



7/22/26

Proverbs 3:1-12

Here's my view of the gospel in a poem. This is something I need to rehearse to myself every day... so that I don't forget.

GOD sent His Son

To OVERCOME the power of sin and death.

To SAVE us all from punishment... to give us life with Him instead.

By the POWER of the Holy Spirit, we are sealed as a guarantee

Of EVERLASTING life with Him in joy and hope and peace...

For the LIGHT of the world overshadows the darkness of today,

until He brings us home with Him... the Truth, the Life, the Way.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Proverbs 3:1-12 ~

I look at the first few verses of this passage, and I see the wisdom Solomon is offering to his son. Why pray this for a child and why want this for a child? Because I love my kids. I love my grandkids. I know what's described in these verses is the absolute best way to live. It's what I want for myself. It's what my Father in heaven who loves me wants for me and all His kids. He is not a God who withholds, but who generously gives. O Lord, let me not be deceived. Everything from You is for my good. That good brings peace. Who doesn't want peace?

Please help me to pay attention... and help me to remember to pray this for those I love. Prayer always comes first.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you."

What do I pray? I pray that my loved ones (and I) will choose to remember what God wants us to know. And not just remember, but put our faith into action. To know the truth but not live the truth gets us nowhere good.

The Old Testament, under the Old Covenant, spoke a lot to "length of days" for obedience language. Under the New Covenant, I have eternal length of days because of Jesus' obedience. My call to obedience is a call to faith in action. I pray for my loved ones and myself to remember (which means I need to teach them and model this to them) and to put their faith into action.

Remembering and obeying brings peace. Lasting peace. So... what do we need to remember and obey, and what are the benefits of doing that? What's in it for me? 🙏

Vs. 3-4~ "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man."

Obedience... God wants me to love as He loves... with loving devotion. He wants me to be faithful because He's faithful. So hold true to these attributes of God that only comes from Him. Let them be the anchor of my heart.

The benefits... This is where I will find God's favor, His grace. This is pleasing to Him. This is where I gain wisdom... not in doing all the right things, but anchoring myself in the love and faithfulness of God so that I can love and be faithful. This pleases God AND man. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

O Lord, thank You for the hope You offer. Thank You for showing me that You lavish me with blessings as I turn to You in faith and obedience. Please help those I love to see that Your path is the only path that brings peace, and pleasing You can never outmatch the wonderful blessings You bring as we seek You.

Vs. 5-6 ~ "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Obedience... What You want from Your children is trust. You don't give us a list of things we have to do to earn Your approval. You call us to trust You, not just with our words, but with our

hearts.

We NEED to trust You because our own perspective is incomplete. When I lean on my own understanding, I make very unwise decisions. Even when I don't make a wrong choice, I think the wrong things about YOU. I question Your goodness and Your love. Some people question Your wisdom and Your power. No matter what, leaning on our own understanding IS rooted in a lack of trust. Help us to trust You wholeheartedly, and to give far more credibility to Your word than to our feelings.

Help us to acknowledge You in ALL our ways... to look to You for direction no matter how big or how small the situation is. Help us to know that You care about EVERY detail of our lives. Nothing is too insignificant for You.

Benefit... You WILL make our paths straight. You will lead us to the right direction. If I truly believe this, I can have PEACE!!! All Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness, even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. O Lord, please help us to remember this and LIVE this trust in You.

Vs. 7-8 ~ "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."

Obedience... Don't be wise in my own eyes. Again... remember that I don't have the whole picture. O Lord, please help us to trust YOUR wisdom, not ours.

Fear the Lord... worship You. Trust You. This is how I will KNOW what evil is. This is how I have the strength to turn from evil. Evil is simply choosing self over You. Choosing self is self sabotage.

Benefits... Healing and refreshment. When we trust in our own minds and turn to evil rather than turning to You, there is no healing or refreshment... only pain.

So if I acknowledge God in all my ways, will I never face suffering? No... but He'll give me strength to endure, and He'll use even suffering for my good. EVERYONE faces suffering... whether they turn to God or turn to evil. But the one who turns to God can have peace and joy in the midst, and God will work it all together for our good. The one who turns to evil will never find peace and joy. The only good that will come is if they repent and turn to the Lord. Proverbs 28:13 says, "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." God's heart is always mercy over judgment. But He does require repentance... not penance... repentance.

Vs. 9-10 ~ "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

Obedience... Honor God with my wealth. Give Him the firstfruits of what I earn. Why? It's an

act of humility and trust. It's recognizing that everything I have is a gift from Him. It's humbling myself before Him and not saying, "MINE." It's saying, "YOURS... Thank You for Your generosity. Let me give some of Your provisions for me back to You in obedience and gratitude." This is a practical and tangible way to show God that I trust Him to provide for me and that I know that all things truly belong to Him.

I pray, Father, that I and my loved ones will be humble and grateful to You for all Your generosity to us. Please help us not to think our own skills or wisdom have gotten us anything... it's all a gift from You.

Benefits... God will supply our needs. This again was a physical promise under the Old Covenant. Under the New Covenant, we have something so much greater! We have the promise of the treasures of heaven for all eternity. I pray that we will see how much better that is than having a lot of money.

I remember how You provided for us when we first went into ministry. Tim took a 70% pay cut. You blessed us and provided for us in ways that we would never have understood if we hadn't experienced having less. Please help us to never take Your generosity for granted. Please help us to never feel we're entitled to anything. But help us to always look to You in gratitude as we honor You for Your generosity to us, however You choose to show it.

Vs. 11-12 ~ When I first looked at this, I didn't see right away that this also shows the blessing and benefit of obedience. It speaks to discipline! But it is a HUGE benefit!!! It says, "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

Obedience... This is so cool. God does NOT expect perfection!!! He knows I'm not going to obey Him perfectly. So, the call of obedience is not perfection, but humble acceptance. So the act of obedience is to receive His training and not reject it. And it's to thank Him for His reproof and not dread it.

Benefits... God disciplines me... that means He trains me. Hebrews 12 says He trains us so that we can share His holiness and experience the peaceful fruit of righteousness. There's that word "peace" again. God is my coach who's helping me know the right path. He's not doing it to hurt me but to help me. Why? Because He LOVES me!!! He has the way of peace and life and joy. He loves me so much that He's willing even to deal with my frustration so that He can lead me to what's good. (Reminds me of when I used to train my kids and they didn't like it. Sometimes I wanted to just give in... but I knew that I would do more damage to them in the long run if I did.)

God also reproves me... He corrects me when I'm ignoring His instruction. Why? Because He DELIGHTS in me!!! He is actually PLEASED with me and He's reproving me because of that. That is HARD for me to wrap my brain around. But just think what that will do to my heart and soul if I actually believe it!!! I will definitely NOT despise His training or dread His reproof!!!

O Lord, I pray for my loved ones to see You this way! It's true!!! I pray for my kids (and me) to model this to their kids. And I pray for my grandkids to learn the delight and love of the Lord that even helps us to become pleasing to Him. You don't love to discipline us. You love us. You don't delight in reproofing us. You delight in us. Please help us all to remember the truth of Your word. Help us to delight in obeying Your word, knowing that You delight in us. You are such a wonderful Father!!!