

WISDOM
for TODAY'S
LEADERS

from the book
of
PROVERBS

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for
LA RED BUSINESS NETWORK





BECOMING A PILLAR OF SUCCESS

Many of you have been seeking a plan for success in your life. This booklet will build you from the inside out rather than simply create an illusion of confidence. These are God's laws for success... Success not only in the business world but also in personal areas such as family, friends and finances. These principles reveal nuggets of truth valuable in all forms of human relations.

You will find in this booklet that success is not necessarily measured in riches or fame, but in peace of mind and in fulfillment. You will find in this booklet that there is no such thing as a Christian businesses... but Christians who are in business!

When I compiled this booklet nearly thirty years ago it was because I was looking for an operating system that worked. I was a product of motivation, goals and positive mental attitude, but found their application to be shallow. I had read in the Bible that the children of Israel wandered for forty years in the wilderness even though the journey should have only taken eleven days. I discovered that if they had understood these Proverbs, their journey would have been much shorter. You are about to embark on a journey that could change your life. In the next forty pages you will find that wisdom is a spirit, a gift from God that will help you say and do the right thing at the right time.

This is a booklet of overcoming. It has made its way into the hearts of people around the world. Some of the principles have been translated into five languages. The heart of the overcomer is the same everywhere and God uses these people, people like you, to strategically advance His Kingdom.

I challenge you to consume these principles as you would the food that you eat and the air that you breathe. I challenge you to truly desire the gift of wisdom and I guarantee that if you will commit yourself to these practical principles, this booklet will change your life – it changed mine. Our entire company was transformed because of our change in thinking.

Bernie Torrence
Executive Director of La Red Business Network

***“As for the one who overcomes, I will make
him a pillar in the temple of my God.”***

Revelations 3:12



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The Living Bible – 1971, owned by assignment to Illinois Regional Bank, N.A., Elmhurst, Illinois, all rights reserved – has been used as the text for this booklet. The number at the end of each Proverb is the chapter and verse of the Book of Proverbs in which that particular statement can be found. Much care has been taken to present each proverb in a flowing, readable fashion, allowing an entire subject to be explored fully.

THE BOOK OF WISDOM



Introduction by John Schrock

The book of Proverbs is one of the most enlightening books of all time. It came about because a man made a wise choice. This man was a king who had a spiritual dream in which God came and offered him anything he wanted. (1 Kings 3:5-14)

King Solomon chose to have wisdom and understanding above all fame, riches, honor and greatness. Little did he realize the value of his choice. Because he attained wisdom, he became the most honored and richest man of his time. His fame went throughout the entire known world and even today is read by millions of people every year.

KINGDOM BY-PRODUCTS

Solomon's wisdom gave him what we seek today. He sought after wisdom, and it rewarded him with wealth and fame. Today we seek wealth and fame, destroying our lives in search of it. Wealth and fame are by-products of a wise and fruitful life. (1 Kings 3:13) Wisdom is the answer to life itself. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Kingdom thinking is the wisdom of God operating in our lives through Jesus. When the Kingdom rules in our lives, we will not be easily moved by emotions. We will not get "high" and make an unwise decision or be discouraged when things do not go well. Our lives will be sound and stable; we will find ourselves being favored by God and people. (Proverbs 3:4)

NOT JUST A PHILOSOPHY

King Solomon wrote his experiences as he found them. These writings are not a philosophy, but are God's wisdom for living. One of the greatest lessons of wisdom in Solomon was that he ruled 40 years without war. He had the same enemies that Saul and David did, but was at peace with them. They favored and respected him, which helped to make him great. His words of wisdom will do the same for us. When you seek wisdom you will find the Kingdom of God. The following are some of the things you can expect in your life. They are all found in Chapter 3 of Proverbs. Be like Solomon – accept them as yours and confess them daily. Every believer in God should have these operating in their lives. Make this your confession and seek out each one of them until they become a reality.

THE BELIEVERS BILL OF RIGHTS

Proverbs 3

1. I have LENGTH of DAYS and LONG LIFE added to me.
2. I am RELAXED and PEACEFUL.
3. I find FAVOR with GOD and MAN.
4. I have HEALTH in my body and MARROW to my bones.
5. I have barns FILLED with PLENTY and I am PROSPEROUS.
6. I am HAPPY and SATISFIED.
7. I have LONG LIFE in my right hand and RICHES and HONOR in my left hand.
8. I have LIFE and my ways are FILLED with PLEASANTNESS.
9. I will WALK, LIVE and DRIVE in SAFETY.
10. I will NOT FEAR or BE AFRAID of anything.
11. I lie down, SLEEP WELL and SWEETLY.
12. I have a home PROTECTED against evil and BLESSED with HEALTH, WEALTH and WISDOM.

MAKE A QUALITY CHOICE LIKE SOLOMON.

Expect these things in your life. They belong to you and are God's will for you. When you find wisdom, the Kingdom laws and principles will make you like Solomon; healthy, wealthy and wise. Favors from God and people will be yours, and you will understand what it means to "have these blessings overtake you." (Deuteronomy 28:1-14) Believe and confess your rights. Only fear and unbelief can keep you from attaining God's Kingdom and His wisdom. Believe and receive them now. For further information, see the conclusion.

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FROM THE WRITINGS OF A KING



These are the proverbs of King Solomon of Israel, David's son.

