



Eternal PERSPECTIVE --- Job

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 8:12-21

12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

14 I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength.

15 By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just;

16 by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly.

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield is better than silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice,

21 granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 8:12-21

AUTHOR: CAROLINE FOGLE

We've all heard the phrase, "With age comes wisdom", but we also know that that is not always true. As I've gotten older, and especially through motherhood, I have been keenly aware of where I lack wisdom. You can find me asking my mom, my music class ladies, or my journey group ladies all kinds of questions related to motherhood. Things as simple as "What does that rash look like to you?" to the tough questions like "My daughter is asking me lots of questions about death after going to her great-grandpa's funeral. How much can her little heart and mind understand? How do I point her to God in all of this?" If we are honest, I think many of us would say that we lack wisdom, especially the wisdom that comes from God. Thankfully God's word shows us how we can become more wise.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE

Job

In chapter 8, we hear lady wisdom, God's wisdom personified, begin her speech. In the first few verses she implores us to listen to her and choose her over the riches of the world. In these next few verses, lady wisdom begins to describe herself, and in doing so, shows us practically how to gain wisdom and how God's wisdom benefits us.

There is so much good stuff in these ten verses that I could probably write a ten page paper on it, but lucky for you, I won't. I want to first camp out on verse 13, which at first glance, might seem a little out of place but when we dig a little, it's clearly related to God's wisdom, and it's so good. The fear of the Lord leads us to wisdom in Him. Verse 13 says, "The fear of the Lord is the hatred of evil." It then goes on to describe some evils. I love how God can tend to hit me over the head with things when he really wants to get my attention. We are studying through the book of James on Sunday mornings. James 4:4 tells us that friendship with the world (and the evils within it) puts us at odds with God. More than that though, it makes us his enemy. I'm also doing a study through the Sermon on the Mount and in Matthew 6:24 it says "Man cannot serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other." Very clearly, God is saying you and I need to fear Him to even begin to gain His Wisdom. And to fear God is to hate the evils in the world. We can't have one foot on both sides. This has been so convicting to me because we never want to think that as believers we could be enemies of God but it says it right there. If we want God's wisdom we must fear Him, and if we fear Him, we hate evil, and if we hate evil, we hate the things of this world.

The other thing that really struck me in this passage is in verses 17-21. First of all, verse 17: Praise the Lord! God says that those who love wisdom, wisdom will love them and those who seek it diligently will find it. Side note: notice the word, diligently. It's defined as steadily, earnestly, or energetically. He's not saying we're going to ask once and then, boom, have all the wisdom in the world. Isn't it wonderful to have the promise that we will get what we're seeking when we are seeking rightly and seeking after the things of Him? Not only that, as we read further, it says that those who walk in wisdom are going to receive riches, honor, wealth, and righteousness. How awesome is that?!

What a great reminder of the benefit of chasing after God and the good things He has for us, instead of chasing after the things of this world! Solomon, the author of Proverbs, is a great example of this. You can read his story in 1 Kings 3:4-15, where he asks God for wisdom. Because of his choice of seeking God and his wisdom, God gives him wealth and honor as well. God doesn't promise that we will necessarily have riches in this lifetime like Solomon did but he does promise enduring wealth, righteousness, and an inheritance in eternity.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

Questions:

1. Do you struggle with the idea that you could be an enemy of God? Why or why not?
2. Define "fear of the Lord". Use Scripture. Some examples are Proverbs 28:14, Luke 1:50, Matthew 10:28, and Deuteronomy 10:12.
3. Do you tend to ask God for "things" without seeking Him and His wisdom? Spend some time this week with God truly seeking Him and His wisdom over all other things.