



7/20/26

As we focus on prayers for those we love, especially our kids, I can't help but think the most important prayer is that they understand the gospel and stake their life on it. One friend's definition of the gospel was this ~ "I am saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ who was born of the Virgin Mary, shed His blood for my sins by dying on the cross and rose to life on the third day." Amen. I pray we will find our hope in this truth.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

I loved the points that were made in Mitch's message, and then Tim's closing statement. Mitch reminded us that gaining wisdom from the Lord is not a call to "muscle" it, but to encounter God's word and then exalt Him, allowing Him to change our hearts and the hearts of our kids. And then Tim reminded us that our first response is not to tell our kids how to behave, but to get on our knees and pray for them. I wonder how much pain I would have saved myself over the years if I had stopped believing I had to figure out the answers, and instead started on my knees in surrender to the One who has all the answers! So... as I look at Proverbs 2, I want to look for the wisdom God wants to teach me, my kids, and my grandkids... and take those words to the Lord in prayer... "O Lord, please do this work in us."

Vs. 5 tells me what the ultimate goal is... "Understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

The goal is to understand and find. Understand what it means to fear the Lord... to worship Him and put all my confidence in Him. Find the knowledge of God. Know Him.

Why is that my goal? Vs. 6-8 tell me why He's worthy of my worship and why knowing Him is a worthy pursuit.

Vs. 6 ~ "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding..."

He's the source. Wisdom comes from Him... and He generously gives it. At the end of godly wisdom is peace according to James 3:18. Who doesn't want peace? Who wants to constantly make foolish choices? Foolish decisions leave a massive wake of pain. I need His wisdom.

He's also the source of knowledge. Well, I can only find knowledge from its source. If I'm looking anywhere other than the Lord, I won't find it. But He not only gives me knowledge, He gives me knowledge of Him... personally and intimately.

He's the source of understanding... Worshiping Him and knowing Him gives me insight and perspective. How often am I confused by my circumstances, not knowing what the right answer is for the situation? My answer is not to figure it out on my own but to go to the One who has all the answers.

Vs. 7 ~ "He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity..."

My goal is to worship and know the Lord because He never runs out of answers for me. He never runs out of wisdom. He never looks dumbfounded and says, "Yikes. This is a surprise to Me. I have no idea what to do here. What do you think?" He always has more wisdom for me.

He also is a shield for me, a refuge, an ever present help in time of trouble. He gives me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in the midst of all the circumstances where I find myself needing a refuge.

Let me not be foolish here. This speaks of the person who is upright, and who walks in integrity. The righteous and the innocent. The only way I am righteous or innocent is by worshiping and knowing Jesus. As the source of wisdom, He's the reason why I would even want to be righteous or walk in integrity. I walk in integrity... meaning that integrity is the path I take... because He gives me the strength and the desire to do so. He is the source!

Vs. 8 ~ "guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of His saints."

I worship Him and pursue knowing Him more and more because He guards the paths of justice... so that justice is served. He watches over the way of those who belong to Him, His saints, to help me walk His paths of justice AND to protect me from those who don't.

This is my prayer... that I will worship the Lord and know Him more and more. This is also my prayer... that my children and their children will worship the Lord and know Him more and more, that we'll understand and know that His wisdom leads us to His peace. I pray that we will not be deceived into thinking that anything other than His wisdom will lead us to what is good and perfect.

The world can be pretty convincing, teaching that following our heart is a better place to be, and believing in God makes us weak. O Lord, that's a lie from the pit of hell. Please expose the

deceptions and help us to reject them. Please help me to model genuine worship and knowledge of God to my family. Please make my love for You contagious.

Well... if my goal is to worship the Lord and know Him, especially in light of all the wonderful benefits of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, refuge, justice, and protection... what is my strategy? How do I get this incredible wisdom? Vs. 1-4 tell me...

Vs. 1 ~ "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you..."

Receive His words... that means I have to be willing to listen. O Lord, may I never give my feelings more credibility than Your word.

Treasure His commands... That means I will take the time to see that they are worth treasuring. God's commands are given in love... always for my good.

Vs. 2 ~ "making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding..."

Pay attention to wisdom... make sure that what I'm listening to and taking in aligns with the source of wisdom, God's word.

Lean in to understanding... so that I can actively learn it. Don't just hope it shows up without me actively cooperating.

Vs. 3 ~ "yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding..."

Verbally call out to God to help me understand and to have discernment so that I can choose what's good and turn away from what's evil. This is active participation with the Lord.

Vs. 4 ~ "if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures..."

Seek wisdom and understanding as I would priceless jewels. If I lost my favorite pair of earrings, I would be bummed. I would look for them, but I know they're not that expensive. I could probably get another pair. If I lost my 3 diamond 10 year anniversary ring that my husband and I had designed to celebrate our marriage... I would tear apart my house looking for it. I would celebrate with massive joy and relief when I found it. Seek wisdom with that same kind of passion. Search for insight and discernment as the incredible treasures they are.

Interesting... In Colossians 2:2-3, Paul said he struggled because he so desperately wanted our "hearts to be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, IN WHOM ARE HIDDEN ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE." Whoa! In all this receiving, treasuring, inclining, asking, and seeking... I get Jesus.

This is what I am praying for my kids, their husbands, and my grandkids... not just that they

would be satisfied with the status quo, whatever that is... but that they would diligently pursue Jesus and worship Him. He is the source of all the mysteries of wisdom, discernment, understanding, and knowledge. I need to pray they will be wise to this. Our hearts can so easily be dragged in the other direction. We have to be persistent. Otherwise we will drift.

I think of this analogy every time I see passages like this one... When I was growing up in Florida, we always had to be careful in the ocean... to keep an eye on our things on the beach so that we wouldn't drift too far. The undercurrent of the water was so subtle that if I didn't pay attention, I would drift way down the beach and have to get out of the water and walk back to find my place. I need to keep my eyes on the source, Jesus Christ, so that the undercurrent of this world doesn't subtly cause me to drift... and I pray the same for my family. I don't want my kids and grandkids to just be good, moral people. I want them to be passionate lovers of Jesus Christ. And I want the same for me. O Lord, please make this so.

You are the source of all good things. My job is not to make myself do all the good things, but to worship You, seek You, and know You... and You lead me to all these good things. O Lord, please help me to model my dependence on You! Help my family to choose You over anything and anyone else. Worshiping You and knowing You is the best place to be.