He wrote them to teach his people:

- *How to Live*
- *How to Act and React to Situations*
- *How to be Understanding*

1.1 "I want to make the simple-minded wise," he said. "I want to warn young men about some problems they will face. I want those already wise to become wiser and become the leaders by exploring the depths of meaning in these nuggets of truth." ^{1:4-6}

1.2 Young men, listen to me as you would to your father. Listen, and grow wise, for I speak the truth – don't turn away: For I, too, was once a son, tenderly loved by my mother as an only child, and the companion of my father. He told me never to forget his words. "If you follow them," he said, "you will have a long and happy life. Learn to be wise," he said, "and develop good judgment and common sense! I cannot overemphasize this point." Cling to wisdom – she will protect you. Love her – she will guard you.

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And with your wisdom, develop common sense and good judgment. If you exalt wisdom, she will exalt you. Hold her fast and she will lead you to great honor; she will place a beautiful crown upon your head. My son, listen to me and do as I say; and you will have a long, good life. I would have you learn this great fact: that a life of doing right is the wisest life there is. If you live that kind of life, you'll not limp or stumble as you run. Carry out my instructions; don't forget them, for they will lead you to real living. ^{4:1-13}

1.3 How does a man become wise? The first step is to trust and reverence the Lord! Only fools refuse to be taught. Listen to your father and mother. What you learn from them will stand you in good stead; it will gain you many honors. ^{1:7-9}

BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP



PILLARS OF SUCCESS

2.1 Wisdom has built a palace supported on seven pillars, and has prepared a great banquet, and mixed the wines, and sent out her maidens inviting all to come. She calls from the busiest intersections in the city, "Come, you simple ones without good judgment; come to wisdom's banquet and drink the wines that I have mixed. Leave behind your foolishness and begin to live; learn how to be wise." 9:1-6

TRUST IN GOD

- 2.2 Trust in your money and down you go! Trust in God and flourish as a tree! 11:28
- 2.3 Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed. 16:3
- 2.4 God blesses those who obey Him; happy is the man who puts his trust in the Lord. 16:20
- 2.5 Better a little with reverence for God, than great treasure and trouble with it. 15:16
- 2.6 Greed causes fighting; trusting God leads to prosperity. 28:25
- 2.7 Go ahead and prepare for the conflict, but victory comes from God. 21:31
- 2.8 When a man is trying to please God, God makes even his worst enemies to be at peace with him. 16:7
- 2.9 No one, regardless of how shrewd or well advised he is, can stand against the Lord. 21:30
- 2.10 God will help the king to judge the people fairly; there need be no mistakes. 16:10
- 2.11 Do you want justice? Don't fawn on the judge, but ask the Lord for it! 29:26
- 2.12 The road of the godly leads upward, leaving hell behind. 15:24
- 2.13 *Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?* 20:24
- 2.14 Blessed is the man who reveres God, but the man who doesn't care is headed for serious trouble. 28:14

- 3.1 Despise God's Word and find yourself in trouble. Obey it and succeed. 13:13
- 3.2 God doesn't listen to the prayers of those who flout the law. 28:9

HUMILITY

- 3.3 Don't demand an audience with the king as though you were some powerful prince. It is better to wait for an invitation rather than to be sent back to the end of the line, publicly disgraced! 25:6-7
- 3.4 Humility and reverence for the Lord will make you both wise and honored. 15:33
- 3.5 *Don't praise yourself; let others do it!* 27:2
- 3.6 Better poor and humble than proud and rich. 16:19
- 3.7 True humility and respect for the Lord lead a man to riches, honor and long life. 22:4
- 3.8 Pride leads to arguments; be humble, take advice and become wise. 13:10
- 3.9 Pride ends in a fall, while humility brings honor. 29:23
- 3.10 Pride ends in destruction; humility ends in honor. 18:12

HARD WORK

- 3.11 Ill-gotten gain brings no lasting happiness; right living does. The Lord will not let a good man starve to death, nor will He let the wicked man's riches continue forever. Lazy men are soon poor; hard workers get rich. A wise youth makes hay while the sun shines, but what a shame to see a lad who sleeps away his hour of opportunity. 10:2-5
- 3.12 Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed. 12:24
- 3.13 Wealth from gambling quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows. 13:11
- 3.14 An empty stable stays clean – but there is no income from an empty stable. 14:4
- 3.15 Hunger is good – if it makes you work to satisfy it! 16:26
- 3.16 ***Do you know a hard working man? He shall be successful and stand before kings!*** 22:29
- 3.17 Hard work means prosperity; only a fool idles away his time. 12:11
- 3.18 Hard work brings prosperity; playing around brings poverty. 28:19
- 3.19 Work brings profit; talk brings poverty! 14:23
- 3.20 Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty. 21:5

HONESTY

- 4.1 The Lord hates cheating and delights in honesty. 11:1
- 4.2 Better to be poor and honest than rich and a cheater. 28:6
- 4.3 Never falsely accuse a man to his employer, lest he curse you for your sin. 30:10
- 4.4 The Lord demands fairness in every business deal. He established this principle. 16:11
- 4.5 Better to be poor and honest than rich and dishonest. 19:1
- 4.6 ***A little, gained honestly, is better than a great wealth gotten by dishonest means.*** 16:8
- 4.7 Telling the truth gives a man great satisfaction, and hard work returns many blessings to him. 12:14
- 4.8 Lies will get any man into trouble, but honesty is its own defense. 12:13

GENEROSITY

- 4.9 If you give to the poor, your needs will be supplied! But a curse upon those who close their eyes to poverty. 28:27
- 4.10 ***It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself.*** 11:24-25

