



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 27:1-12

1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

3 A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.

4 Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

7 One who is full loathes honey, but to one who is hungry everything bitter is sweet.

8 Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

11 Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me.

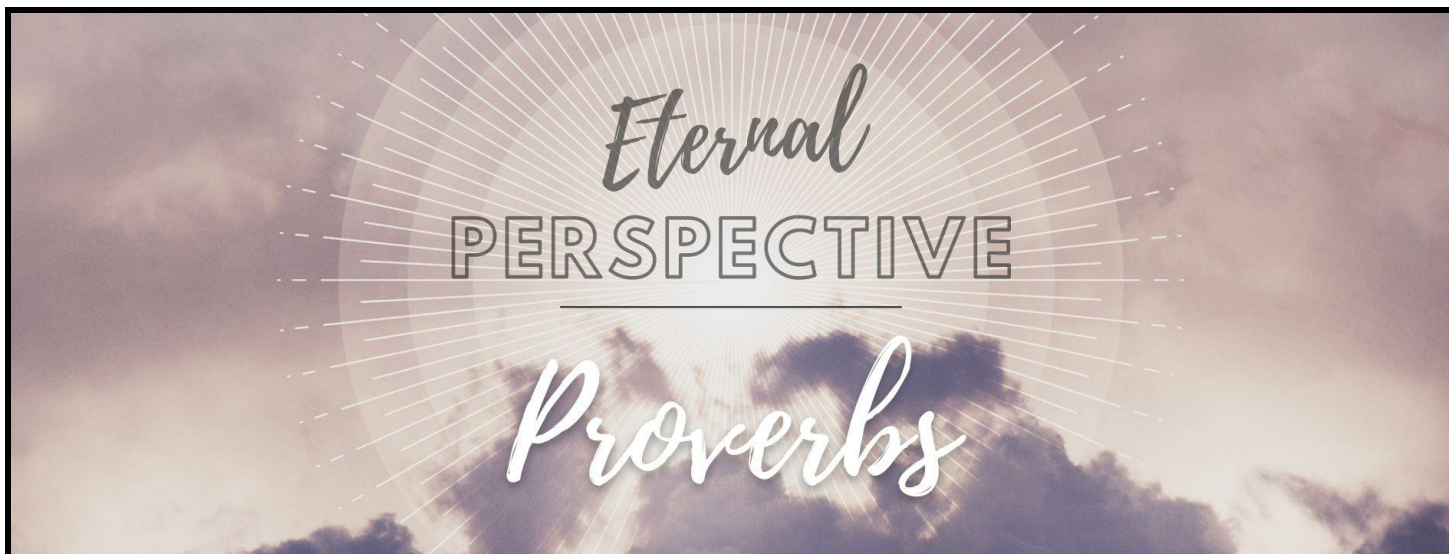
12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 27:1-12

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I have some favorite scents that I try to keep in my home. Lavender is my preferred fragrance, but seasonal smells of cinnamon and spice really lift my mood. My husband loves the smell of leather and freshly brewed coffee. Our senses react to the odors in our environment. Citrus is known to energize, jasmine and rosemary can uplift your spirit, lavender can bring a sense of calm, and cinnamon and peppermint help improve concentration.

Proverbs 27:9 compares fragrance and oils to the sweetness of a friend. I want to be the kind of a friend who can energize, uplift and bring a sense of joy and peace. I desire to be a safe space so that people know they can count on



me. I also want guilt-free relationships, where we don't criticize each other for the weight gain, daily routines, cleanliness of the homes, or parenting strategies. But instead, we can be trustworthy to speak truth in love and provide solid counsel (Proverbs 27:5-6).

My friends, specifically my journey group ladies, are currently closer than my siblings. They meet with me regularly, always find ways to have fun, try to catch up on all the details of each other's lives, and come to rescue through prayer and support when the hard times hit. We do not demand attention from each other but give each other the space to respond to voicemails and text messages with grace and flexibility. My friends remind me each week that my identity is grounded in God. They are always welcome in my home, my text messages, and my voicemail.

A few years ago, I participated in a wedding at a small country church. The groom's family arrived early and placed small bowls of coffee beans throughout the church building, especially in the kitchen, to eliminate unpleasant odors. They knew that the celebration needed to be marked with a fragrance that would not distract but would keep the minds of the wedding party focused. We, too, are called to be "the fragrance of Christ" to believers and unbelievers, interacting with everyone with sincerity, authenticity, and love (2 Corinthians 2:15-17).

Questions:

1. Who are your friends who bring a fragrant aroma to your life? Send them a quick message of encouragement.
2. What are some ways that you make your friendships a priority?
3. Proverbs 27:10 advises us to never abandon a friend in times of trouble. Do you know what your friends are going through right now? Why not make it a habit of checking in on your closest pals and let them know you are praying for them?