

Life With Wisdom



Study Verse: Proverbs 3:1-12 *The Message* Good friend, don't forget all I've taught you; take to heart my commands. They'll help you live a long, long time, a long life lived full and well. Don't lose your grip on Love and Loyalty. Tie them around your neck; carve their initials on your heart. Earn a reputation for living well in God's eyes and the eyes of the people. Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that God corrects; a father's delight is behind all this. The Very Tree of Life.

My Thoughts: Proverbs is one my most favorite books of the Bible. Today, I was thinking and conversing with the Lord about the devotional for today. I thought of this and that, but it just didn't develop, So I looked through my Devotional Book, nothing, until I saw Proverbs referenced in one of the devotional topics. BAM! I opened my Bible to Proverbs. Flipped a few pages and BAM! Chapter 3. I had written in the margins, my thoughts and noted that I love these promises, beginning with verse 7 **Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.** Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. **But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline;** don't sulk under his loving correction. **It's the child he loves that God corrects;** a father's delight is behind all this. The Very Tree of Life. So often throughout our lives, we depend on our own thoughts, ideas, beliefs, or experiences before we refer to GOD about his plan for the situation before us.

I am reminded of a time in my life, young and dumb yet knew everything and better, barely out of high school, newly married, a toddler, money was short, bills adding up, it was winter, we lived in the country so we had to purchase propane to heat and cook, well we could not afford it. We borrowed a kerosine heater from one of our parents, but did not tell them the real reason. We never asked for help, we could figure it out ourselves. We had a propane grill with a full tank left from the summer. I learned to cook on it. After all, it is like a gas stove. We lived in a trailer so we hung a heavy quilt between the living area and the bedrooms and moved the kerosine heater between the spaces. I learned a lot that winter. I learned how to survive, but here is the most important lesson. I learned to pray and listen. I recognized why we could not afford propane to cook and heat with, we had been foolish about our expenses. I asked God what I should do, he led me to the book of Proverbs. I probably read the entire book. I began to see my mistakes, and saw how to do differently. I promised I would do this if God did that..BUT, (yes, there is always a but) I had to believe His promises and commit to my promises to Him. I never understood the importance of TITHING. I went to Church; I sang in the choir; I was good to people; and never tithed since I have no money. BUT.. during this time of reading Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. The light bulb came on.. God and I had a conversation about this. My side was, If I can't afford gas, how can I tithe.. His answer was... Give your best until you can do better. The wisdom is.. Start where you are. Whatever the situation, apply God, apply his promises into your situation each day, do better each time you see God moving, your faith and trust will grow greater, your bones will vibrate with hope, strength, and **Wisdom** to live each day. You will learn to make better choices and refrain from prior mistakes. **But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline;** don't sulk under his loving correction. **It's the child he loves that God corrects;** a father's delight is behind all this. The Very Tree of Life.

Wisdom is gained by correction, it is not always a sudden or easy process. It is an experience that creates a person of priceless virtue.

Until next time, May God bless, Heal, Protect and grow in you daily. Everyone say, AMEN