EFFECTIVE PLANNING

- 4.11 We should make plans – counting on God to direct us. 16:9

Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. 24:3-4

- 4.13 The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts. 14:8
- 4.14 A wise man is cautious and avoids danger; a fool plunges ahead with great confidence. 14:16
- 4.15 A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. 22:3
- 4.16 It is dangerous and sinful to rush into the unknown. 19:2
- 4.17 Only a simpleton believes everything he's told! A prudent man understands the need for proof. 14:15
- 4.18 A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks, and suffers the consequences. 27:12
- 4.19 It is pleasant to see plans develop. That is why fools refuse to give them up even when they are wrong. 13:19
- 4.20 To plan evil is as wrong as doing it. 24:8

- 5.1 Don't brag about your plans for tomorrow – wait and see what happens. 27:1
- 5.2 Develop your business first before building your house. 24:27
- 5.3 Man proposes, but God disposes. 19:21
- 5.4 We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God's hands. 16:1
- 5.5 We toss the coin, but it is the Lord who controls its decision. 16:33

SELF-CONTROL

Attention Readers: This section is very important to understand. Self-Control means controlling the tongue. Please read the Epistle of James, Chapter 3.

- 5.6 A man without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken-down walls. 25:28
- 5.7 Self-control means controlling the tongue! A quick retort can ruin everything. 13:3
- 5.8 Keep your mouth closed and you'll stay out of trouble. 21:23
- 5.9 It is better to be slow-tempered than famous; it is better to have self-control than to control an army. 16:32
- 5.10 Evil words destroy. Godly skill rebuilds. 11:9
- 5.11 A wise man's words express deep streams of thought. 18:4
- 5.12 From a wise mind comes careful and persuasive speech. 16:23
- 5.13 A good man thinks before he speaks; the evil man pours out his evil words without a thought. 15:28
- 5.14 ***The man of few words and settled mind is wise; therefore, even a fool is thought to be wise when he is silent. It pays him to keep his mouth shut.*** 17:27-28
- 5.15 A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't, and even brags about it! 13:16
- 5.16 The wise man conquers the strong man and levels his defenses. 21:22
- 5.17 The wise man learns by listening; the simpleton can learn only by seeing scorners punished. 21:11
- 5.18 Everyone enjoys giving good advice, and how wonderful it is to be able to say the right thing at the right time! 15:23
- 5.19 A quick-tempered man starts fights; a cool-tempered man tries to stop them. 15:18
- 5.20 There is more hope for a fool than for a man of quick temper. 29:20

- 6.1 A fool is quick-tempered; a wise man stays cool when insulted. 12:16
- 6.2 A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes. 14:29
- 6.3 A wise man restrains his anger and overlooks insults. This is to his credit. 19:11
- 6.4 Don't repay evil for evil. Wait for the Lord to handle the matter. 20:22

QUALITY ASSOCIATES

- 6.5 Keep away from angry, short-tempered men, lest you learn to be like them and endanger your soul. 22:24-25
- 6.6 Don't envy godless men; don't even enjoy their company. For they spend their days plotting violence and cheating. 24:1-2
- 6.7 Stop listening to teaching that contradicts what you know is right. 19:27

Be with wise men and become wise. Be with evil men and become evil. 13:20

- 6.9 A wicked ruler will have wicked aides on his staff. 29:12

WISE COUNSEL

- 6.10 If you are looking for advice, stay away from fools. 14:7
- 6.11 Though good advice lies deep within a counselor's heart, the wise man will draw it out. 20:5
- 6.12 ***Get all the advice you can and be wise the rest of your life.*** 19:20
- 6.13 Timely advice is as lovely as gold apples in a silver basket. 25:11
- 6.14 A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others. 12:15
- 6.15 When you remove dross from silver, you have sterling ready for the silversmith. When you remove corrupt men from the king's court, his reign will be just and fair. 25:4-5
- 6.16 Without wise leadership, a nation is in trouble; but with good counselors there is safety. 11:14
- 6.17 Plans go wrong with too few counselors; many counselors bring success. 15:22
- 6.18 Don't go to war without wise guidance; there is safety in many counselors. 24:6
- 6.19 Don't go ahead with your plans without the advice of others; don't go to war until they agree. 20:18

ACCEPTING CRITICISM

- 6.20 It is an honor to receive a frank reply. 24:26

- 7.1 ***If you profit from constructive criticism you will be elected to the wise men's hall of fame. But to reject criticism is to harm yourself and your own best interests.*** 15:31-32

- 7.2 ***It is a badge of honor to accept valid criticism.*** 25:12

COMMON SENSE

- 7.3 A rebuke to a man of common sense is more effective than a hundred lashes on the back of a rebel. 17:10

- 7.4 ***Good sense is far more valuable than gold or precious jewels.*** 20:15

- 7.5 A coin toss ends arguments and settles disputes between powerful opponents. 18:18

If you must choose, take a good name rather than great riches; for to be held in loving esteem is better than silver and gold. 22:1

- 7.7 The man who strays away from common sense will end up dead! 21:16

PROFILE OF SUCCESS

- 7.8 Can't you hear the voice of wisdom? She is standing at the city gates and at every fork in the road, and at the door of every house. Listen to what she says: "Listen, men!" she calls. "How foolish and naive you are! Let me give you understanding. O foolish ones, let me show you common sense! Listen to me! For I have important information for you. Everything I say is right and true, for I hate lies and every kind of deception. My advice is wholesome and good. There is nothing of evil in it. My words are plain and clear to anyone with half a mind – if it is only open! My instruction is far more valuable than silver or gold."

