

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs


BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 28:1-14

- 1** The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.
- 2** When a land transgresses, it has many rulers, but with a man of understanding and knowledge, its stability will long continue.
- 3** A poor man who oppresses the poor is a beating rain that leaves no food.
- 4** Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive against them.
- 5** Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.
- 6** Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.
- 7** The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.
- 8** Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.
- 9** If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.
- 10** Whoever misleads the upright into an evil way will fall into his own pit, but the blameless will have a goodly inheritance.
- 11** A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.
- 12** When the righteous triumph, there is great glory, but when the wicked rise, people hide themselves.
- 13** Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
- 14** Blessed is the one who fears the Lord[b] always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 28:1-14

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I love how Jesus meets us where we are. Even in our mess, when we can't seem to see a way out, He continues to pursue us. His desire is that we find freedom. Not freedom from circumstances, but true freedom in Him. In John 5, Jesus seeks out the invalid man at the pool of Bethesda. The man had continually attempted to find healing in the




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things of this world. He knew no other way than to focus on what he had heard and seen about the stirred waters of the pool and the supposed healing that took place there. Jesus showed up on the scene and offered him true life and healing. Jesus wanted more for him than relief from his circumstances. He wanted to change his heart. As I think about this story, it is sad to me that the man had no one to help him. He had no one pointing him to Jesus. This is a drastic contrast to the story found in Mark 2 where a paralyzed man's friends took him to Jesus for healing. They sought out Jesus for physical healing, but Jesus first addressed the man's need for spiritual healing. Friends, this reveals that community matters.

For countless years, I lived in bondage to certain sins. It wasn't until someone said, "Come and see what Jesus has for you", that I was able to begin to look to Jesus for healing. I am beyond thankful for the gift of that friend and her obedience to His calling. Guilt and shame had gripped my mind for decades; however, Jesus reached out His wonderful hand and asked me if I wanted to be healed. I thought I needed relief from circumstances, but quickly found that I needed healing for my heart. Proverbs 28:13 says, "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."

The Lord taught me the biblical principles of confession and repentance. I must say that I have found more freedom in looking to Jesus and practicing these biblical principles than anything this world has to offer. I have witnessed the unconditional love of our Father as I come humbly before him, acknowledging that I have placed worldly things on the throne of my heart. Realizing and confessing that I have sinned against a Holy God who gave up everything for me, brings much grief to my heart. I am thankful for His grace and the opportunity to turn and walk freely with Him in His strength. First John 1:9 holds a beautiful promise that healing comes when we confess sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Our Father loves us so deeply that He even uses the confession of others, through community, to teach compassion, understanding and unconditional love. As others confess sin, it reminds us of the importance of abiding, in order that we may walk freely away from sin patterns in our own lives. It also encourages us to step towards freedom and out of bondage through confession and repentance.

We need community. We need friends who remind us of the goodness of God and point us to Jesus as we struggle through this life. Otherwise, we are prone to allow our hearts to become hardened to the things of God. Proverbs 28:14 reminds me that unconfessed sin leads to a hardened heart, to a place where we no longer listen to and hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Our spiritual heart forgets the goodness and commands of God. I pray that we love others well as we point one another to Jesus and away from things that do not offer life and peace.



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Questions:

1. Do you want to be healed? What sin are you concealing? I encourage you to confess this sin to God and your community.
2. Are you living authentically within your community? If you are, thank God today for His provision of the people He has placed in your life to walk alongside you. If not, pray for the strength to start living authentically within your community.
3. Who in your life needs Jesus? Are you loving them well by pointing them to the Healer?