

Proverbs 3

(New International Version)

**My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
² for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity.**

**³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.**

**⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.**

**⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

**⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.**

**⁸ This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.**

**⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.**

**¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline,
and do not resent his rebuke,**

**¹² because the LORD disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he delights in.**

**¹³ Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,**

**¹⁴ for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.**

**¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.**

**¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.**

- ¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.**
- ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.**
- ¹⁹ By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations,
by understanding he set the heavens in place;**
- ²⁰ by his knowledge the watery depths were divided,
and the clouds let drop the dew.**
- ²¹ My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight,
preserve sound judgment and discretion;**
- ²² they will be life for you,
an ornament to grace your neck.**
- ²³ Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble.**
- ²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.**
- ²⁵ Have no fear of sudden disaster
or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,**
- ²⁶ for the LORD will be at your side
and will keep your foot from being snared.**
- ²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to act.**
- ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor,
❖Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you ❖❖
when you already have it with you.**
- ²⁹ Do not plot harm against your neighbor,
who lives trustfully near you.**
- ³⁰ Do not accuse anyone for no reason ❖
when they have done you no harm.**
- ³¹ Do not envy the violent
or choose any of their ways.**
- ³² For the LORD detests the perverse
but takes the upright into his confidence.**
- ³³ The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the home of the righteous.**
- ³⁴ He mocks proud mockers
but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.**
- ³⁵ The wise inherit honor,
but fools get only shame.**

Study Notes

PROVERBS 3:3

Loyalty and kindness are important character qualities. Both involve actions as well as attitudes. A loyal person acts responsibly. A kind person works for justice for others. Thoughts and words are not enough, our life reveals whether we are truly loyal and kind. Do your actions measure up to your attitudes?

PROVERBS 3:5, 6

When we have an important decision to make, we sometimes feel that we can't trust anyone not even God. But God knows what is best for us. He is a better judge of what we want than we are! We must trust him completely in every choice we make. We should not omit careful thinking or belittle our God-given ability to reason; but we should not trust our own ideas to the exclusion of all others. We must not be wise in our own eyes but be willing to listen to and be corrected by God's Word and wise counselors. Bring your decisions to God in prayer; use the Bible as your guide; and then follow God's leading. He will direct your paths by both guiding and protecting you.

PROVERBS 3:6

To receive God's guidance, said Solomon, we must seek God's will in all we do. This means turning every area of life over to him. About a thousand years later, Jesus emphasized this same truth (Matthew 6:33). Examine your values and priorities. What is important to you? In what areas have you not acknowledged him? You may already acknowledge God in many areas of your life, but the areas where you attempt to restrict or ignore him will cause you grief. Make him a vital part of everything you do; then he will guide you because you will be working to accomplish his purposes.

PROVERBS 3:9, 10

This refers to the practice of giving to God the first and best portion of the harvest (Deuteronomy 26:9-11). Many people give God their leftovers. If they can afford to donate anything after the bills are paid, they do so. These people may be sincere and contribute willingly, but they are not obeying what God says. God wants the first part of our income. This demonstrates that God, not possessions, has first place in our life and that our resources belong to him (we are only managers). Giving to God helps us conquer greed, helps us properly manage God's resources, and opens us up to receive God's special blessings.

PROVERBS 3:11, 12

Discipline means "to teach and to train." Discipline sounds negative to many people because some disciplinarians are not loving. God, however, is the source of all love. He doesn't punish us because he enjoys inflicting pain but because he is deeply concerned about our development. He knows that in order to become morally strong and good, we must learn the difference between right and wrong. His loving discipline enables us to do that.

PROVERBS 3:11, 12

It's difficult to know when God has been disciplining us until we look back on the situation later. Not every calamity comes directly from God, of course. But if we rebel against God and refuse to repent when God has identified some sin in our life, he may use guilt, crises, or bad experiences to bring us back to him. Sometimes, however, difficult times come even when there is no flagrant sin in our life. Then our response should be patience, integrity, and confidence that God will show us what to do.

PROVERBS 3:16, 17

Proverbs contains many strong statements about the benefits of wisdom, including long life, wealth, honor, and peace. If you aren't experiencing them, does this mean you are short on wisdom? Not necessarily. Instead of guarantees, these statements are general principles. In a perfect world, wise behavior would always lead to these benefits. Even in our troubled world, living wisely usually results in obvious blessings - but not always. Sometimes sin intervenes, and some blessings must be delayed until Jesus returns to establish his eternal Kingdom. That is why we must "live by believing and not by seeing" (2 Corinthians 5:7). We can be sure that wisdom ultimately leads to blessing.

PROVERBS 3:27, 28

Withholding good is inconsiderate and unfair, whether it is repaying a loan, returning a tool, or fulfilling a promise. Withholding destroys trust and creates a great inconvenience for the other person. Be as eager to do good as you are to have good done to you.

Wisdom: Applied Truth		
The book of Proverbs tells us about people who have wisdom and enjoy its benefits.		
Reference	The Person Who Has Wisdom	Benefits of Wisdom
Proverbs 3, 4	Is loving	Long, prosperous life

<p>A father's instructions</p>	<p>Is faithful Trusts in the Lord Puts God first Turns away from evil Knows right from wrong Listens and learns Does what is right</p>	<p>Favor with God and people Reputation for good judgment Success Health, vitality Riches, honor, pleasure, peace Protection</p>
<p>Proverbs 8:9 Wisdom speaks</p>	<p>Possesses knowledge and discretion Hates pride, arrogance, and evil behavior Respects and fears God Gives good advice and has common sense Loves correction and is teachable</p>	<p>Riches, honor Justice Righteousness Life God's favor Constant learning Understanding</p>