For the value of wisdom is far above rubies; nothing can be compared with it. Wisdom and good judgment live together, for wisdom knows where to discover knowledge and understanding. If anyone respects and fears God, he will hate evil. For wisdom hates pride, arrogance, corruption and deceit of every kind. 8:1-13

THE GOOD MAN

- 7.9 Follow my advice, my son; always keep it in mind and stick to it. Obey me and live! Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart. Love wisdom like a sweet-heart; make her a beloved member of your family. Let her

hold you back from affairs with other women – from listening to their flattery. 7:1-5

8.1 The good man is covered with blessings from head to foot, but an evil man inwardly curses his luck. We all have happy memories of good men gone to their reward, but the names of wicked men stink after them. The wise man is glad to be instructed, but a self-sufficient fool falls flat on his face.

A good man has firm footing, but a crook will slip and fall. Winking at sin leads to sorrow; bold reproof leads to peace. There is living truth in what a good man says, but the mouth of the evil man is filled with curses. Hatred stirs old quarrels, but love overlooks insults.

Men with common sense are admired as counselors; those without it are beaten as servants. A wise man holds his tongue. Only a fool blurts out everything he knows; that only leads to sorrow and trouble.

The rich man's wealth is his only strength. The poor man's poverty is his only curse. The good man's earnings advance the cause of righteousness. The evil man squanders his on sin. Anyone willing to be corrected is on the pathway to life. Anyone refusing has lost his chance. To hide hatred is to be a liar; to slander is to be a fool. Don't talk so much. You keep off the flow! When a good man speaks, he is worth listening to, but the words of fools are a dime a dozen. A godly man gives good advice, but a rebel is destroyed by lack of common sense. The Lord's blessing is our greatest wealth. All our work adds nothing to it! 10:6-22

FRUITS OF RIGHT LIVING

8.2 Godly men are growing a tree that bears life-giving fruit, and all who win souls are wise. 11:30

8.3 ***The good man wins his case by careful argument; the evil-minded only wants to fight. 13:2***

8.4 A good man is guided by his honesty; the evil man is destroyed by his dishonesty. 11:3

8.5 A good man's mind is filled with honest thoughts; an evil man's mind is crammed with lies. 12:5

8.6 The good man asks advice from friends; the wicked plunge ahead – and fall. 12:26

8.7 A good man is concerned for the welfare of his animals, but even the kindness of godless men is cruel. 12:10

8.8 The good man knows the poor man's rights; the godless don't care. 29:7

9.1 The good man's life is full of light. The sinner's road is dark and gloomy. 13:9

9.2 The good man eats to live, while the evil man lives to eat. 13:25

9.3 Only the good can give good advice. Rebels cannot. 15:7

9.4 The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill. 11:11

9.5 If a man enjoys folly, something is wrong! The sensible stay on the pathways of right. 15:21

9.6 Crooks are jealous of each other's loot, while good men long to help each other. 12:12

9.7 Iniquity is atoned for by mercy and truth; evil is avoided by reverence for God. 16:6

9.8 A man is known by his actions. An evil man lives an evil life; a good man lives a godly life. 21:8

9.9 The backslider gets bored with himself; the godly man's life is exciting. 14:14

PROMISES TO THE GOOD

9.10 The Lord blesses good men and condemns the wicked. 12:2

9.11 The good man's goodness delivers him; the evil man's treachery is his undoing. 11:6

9.12 ***God rescues good men from danger while letting the wicked fall into it. 11:8***

9.13 The good man finds life; the evil man, death. 11:19

9.14 The whole city celebrates a good man's success – and also the godless man's death. 11:10

9.15 The good man can look forward to happiness, while the wicked can expect only wrath. 11:23

9.16 There is treasure in being good, but trouble dogs the wicked. 15:6

9.17 Everyone admires a man with good sense, but a man with a warped mind is despised. 12:8

9.18 The evil man gets rich for the moment, but the good man's reward lasts forever. 11:18

9.19 The path of the godly leads away from evil; he who follows that path is safe. 16:17

9.20 Honor goes to kind and gracious women, mere money to cruel men. 11:16

9.21 When a good man dies, he leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren; but when a sinner dies, his wealth is stored up for the godly. 13:22

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

- 10.1 With good men in authority, the people rejoice; but with the wicked in power, they groan. 29:2
- 10.2 If a king is kind, honest and fair, his kingdom stands secure. 20:28
- 10.3 What a shame – yes, how stupid! – to decide before knowing the facts. 18:13
- 10.4 Any story sounds true until someone tells the other side and sets the record straight. 18:17
- 10.5 It is a horrible thing for a king to do evil. His right to rule depends upon his fairness. 16:12
- 10.6 Gentle words cause life and health; griping brings discouragement. 15:4
- 10.7 A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life; jealousy rots it away. 14:30
- 10.8 The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them. 18:15
- 10.9 If your enemy is hungry; give him food! If he is thirsty; give him something to drink! This will make him ashamed of himself, and God will reward you. 25:21-22
- 10.10 ***A king sitting as judge weighs all the evidence carefully, distinguishing the true from false.*** 20:8
- 10.11 The man who tries to be good, loving and kind finds life, righteousness and honor. 21:21
- 10.12 A just king gives stability to his nation, but one who demands bribes destroys it. 29:4
- 10.13 A king who is fair to the poor shall have a long reign. 29:14
- 10.14 Ability to give wise advice satisfies like a good meal! 18:20
- 10.15 An evil man is stubborn, but a godly man will reconsider. 21:29
- 10.16 It is wrong for a judge to favor the wicked and condemn the innocent. 18:5
- 10.17 How short-sighted to fine the godly for being good! And to punish nobles for being honest! 17:26
- 10.18 A wise king stamps out crime by severe punishment. 20:26
- 10.19 When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily; but with honest, sensible leaders there is stability. 28:2
- 10.20 When dining with a rich man, be on your guard and don't stuff yourself, though it tastes so good; for he is trying to bribe you, and no good is going to come of his invitation. 23:13

