







Proverbs 2 (New International Version)



¹My son, if you accept my words¹ and store up my commands within you,
²turning your ear to wisdom² and applying your heart to understanding,
³and if you call out for insight³ and cry aloud for understanding,
⁴and if you look for it as for silver⁴ and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵then you will understand the fear of the Lord⁵ and find the knowledge of God.
⁶For the Lord gives wisdom,⁶ and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
⁷He holds victory in store for the upright,⁷ he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
⁸for he guards the course of the just⁸ and protects the way of his faithful ones.
⁹Then you will understand what is right and just⁹ and fair  every good path.
¹⁰For wisdom will enter your heart,¹⁰ and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
¹¹Discretion will protect you,¹¹ and understanding will guard you.
¹²Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,¹² from men whose words are perverse,
¹³ who leave the straight paths¹³ to walk in dark ways,
¹⁴ who delight in doing wrong¹⁴ and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,
¹⁵ whose paths are crooked¹⁵ and who are devious in their ways.
¹⁶It will save you also from the adulteress,¹⁶ from the wayward wife with her seductive words,
¹⁷ who has left the partner of her youth¹⁷ and ignored the covenant she made before God.
¹⁸For her house leads down to death¹⁸ and her paths to the spirits of the dead.
¹⁹None who go to her return¹⁹ or attain the paths of life.
²⁰Thus you will walk in the ways of good men²⁰ and keep to the paths of the righteous.
²¹For the upright will live in the land,²¹ and the blameless will remain in it;
²²but the wicked will be cut off from the land,²² and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

Study Notes

PROVERBS 2:3-6

Wisdom comes in two ways: It is a God-given gift and also the result of an energetic search. Wisdom s starting point is God and his revealed Word, the source of  knowledge and understanding  (2:6). In that sense, wisdom is his gift to us. But he gives it only to those who earnestly seek it. But because God s wisdom is hidden from the rebellious and foolish, it takes effort to find it and use it. The pathway to wisdom is strenuous. When we are on the path, we discover that true wisdom is God s and that he will guide us and reward our sincere and persistent search.

PROVERBS 2:9, 10

We gain wisdom through a constant process of growing. First, we must trust and honor God. Second, we must realize that the Bible reveals God s wisdom to us. Third, we must make a lifelong series of right choices and avoid moral pitfalls. Fourth, when we make sinful choices or mistakes, we must learn from our errors and recover. People don t develop all aspects of wisdom at once. For example, some people have more insight than discretion; others have more knowledge than common sense. But we can pray for all aspects of wisdom and take the steps to develop them in our life.

PROVERBS 2:16, 17

An adulterous woman is seductive or a prostitute. Two of the most difficult sins to resist are pride and sexual immorality. Both are seductive. Pride says, "I deserve it"; sexual desire says, "I need it." In combination, their appeal is deadly. In fact, says Solomon, only by relying on God's strength can we overcome them. Pride appeals to the empty head; sexual enticement to the empty heart. By looking to God, we can fill our heads with his wisdom and our hearts with his love. Don't be fooled—remember what God says about who you are and what you were meant to be. Ask him for strength to resist these temptations.

Understanding Proverbs			
Most often, proverbs are written in the form of couplets. These are constructed in three ways:			
Type	Description	Key Word(s)	Examples
Contrasting	Meaning and application come from the differences or contrast between the two statements of the proverb.	"but"	10:3; 14:11, 18
Comparing	Meaning and application come from the similarities or comparison between the two statements of the proverb.	"as/so" "better/than" "like"	15:16, 17; 25:25
Complementing	Meaning and application come from the way the second statement complements the first.	"and"	11:16; 14:10, 17

People Called "Wise" in the Bible			
The special description "wise" is used for 12 significant people in the Bible. They can be helpful models in our own pursuit of wisdom.			
The Person	Their Role	Reference	How They Practiced Wisdom
Joseph	Wise leader	Acts 7:10	Prepared for a major famine; helped rule Egypt
Moses	Wise leader	Acts 7:20-22	Learned all the Egyptian wisdom, then graduated to God's lessons in

			wisdom to lead Israel out of Egypt
Bezalel	Wise artist	Exodus 31:1-5	Designed and supervised the construction of the Tabernacle and its utensils in the wilderness
Joshua	Wise leader	Deuteronomy 34:9	Learned by observing Moses, obeyed God, led the people into the Promised Land
David	Wise leader	2 Samuel 14:20	Never let his failures keep him from the source of wisdom ♦ reverence for God
Abigail	Wise wife	1 Samuel 25:3	Managed her household well in spite of a surly and mean husband
Solomon	Wise leader	1 Kings 3:5-14; 4:29-34	Knew what to do even though he often failed to put his own wisdom into action
Daniel	Wise counselor	Daniel 5:11, 12	Known as a man in touch with God; a solver of complex problems with God's help
Astrologers	Wise learners	Matthew 2:1-12	Not only received special knowledge of God's visit to earth but checked it out personally
Stephen	Wise leader	Acts 6:8-10	Organized the distribution of food to the Grecian widows; preached the gospel to the Jews
Paul	Wise messenger	2 Peter 3:15, 16	Spent his life communicating God's love to all who would listen
Christ	Wise youth Wise Savior Wisdom of God	Luke 2:40, 52; 1 Corinthians 1:20-25	Not only lived a perfect life but died on the cross to save us and make God's wise plan of eternal life available to us