



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 6:1-5

1 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,
have given your pledge for a stranger,

2 if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught
in the words of your mouth,

3 then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have
come into the hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and
plead urgently with your neighbor.

4 Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no
slumber;

5 save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the
hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.


DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 6:1-5

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One of my favorite movie lines is from the original "Top Gun" when the commanding officer tells Maverick, "Son, your ego is writing checks your body can't cash."

I like this line because I know how easy it is to allow your pride to lead you into situations that are not prudent. People can easily find themselves making promises they can't keep or putting their reputations on the line in a foolish manner. In the first part of Proverbs 6, Solomon warns against entangling yourself in another person's debt. Money, money, money: the warning here is not about loaning money or paying another's debt. Paul paid Onesimus' debt in Philemon 10:17-19. The warning is about hastily or foolishly entering into an agreement to cover an undefined amount of money, a risky deal, or a debt you cannot pay for a friend or stranger.

Years ago, when Charlie and I were newlyweds, we went bowling with several other couples. One of the ladies bowling with us had the most difficult 7-10 split, and someone in our group hastily said, "I'll give you \$50 if you knock down both pins."



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Well, she did knock down both pins, and a \$50 check was written. None of us had an extra \$50 to spend in this manner, and luckily, she graciously destroyed the check. She showed mercy to her friend and canceled his debt. This obviously was not an issue of taking on another person's debt; however, it was foolish and hasty.

Imagine for a minute promising to cover other individuals' hasty or foolish decisions. Solomon encourages us to humble ourselves and admit when we have made an unwise deal. Solomon also admonishes against laziness, telling us to get out from under debt as soon as possible, working diligently to pay back what is owed, and free ourselves from the burden.

I have definitely been foolish at times with the money and blessings God has given me. However, seeking wise counsel and ensuring we do not hastily enter into any financial obligations can keep us from being foolish.

Questions:

1. Do you seek wise counsel prior to making financial decisions? If not, why?
2. Has your pride ever put you in a financial bind?
3. In what areas of your life are you prone to being lazy?