- 11.1 If a godly man compromises with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring. 25:26
- 11.2 ***Don't associate with evil men; don't long for their favors and gifts. Their kindness is a trick; they want to use you as their pawn. The delicious food they serve will turn sour in your stomach and you will vomit it, and have to take back your words of appreciation for their "kindness."*** 23:6-8
- 11.3 Don't envy evil men but continue to reverence the Lord all the time, for surely you have a wonderful future ahead of you. There is hope for you yet! 23:17-18
- 11.4 Don't envy the wicked. Don't covet his riches. For the evil man has no future; his light will be snuffed out. 24:19-20
- 11.5 Don't be hot-headed and rush to court! You may start something you can't finish and go down before your neighbor in shameful defeat. So discuss the matter with him privately. Don't tell anyone else, lest he accuse you of slander and you can't withdraw what you said. 25:8-10
- 11.6 A man's courage can sustain his broken body; but when courage dies, what hope is left? 18:14
- 11.7 The glory of young men is their strength; of old men, their experience. 20:29
- 11.8 A wise teacher makes learning a joy; a rebellious teacher spouts foolishness. 15:2
- 11.9 The character of even a child can be known by the way he acts – whether what he does is pure and right. 20:11
- 11.10 Even honey seems tasteless to a man who is full; but if he is hungry, he'll eat anything! 27:7
- 11.11 Kind words are like honey – enjoyable and healthful. 16:24
- 11.12 ***You are a poor specimen if you can't stand the pressure of adversity.*** 24:10
- 11.13 The godly pray for those who long to kill them. 29:10
- 11.14 The good hate the badness of the wicked. The wicked hate the goodness of the good. 29:27
- 11.15 Do not rejoice when your enemy meets trouble. Let there be no gladness when he falls – for the Lord may be displeased with you and stop punishing him! 24:17-18
- 11.16 Open rebuke is better than hidden love! 27:5
- 11.17 A wise slave will rule his master's wicked sons and share their estate. 17:2
- 11.18 ***Be patient and you will finally win, for a soft tongue can break hard bones.*** 25:15
- 11.19 Don't be conceited, sure of your own wisdom. Instead, trust and reverence the Lord, and turn your back on evil;

when you do that, then you will be given renewed health and vitality. Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines. Young man, do not resent it when God chastens and corrects you, for His punishment is proof of His love. Just as a father punishes a son he delights in to make him better, so the Lord corrects you. 3:7-12

MOTIVATING PEOPLE

- 12.1 A false witness shall be punished; and a liar shall be caught. 19:9
- 12.2 Putting confidence in an unreliable man is like chewing with a sore tooth, or trying to run on a broken foot. 25:19
- 12.3 Sometimes mere words are not enough – discipline is needed. For the words may not be heeded. 29:19
- 12.4 Guide a horse with a whip, a donkey with a bridle, and a rebel with a rod to his back! 26:3
- 12.5 To trust a rebel to convey a message is as foolish as cutting off your feet and drinking poison! – Honoring a rebel will backfire like a stone tied to a slingshot! 26:6
- 12.6 ***Punish a mocker and others will learn from his example. Reprove a wise man and he will be the wiser.*** 19:25
- 12.7 A rebel will misapply an illustration so that its point will no more be felt than a thorn in the hand of a drunkard. 26:9
- 12.8 The master may get better work from an untrained apprentice than from a skilled rebel. 26:10
- 12.9 Throw out the mocker, and you will be rid of tension, fighting and quarrels. 22:10
- 12.10 When arguing with a rebel, don't use foolish arguments as he does, or you will become as foolish as he is! Prick his conceit with silly replies! 26:4-6
- 12.11 Pamper a servant from childhood, and he will expect you to treat him as a son! 29:21
- 12.12 An unreliable messenger can cause a lot of trouble. Reliable communication permits progress. 13:17
- 12.13 It is safer to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool caught in his folly. 17:12

FAIRNESS

- 12.14 Many favors are showered on those who please the king. 16:15
- 12.15 ***We can always "prove" that we are right, but is the Lord convinced?*** 16:2

- 13.1 We can justify our every deed but God looks at our motives. 21:2
- 13.2 A king rejoices in servants who know what they are doing; he is angry with those who cause trouble. 14:35
- 13.3 A faithful employee is as refreshing as a cool day in the hot summertime. 25:13
- 13.4 A workman may eat from the orchard he tends; anyone should be rewarded who protects another's interests. 27:18

FINANCIAL AWARENESS

- 13.5 Son, if you endorse a note for someone you hardly know, guaranteeing his debt, you are in serious trouble. You may have trapped yourself by your agreement. Quick! Get out of it if you possibly can! Swallow your pride; don't let embarrassment stand in the way. Go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off. Do it now. Don't rest until you do. If you can get out of this trap you have saved yourself like a deer that escapes from a hunter, or a bird from the net. 6:1-5
- 13.6 The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets. 21:20
- 13.7 ***Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.*** 22:7
- 13.8 It is poor judgment to countersign another's note, to become responsible for his debts. 17:18
- 13.9 Unless you have the extra cash on hand, don't countersign a note. Why risk everything you own? They'll even take your bed! 22:26-27
- 13.10 It is risky to make loans to strangers! 20:16
- 13.11 Be sure you know a person well before you vouch for his credit! Better refuse than suffer later. 11:15
- 13.12 The world's poorest credit risk is the man who agrees to pay a stranger's debts. 27:13
- 13.13 Don't withhold repayment of your debts. Don't say, "Some other time," if you can pay now. Don't plot against your neighbor; he is trusting you. Don't get into needless fights. Don't envy violent men. Don't copy their ways. For such men are an abomination to the Lord, but He gives His friendship to the godly. 3:27-32

BRIBES

- 13.14 A gift does wonders: it will bring you before men of importance! 18:16
- 13.15 A bribe works like magic. Whoever uses it will prosper. 17:8 (This is a fact, but not to be encouraged!)

