



7/21/26

Why should we rehearse the gospel to ourselves every day? Day 4 reason from A Gospel Primer is that it is our daily protection. The armor of God that we're called to "put on" is all centered around the hope of the gospel, and it's a daily choice to put it on. We have it. We just need to put it on. The author says, "That God would tell me to "take up" and "put on" this gospel armor alerts me to the fact that I do not automatically come into each day protected by the gospel.. I am vulnerable to defeat and injury unless I seize upon the gospel and arm myself with it from head to toe." I pray that you and I will be well armed today.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Proverbs 2:9-20 ~

As I think of vs. 5, that our ultimate goal is to "understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God," I realize how incredibly consistent the Lord is throughout the whole bible. How do I understand what it is to fear (worship) the Lord and know Him? As 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 tells me, I turn to Him and behold His glory... and Colossians 3:1-4 tells me, I seek Him and set my mind on Him. What is consistently NOT in the bible is that I need to muscle it. I simply put myself in His presence and He changes my heart. He's so consistent that the outcome of transformation through worshiping God and knowing Him goes beyond this life! 1 John 3:2 says that when He comes to take me home and I SEE Him, I will "be like Him because I will SEE Him as He is." Wow. So with that in mind, Father, please teach me and my loved ones the blessing of fixing our eyes on You (Hebrews 12:2).

When I understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God...

Vs. 9 ~ "Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path..."

I cannot understand righteousness, justice, fairness, or every good path without a deepening relationship with God. The level of my understanding of God will match the depth of my UNDERSTANDING of what's good. I can't even grasp what's good without His help! My flesh tries to define justice and goodness and fairness, and it gets it wrong.

This is why I also need to be praying for my kids and grandkids to be close to the Lord... not just to pray a prayer that I hope secures their place in heaven... but that they have a heart of worship set on Jesus. Otherwise, they will be led to redefine what's good apart from God... and it will not go well for them. O Lord, please do this work in my heart and in theirs.

Vs. 10 ~ "for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul..."

Know Jesus, Know wisdom. No Jesus. No wisdom. All the mysteries of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus. Worshiping Him opens up a treasury of all kinds of things that bring true pleasure to my soul!

I pray for my loved ones... that they will seek and worship Jesus and experience the generosity of His wisdom and knowledge pouring into their hearts, experiencing what is truly pleasing without consequence.

Vs. 11-12a ~ "discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil..."

When I have Jesus... and when I give the Holy Spirit open access to my heart to do the work of transformation in me, discretion and understanding will guard me from doing foolish things! By discretion and understanding I will be delivered, snatched, from the path of what is harmful to my soul.

I want to pray this for myself and for my loved ones because I KNOW what it is to walk the harmful path!!! I praise God for snatching me out of that trap! Why wouldn't I pray that for the people I love??? I don't have the power to deliver them from their choices. If I can't transform my own heart, but I must rely on the Holy Spirit to transform me, how could I possibly change someone else's heart... no matter how much I love them? Only God can change a heart. But Lord, You say that my prayer is powerful and effective. Let that be where I put my energy.

Vs. 12b-15 ~ "from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways."

We need to be DELIVERED... snatched away... from deceitful people. Without being devoted to the Lord, I will be deceived by people who are very good at speaking lies. My kids and grandkids will be deceived! The people who speak lies are good at it. While those who worship the Lord delight in all that is pure and good, those who devise evil rejoice in what's hurtful and what deceives. Why??? Selfish gain... personal power. That's where MY heart would go without the Spirit leading me to truth, to the path of His goodness. Psalm 25:10 says, "All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness," but all the paths of the evil ones are deceit and corruption... no matter how they spin it.

Vs. 16-19 ~ "So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life."

The Lord WANTS to deliver us from those who "speak smooth words." Evil is not obvious. Evil can use flattery and manipulation. But evil does not want God and will try to get me to forget Him. Without the Lord's wisdom, I can easily be persuaded to take the wrong path. It's when I think I've got it all figured out that I stop relying on the Lord and then get sucked in to lies. O Lord, please help me never to think I have wisdom apart from You!!!

Anyone who does not genuinely walk with You will not lead me anywhere good. For those who refuse to turn away from the seduction of sin, their end will not be pleasant or good.

Why would it be enticing for me or my loved ones to take the path of sin? Sometimes we even hear the words of warning from God's word and we ignore them. We rationalize and justify sin. It's ultimately because...

*I do what I do because
I think what I think because
I want what I want because
I worship who or what I worship.*

And if I'm not worshiping the Lord, I'm worshiping something else... and it won't lead to pleasant paths. But it will feel good in the moment. And sometimes, worshiping God is hard, because God's goal for me is holiness, and holiness comes through enduring trials by God's grace and strength.

The path of evil seems so much easier! And it is... but it leads to death. The path of holiness is sometimes hard, but it leads to life! And the Lord will NEVER leave me to figure it out on my own! The evil one will vanish the moment he sees that his plan worked. He will not be there to pick up the pieces. The Lord will even be there to pick up the pieces when I've taken the wrong path if I'll just turn from the sin and turn to Him. He is so compassionate and merciful!!!

Vs. 20 ~ "So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous."

How will I walk in the good and righteous path? By worshiping the Lord and knowing Him... by letting Him lead me there.

So what do I pray for my sweet family? I pray that the Lord will open our hearts to all His goodness, that we will fix our eyes on Him. To A... admit that we are sinners in need of a Savior, and to B... believe that Jesus died and rose again for us, and to C... confess Him as Lord is the first step... and it opens to us a whole world of treasures... love, peace, joy, wisdom, goodness, righteousness. But let it not stop there... O Lord, please help us to keep coming to You every

single day... Help us to search Your word as the priceless treasure it is. Help us to allow full access to the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and renew our minds so that we love what You love and hate what You hate. We can so easily be deceived. We WILL be deceived if we rely on ourselves. Please help us to completely rely on You.

For my grandchildren who don't yet know You as Savior and Lord, please open their eyes and hearts to You as soon as their brains are developed enough to understand. Let them walk with You every day of their lives. Let their hearts beat for You alone. And let the hearts of their future spouses be wholly Yours as well. Please help them to discern those who are friends they can lean on, and those who they can't. Help us all to know that the greatest place to be is close to You! Thank You, Father, for revealing and blessing and giving so generously to anyone who will come to You. All Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who come to You. Praise Your name.