."

The thing is, it's not really MY steadfast love and faithfulness that atones for my sin... it's

YOURS. The order of events is... You atone for my sins. Then I respond by "fearing" You, by trusting and worshiping You. And then You give me the strength, not only to turn from my sin, but to not even want it anymore. I discover in Your word that You are good, and not the sin I once clung to. O Lord, praise You for opening my eyes to who You are!

What sin do I need to turn from?

Vs. 1-3, 9 ~ I need to turn from trying to make my own plans and even justify them as being pure when they may not be... not weighing them against what Your word says. "The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established... The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." O Lord, please weigh my spirit (that's the only weighing You do, praise God) and show me where my plans don't align with Yours! Change my direction if it needs to be changed. I'm willing. I know ALL Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness (Psalm 25:10). Let me commit my work to You for Your glory and not commit to trying to establish my own glory.

Vs. 4 ~ I need to trust that You're sovereign and that there are some things I won't understand, but that's okay. "The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble." This is where I need to recognize Your authority and holiness. And there are just some things this side of heaven I'm not going to understand. One thing I also need to confess from this is that I think way too highly of the goodness of man. Paul said in Romans 7:18, "I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh." The truth is, we ALL deserve the day of wrath. I praise You that Jesus took mine on Himself.

Vs. 7, 32 ~ I need to stop being deceived into thinking that anger is powerful and venting is good... and instead seek to please the Lord. "When a man's ways please the Lord, He (the Lord) makes even his enemies to be at peace with him... Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city." O Lord, I have no control over changing someone's mind about me. I can't use anger to get them to turn. I can't pour out my angry thoughts with mic drop moment sarcasm or accusation to get someone to turn. My sole focus needs to be to please You, and You help the heart to turn. You help even those who stand against me to be at peace with me... You do that. I can't. Please help me to keep my eyes fixed on You!!! To give thought to Your word!!! Please help me to see that what pleases You is me being slow to anger, because YOU are slow to anger with me. Help me to see that ruling my spirit, having Spirit infused self control over my feelings is what brings peace and takes real strength and courage.

Vs. 5, 18-19 ~ Finally, what lives at the core of all my sin is pride. I need to turn away from the devastating sin of pride (which shows itself in both arrogance and shame because both keep me from drawing near to God)! "Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished... Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud." Father, please remove every single speck of pride from my heart! With every speck You

remove I see that there is so much more that needs to go! Let me not grieve You by embracing what Jesus had to die for. The one who is most arrogant is the devil. Please help me to be repulsed by everything he offers. He's a liar and the father of lies. Help me to embrace Your humility. It is so peaceful and beautiful. It brings true joy.

Help me see that nothing but destruction comes from pride. "Pride comes before a fall." Pride is haughty... it elevates SELF. It separates me from the Lord and from others. Please help me to be repulsed by it IN ME... not to spend time pointing it out in others. You can handle that. I don't need to. But even though I shouldn't focus on the pride of others, please help me not to partner with someone who clearly lifts SELF above others. Even if that person invites me to be in the "popular, elite" crowd, please help me not to be sucked in. What You love is a humble, lowly heart. And I'm way better off partnering with the poor in spirit (the humble people who also see their need for You) than with those who exalt their own name. If they're willing to look down on others, they will eventually look down on me.

Father, I know that You never call me to anything that I can't see modeled in Jesus. You call me to humble submission. Jesus humbly submitted to You and shed His blood for me. Please help me to keep my mind focused on the truth of the gospel, and I will definitely discover what is truly good.

What You have NOT called me to is seeking to have authority or control. That's Your job. Please help me to surrender to Your sovereign authority and control, completely trusting that as I do, I will please You and discover good. I love you. I trust You. I commit myself to You. I will seek You.