14.1 Only a stupid prince will oppress his people, but a king will have a long reign if he hates dishonesty and bribes. 28:16

14.2 ***Dishonest money brings grief to all the family, but hating bribes brings happiness. 15:27***

14.3 He who gains by oppressing the poor and bribing the rich shall end in poverty. 21:13

14.4 It is wrong to accept a bribe to twist justice. 17:23

14.5 An angry man may be silenced by a bribe, while the good man loves truth and justice. But the evil man fears these beyond all else, for they spell his doom. (21)

14.6 God loathes the gifts of evil men, especially if they are trying to bribe Him! 21:27

FALLACY OF RICHES

14.7 Riches can disappear fast. And the king's crown doesn't stay in his family forever – so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and your herds; then there will be lamb's wool enough for clothing, and goat's milk enough for food for all your household after the hay is harvested, and the new crop appears, and the mountain grasses are gathered in. 27:23-27

14.8 Your riches won't help you on Judgment Day; only righteousness counts then. 11:4

14.9 *O God, I beg two favors from you before I die: first, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs! For if I grow rich, I may become content without God. And if I am too poor, I may steal, and thus insult God's holy name. 30:7-9*

14.10 Don't weary yourself trying to get rich. Why waste your time? For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird! 23:4-5

14.11 Trying to get rich quick is evil and leads to poverty. 28:22

14.12 ***Ambition and death are alike in this: neither is ever satisfied. 27:20***

14.13 Giving preferred treatment to rich people is a clear case of selling one's soul for a piece of bread. 28:21

14.14 The man who wants to do right will get a rich reward. But the man who wants to get rich quick will quickly fail. 28:20

14.15 The rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. What a dreamer! 18:11

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE



FOOLS

15.1 A short-tempered man is a fool. He hates the man who is patient. 14:17

15.2 A fool gets into constant fights. His mouth is his undoing! His words endanger him. 18:6-7

15.3 Only a fool despises his father's advice; a wise son considers each suggestion. 15:5

15.4 Fools start fights everywhere while wise men try to keep peace. 29:8

15.5 There's no use arguing with a fool. He only rages and scoffs, and tempers flare. 29:9

15.6 A wise man doesn't display his knowledge, but a fool displays his foolishness. 12:23

15.7 As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. 26:11

15.8 In the mouth of a fool a proverb becomes as useless as a paralyzed leg. 26:7

15.9 *Wisdom is the main pursuit of sensible men, but a fool's goals are at the ends of the earth! 17:24*

15.10 It doesn't seem right for a fool to succeed or for a slave to rule over princes! 19:10

15.11 A man may ruin his chances by his own foolishness and then blame it on the Lord! 19:3

15.12 If you have been a fool by being proud or plotting evil, don't brag about it – cover your mouth with your hand in shame. 30:32

15.13 There is one thing worse than a fool, and that is a man who is conceited. 26:12

WARNINGS TO FOOLS

15.14 Honor doesn't go with fools any more than snow with summertime or rain with harvest time! 26:1

15.15 The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left. He shall be the servant of a wiser man. 11:29

MOCKERS

- 16.1 A mocker stays away from wise men because he hates to be scolded. 15:12
- 16.2 ***Mockers are proud, haughty and arrogant.*** 21:24
- 16.3 A wise youth accepts his father's rebuke; a young mocker doesn't. 13:1
- 16.4 A wise man is hungry for truth, while the mocker feeds on trash. 15:14

WARNINGS TO MOCKERS

- 16.5 Mockers and rebels shall be severely punished. 19:29
- 16.6 A man who mocks his father and despises his mother shall have his eye plucked out by ravens and eaten by vultures. 30:17
- 16.7 Mocking the poor is mocking the God who made them. He will punish those who rejoice at others misfortunes. 17:5

REBELS

- 16.8 The rebel walks a thorny, treacherous road; the man who values his soul will stay away. 22:5
- 16.9 The rebel's schemes are sinful, and the mocker is the scourge of all mankind. 24:9
- 16.10 ***A rebel doesn't care about the facts. All he wants to do is yell.*** 18:2
- 16.11 A rebel shouts in anger; a wise man holds his temper in and cools it. 29:11
- 16.12 A rebel's frustrations are heavier than sand and rocks. 27:3
- 16.13 Truth from a rebel or lies from a king are both unexpected. 17:7
- 16.14 The common bond of rebels is their guilt. The common bond of godly people is good will. 14:9
- 16.15 You can't separate a rebel from his foolishness though you crush him to powder. 27:22
- 16.16 Don't waste your breath on a rebel. He will despise the wisest advice. 23:9

WARNINGS TO REBELS

- 16.17 Wisdom is too much for a rebel. He'll not be chosen as a counselor! 24:7
- 16.18 ***The man who is often reproved but refuses to accept criticism will suddenly be broken and never have another chance.*** 29:1
- 16.19 It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a rebel who has no heart for truth. 17:16

