



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 3:1-12

1 My son, do not forget my teaching but let your heart keep my commandments,
2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.
3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

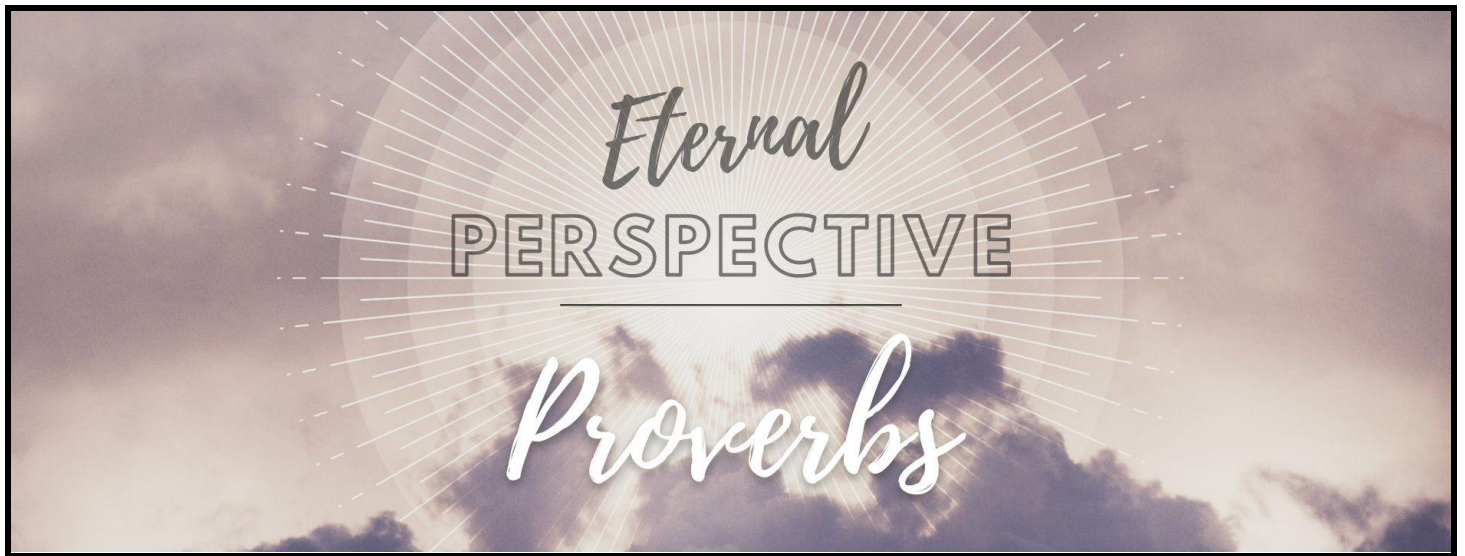
7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment[c] to your bones.
9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.
11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof,
12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 3:1-12

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When I was young, maybe 7 or 8 years old, I got a birthday card from my grandmother, Mary Lou. There may have been a \$1 bill inside, I don't recall. But what I can still remember is her writing in cursive, "Read Proverbs 3 every day".

I want to be open and honest. God led my grandmother to write those words for one reason. I needed fatherly advice from Proverbs 3. Though my dad was my hero, I was not close to him. I did not see him often and did not receive much godly advice or instruction. Can you relate? Did you grow up without spiritual advice from a parent or mentor type? There is hope. God loves us so much that in Proverbs 3, He uses Solomon's words to inspire and speak truth directly into our everyday lives.



Solomon is speaking to a "son", which can be interpreted to mean "student", or one who needs to open their mind to learn. I am thankful for Solomon's words in my life, and I am also struck by the delivery of his instruction. We could all learn from Solomon what it means to encourage and educate those in our care. In each verse, Solomon gives a charge, then follows with what the listener can expect to gain from following through.

Here are some quick examples:

- Do not forget my teaching= Life will be extended and peaceful (verse 1)
- Let love and faithfulness never leave you= Win favor in God's sight (verses 3-4)
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart= He'll make your path straight (verses 5-6)
- Do not think yourself wise= Health to your bones (verses 7-8)
- Honor the Lord with your wealth= Your barns will overflow (verses 9-10)
- Do not despise the Lord's discipline= The Lord disciplines those He loves (verses 11-12)

WISDOM.

James says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5). Later in Proverbs, Solomon writes, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice" (Proverbs 12:15). Will you join me in reading Proverbs 3 for the next seven days? Hopefully, a pattern will begin where we will all seek wisdom in our everyday lives.

Questions:

1. How often do you make decisions in your own strength and rely on your own wisdom?
2. When encouraging and admonishing others, do you use the Solomon method and offer up the result of obedience?
3. Pray for God to give you His wisdom today, and to trust Him with all of your heart.