

# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 16:1-17

**1** The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

**2** All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

**3** Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

**4** The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

**5** Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

**6** By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

**7** When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

**8** Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

**9** The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

**10** An oracle is on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin in judgment.

**11** A just balance and scales are the LORD'S; all the weights in the bag are his work.

**12** It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.


**13** Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.

**14** A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.

**15** In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

**16** How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

**17** The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life.



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 16:1-17


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As we begin to review Proverbs 16:1-17, we see the overall theme of these verses is to prepare our hearts for living in this world. How can we align our desires with God's will for our lives? When we have discerning hearts, they will allow us to discover and understand what God desires for us. How do we allow God to plan the details of our lives? Also, remember God has given us free will to make our own decisions. We cannot trust that our emotions are God's will. To truly know God's will, we will need to have an intimate relationship with Him. This concept may seem strange to you, but I want to assure you that it is possible. Only when I had nowhere else to turn for answers but Him, I then could understand that God loves me and always wants what is best for me, and it is my desire to please Him and to be in constant communication with Him.

For many years of my life, I would make decisions and then, if things were not going according to my plans, I would pray and ask God to fix the situation. I did not fully understand that God had a real plan for my life. It was not until four years ago, when I surrendered my life totally to the Lord, that I began to understand the love God has for me and that He has a good plan for my life. I now understand that the only way to know His will is to walk with Him, in prayer, through scripture, through community, and allow Him to lead my life. Philippians 2:13 says, "for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." As you are navigating day-to-day life, ask yourself, "How is my heart in making plans? Am I allowing God to move them forward if it is His will?" (verses 1, 3, 9)

Filling our life with things will not fill a void. To find peace and joy, allow yourself to spend quiet time with God. Allow Him to direct you so that you will find true peace and joy that surpasses worldly understanding (verse 7).

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:13, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many." Jesus is challenging us to walk down the less-taken path; it will be harder to travel, but it will bring eternal victory. Jesus has already walked this path before us. It would do us well to imitate Jesus in our everyday lives. Verse 17 reminds me of a song I can relate to called "Desert Road." It says, "I don't know where this is going, But I know who holds my hand. It's not the path I would've chosen, But I'll follow You to the end, Lord, as long as I am breathing. I will make Your glory known. Even if it means I'm walking on this desert road." For many, life has just been hard. We have been or are going through a valley. Do not push Jesus away. In the valleys of life, Jesus is near to guide us (Psalm 23).



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## Questions:

1. In what way are you seeking the Lord daily? Share this with your Journey Group.
2. Would you like to learn more about Journey Groups? Grouplink will be offered September 10. To register, go to [www.stonepointchurch/events](http://www.stonepointchurch/events).
3. Do you feel intimidated about reading the Bible and understanding God's word? If so, please reach out to our pastoral team for guidance.