LAZINESS

- 17.1 Take a lesson from the ants, you lazy fellow. Learn from their ways and be wise! For though they have no king to make them work, yet they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you – all you do is sleep. When will you wake up? "Let me sleep a little longer!" Sure, just a little more! And as you sleep, poverty creeps upon you like a robber and destroys you; want attacks you in full armor. 6:6-11
- 17.2 ***It is better to get your hands dirty - and eat, than to be too proud to work - and starve.*** 12:9
- 17.3 A lazy man won't even dress the game he gets while hunting, but the diligent man makes good use of everything he finds. 12:27
- 17.4 I walked by the field of a certain lazy fellow and saw that it was overgrown with thorns, and covered with weeds; and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked, I learned this lesson: "A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest" means that poverty will break in upon you suddenly like a robber, and violently like a bandit. 24:30-34
- 17.5 Let me describe for you a worthless and a wicked man; first, he is a constant liar; he signals his true intentions to his friends with eyes and feet and fingers. He is always thinking up new schemes to swindle people. He stirs up trouble everywhere. But he will be destroyed suddenly, broken beyond hope of healing. 6:12-15
- 17.6 A lazy fellow is a pain to his employers – like smoke in their eyes or vinegar that sets the teeth on edge. 10:26
- 17.7 A lazy man is brother to the saboteur. 18:9
- 17.8 The lazy man is full of excuses. "I can't go to work!" he says. "If I go outside I might meet a lion in the street and be killed!" 22:13
- 17.9 The lazy man longs for many things but his hands refuse to work. He is greedy to get, while the godly love to give. 21:25-26
- 17.10 A lazy man sleeps soundly – and he goes hungry! 19:15
- 17.11 Lazy people want much but get little, while the diligent are prospering. 13:4
- 17.12 The lazy man won't go out and work. "There might be a lion outside!" he says. He sticks to his bed like a door to its hinges! He is too tired even to lift his food from his dish to his mouth! Yet in his own opinion he is smarter than seven wise men. 26:13-16

- 18.1 Some men are so lazy they won't even feed themselves!
19:24
- 18.2 Idle hands are the devil's workshop; idle lips are his mouth-piece. 16:27

WARNINGS TO THE LAZY

- 18.3 If you won't plow in the cold you won't eat at the harvest.
20:4
- 18.4 ***A lazy fellow has trouble all through life; the good man's path is easy!*** 15:19
- 18.5 If you love sleep, you will end in poverty. Stay awake, work hard, and there will be plenty to eat! 20:13

- 18.6 My son, watch your step before the Lord and the king, and don't associate with radicals. For you will go down with them to sudden disaster, and who knows where it all will end? 24:21-22
- 18.7 If young toughs tell you, "Come and join us" – turn your back on them! "We'll hide and rob and kill," they say; "Good or bad, we'll treat them all alike! And the loot we'll get! All kinds of stuff! Come on, throw in your lot with us; we'll split with you in equal shares."
Don't do it, son! Stay far from men like that, for crime is their way of life, and murder is their specialty. When a bird sees a trap being set, it stays away, but not these men; they trap themselves! They lay a booby trap for their own lives. Such is the fate of all who live by violence and murder. They will die a violent death. 1:10-19
- 18.8 If you rebuke a mocker, you will only get a smart retort; yes, he will snarl at you. So don't bother with him; he will only hate you for trying to help him. But a wise man, when rebuked, will love you all the more. Teach a wise man, and he will be the wiser; teach a good man, and he will learn more. For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding. "I, Wisdom, will make the hours of your day more profitable and the years of your life more fruitful." Wisdom is its own reward, and if you scorn her, you hurt only yourself. 9:7-12

Kingdom Concepts

These are the benefits you will get from being a hard worker:

1. **Security:** because you will put your trust in God and your developed abilities.
2. **Wealth:** because you keep increasing your value and wage.
3. **Happiness:** because you know you have earned your position in life.



UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RELATIONS

FRIENDS

- 19.1 Never abandon a friend – either yours or your father's. Then you won't need to go to a distant relative for help in your time of need. 27:10
- 19.2 It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than to capture a fortified city. His anger shuts you out like iron bars. 18:19
- 19.3 A true friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need. 17:17
- 19.4 Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends. 17:9
- 19.5 Most people will tell you what loyal friends they are, but are they telling the truth? 20:6
- 19.6 There are "friends" who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. 18:24
- 19.7 A wealthy man has many "friends;" the poor man has none left. 19:4
- 19.8 Even his own neighbors despise the poor man, while the rich have many "friends." 14:20
- 19.9 Many beg favors from a man who is generous; everyone is his friend! 19:6

19.10 ***A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.*** 27:19

- 19.11 He who values grace and truth is the king's friend. 22:11
- 19.12 If you shout a pleasant greeting to a friend too early in the morning, he will count it as a curse! 27:14
- 19.13 Wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy! 27:6
- 19.14 A friendly discussion is as stimulating as the sparks that fly when iron strikes iron. 27:17
- 19.15 Friendly suggestions are as pleasant as perfume. 27:9
- 19.16 Don't visit your neighbor too often, or you will outwear your welcome! 25:17

KEEPING PROMISES

- 19.17 God delights in those who keep their promises, and abhors those who don't. 12:22
- 19.18 ***One who doesn't give the gift he promised is like a cloud blowing over a desert without dropping any rain.*** 25:14

