

**Wisdom That Helps**  
**Proverbs 3:1-12**  
**July 12, 2015**

## Introduction

How can we be fully alive? How can we experience the life that God intends in its fullest? We are fully alive when we receive God's wisdom in our lives.

***Ezekiel 11:19** I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.*

***Ezekiel 36:26-27** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws.*

We are able to keep His commandments. We have looked at how Wisdom protects us from evil in **chapter 2**, but now we are looking at how wisdom helps us in our life that we can receive blessings from the Lord.

## I. Helps in Peace (1-4)

- The blessings—avoiding misconceptions
  - Does not mean that God is always going to give us these blessings
  - Solomon is not saying that these are hard rules but as a general observations (according to **Deuteronomy 28-29**)
  - Remember Jesus is Wisdom Incarnate, yet He was poor, hated, and innocently killed
- Long, healthy life in peace
  - How can we have peace?
    - By not forgetting His teaching
      - Not just fading from memory
      - Completely ignoring His teaching (**Deut 8:4**)
      - Pursuing idols (**Deut 8:19**)
      - Lack of faith (**Is 51:13**)
      - Challenging God (**Ps 106:13**)
    - We are to keep (guard) His commandments
      - Where? In the heart
      - For Hebrews—heart is seat of being (thoughts, emotions, and desire) or the mind

**Note:** Americans think of heart as emotions, which is not how Hebrews see heart.

- How do we guard our mind?
  - Filling it with God's words

***Colossians 3:16a** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.*

***Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul*

*and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

- God's word will control our thoughts, passion, and speech
- Long, healthy life
  - Generally speaking, avoiding pitfalls and perils (walk in harmony with God and men)
- Favor with God and men
  - Favor
    - Graciousness—extending with open hand
  - How?
    - Love and faithfulness (or rather loyalty and truth)
  - Do not let love (loyalty) or faithfulness (truth) leave you
    - Do not leave it or let it become distant
    - How? Hatred, indifference, rejection of truth
  - Keep them close—so close, put it in your mind
    - God is telling us to draw loyalty and truth close to ourselves
    - That they dominate our minds and becomes our first response
  - Favor
    - We allow loyalty and truth do dominate our thinking
    - People and God will respond to us graciously

**Luke 2:52** *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

## II. Helps in Worship (5-10)

- Avoiding misunderstanding
  - For **verses 5 and 6**
  - Does not mean
    - Have deep feelings of confidence in God that He will take care of us without us doing anything
    - Refusing to think with my own mind and allow God to pour His wisdom into my head
    - Usually used with “feelings” or “prompting”
- True Worship

**John 4:24** *God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*

- In spirit
  - Internal—from the heart (mind)

**Philippians 3:3a** *For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus,*

- In truth
  - Centered on God's revealed word and the Incarnate Word—Jesus Christ
- Faith
  - Trust the Lord with all your heart and fear the Lord (**v7b**)
    - All of our mind
      - Do not lean on our understanding

- Human understanding = not reliable

**Jeremiah 7:23-24** *but I gave them this command: Obey Me, and I will be your God and you will be My people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you. 24 But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.*

- Usually rebellious and against God
  - Trust God to study and learn and depend on His revealed understanding
- Knowing God
  - All your ways—all areas of your life (intimate knowledge)
  - Complete dedication of one's life to God
  - When we love God, we love what He loves and hate what He hates
  - Pathways straight
    - God guides us (lights our way)
    - He also removes obstacles in our way
    - When we have a relationship with God, God will cause us to have a godly and wise life
- Turning from evil
  - How?
    - Knowing exactly what God's word says and doing it
    - Fear God is faith—we want to live a life that is pleasing to Him
  - Being wise in our own eyes
    - Doing what we want to do—thoughts that are contrary to God
    - We think that we are alright and have obtained wisdom on our own

**John 9:26-34, 39-41** *Then they asked him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become His disciples, too?" 28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where He comes from." 30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does His will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." 40 Some Pharisees who were with Him heard Him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" 41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."*

- Benefits
  - Long and healthy life
  - Opposite

**Psalms 32:3-4** *When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.*

- Giving to the Lord
  - Honor the Lord with your wealth
    - Sacrifice—first fruit sacrifice (Remember Solomon is in Old Covenant)
    - Used to express thanks to God
    - Shows that we are in complete reliance on God
    - NT concepts (from **2 Cor 8-9**)
      - Generous, cheerful, grateful, hopeful, Christ-centered, Christ-inspired, proportional (you sow little, you reap little, you sow large, you reap large)
    - Heart full of love for God will react with giving and praise

### III. Helps in Obedience (11-12)

- This side of heaven we are not obedient 100% of the time
  - We fall, rise again, fall again, rise again, repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat
  - We are by nature rebellious (and that sin nature still resides in our flesh)
  - So God disciplines us
- Discipline is one of God's greatest evidence of His love
- Solomon tells us not to
  - Despise (reject) it
  - Resent (loathe) it
  - Refuse to learn from His discipline

**Hebrews 12:7-11** *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

**Job 5:17-18** *Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. 18 For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hands also heal.*

**Psalms 30:4-5** *Sing to the LORD, you saints of His; praise His holy name. 5 For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

- We learn that He loves us
- He is doing this to protect us
- He is doing this to change us
- To look like Christ Jesus in all His perfection

### Coram Deo

Wisdom that comes from God is revealed in His word. We are to read and obey what He says. When we do so, we will find joy because our God loves His people.