20.1 It is foolish and rash to make a promise to the Lord before counting the cost. 20:25

DISCOURAGEMENT

22.2 Only the person involved can know his own bitterness or joy – no one else can really share it. 14:10

20.3 A happy face means a glad heart; a sad face means a breaking heart. 15:13

20.4 Laughter cannot mask a heavy heart. When the laughter ends, the grief remains. 14:13

20.5 When a man is gloomy, everything seems to go wrong; when he is cheerful, everything seems right! 15:15

ENCOURAGEMENT

20.6 A curse on those who lead astray the godly. But men who encourage the upright to do good shall be given a worthwhile reward. 28:10

20.7 ***Your own soul is nourished when you are kind; it is destroyed when you are cruel. 11:17***

20.8 Pleasant sights and good reports give happiness and health. 15:30

20.9 A cheerful heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit makes one sick. 17:22

20.10 Anxious hearts are very heavy but a word of encouragement does wonders! 12:25

20.11 Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty. 25:25

THE RICH AND THE POOR

20.12 Some rich people are poor, and some poor people have great wealth! 13:7

20.13 A poor man's own brothers turn away from him in embarrassment; how much more his friends! He calls after them but they are gone. 19:7

20.14 The rich and the poor are alike before the Lord who made them all. 22:2

20.15 Rich and poor are alike in this: each depends on God for light. 29:13

20.16 A poor man's farm may have good soil, but injustice robs him of its riches. 13:22

20.17 A man who loves pleasure becomes poor; wine and luxury are not the way to riches! 21:17

20.18 Being kidnapped and held for ransom never worries the poor man! 13:8

OPPRESSING THE POOR

21.1 It is wrong to sentence the poor and let the rich go free. He who says to the wicked, "You are innocent," shall be cursed by many people of many nations; but blessings shall be showered on those who rebuke sin fearlessly. 24:23-25

21.2 ***You should defend those who cannot help themselves. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.*** 31:8-9

21.3 The poor man pleads and the rich man answers with insults. 18:23

21.4 Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God, who knows all hearts, knows yours, and he knows you knew! And He will reward everyone according to his deeds. 24:11-12

21.5 Don't testify spitefully against an innocent neighbor. Why lie about him? Don't say, "Now I can pay him back for all his meanness to me!" 24:28-29

21.6 Don't steal the land of the defenseless orphans by moving their ancient boundary marks, for their Redeemer is strong; He Himself will accuse you. 23:10-11

21.7 Do not move the ancient boundary marks. That is stealing. 22:28

21.8 A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a lion or bear attacking them. 28:15

21.9 The unjust tyrant will reap disaster and his reign of terror shall end. 22:8

21.10 When a poor man oppresses those even poorer, he is like an unexpected flood sweeping away their last hope. 28:3

21.11 Income from exploiting the poor will end up in the hands of someone who pities them. 28:8

21.12 Don't rob the poor and sick! For the Lord is their defender. If you injure them He will punish you. 22:22-23

21.13 He who shuts his ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in his own time of need. 21:13

21.14 To despise the poor is to sin. Blessed are those who help them. 14:21

21.15 Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God. 14:31

21.16 When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord – and He pays wonderful interest on your loan! 19:17

21.17 Happy is the generous man, the one who feeds the poor. 22:9

BAD RELATIONSHIPS

- 22.1 Being happy-go-lucky around a person whose heart is heavy is as bad as stealing his jacket in cold weather, or rubbing salt in his wounds. 25:20
- 22.2 It is better to eat soup with someone you love than steak with someone you hate. 15:17
- 22.3 A dry crust eaten in peace is better than steak every day along with argument and strife. 17:1

FLATTERY

- 22.4 Flattery is a trap; evil men are caught in it, but good men stay away and sing for joy. 29:5-6
- 22.5 Flattery is a form of hatred and wounds cruelly. 26:28
- 22.6 Pretty words may hide a wicked heart, just as a pretty glaze covers a common clay pot. 26:23
- 22.7 In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery. 28:23

ANGER AND TEMPER

- 22.8 As the churning of cream yields butter, and a blow to the nose causes bleeding, so anger causes quarrels. 30:33
- 22.9 A hot-tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble. 29:22
- 22.10 A short-tempered man must bear his own penalty; you can't do much to help him. If you try once you must try a dozen times! 19:19
- 22.11 As surely as a wind from the north brings cold, just as surely a retort causes anger! 25:23
- 22.12 The king's anger is as dangerous as a lion's. But his approval is as refreshing as the dew on grass. 19:12
- 22.13 The king's fury is like that of a roaring lion; to rouse his anger is to risk your life. 20:2
- 22.14 Yanking a dog's ears is no more foolish than interfering in an argument that isn't any of your business. 26:17
- 22.15 Jealousy is more dangerous and cruel than anger. 27:4

QUARRELING

- 22.16 To quarrel with a neighbor is foolish; a man with good sense holds his tongue. 11:12
- 22.17 ***A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words cause quarrels. 15:1***
- 22.18 A quarrelsome man starts fights as easily as a match sets fire to paper. 26:21

- 23.1 The selfish man quarrels against every sound principle of conduct by demanding his own way. 18:1
- 23.2 It is an honor for a man to stay out of a fight. Only fools insist on quarreling. 20:3
- 23.3 It is hard to stop a quarrel once it starts, so don't let it begin. 17:14

GOSSIP AND LIES

- 23.4 Telling lies about someone is as harmful as hitting him with an axe, or wounding him with a sword, or shooting him with a sharp arrow. 25:18
- 23.5 A man who is caught lying to his neighbor and says, "I was just fooling," is like a madman throwing around firebrands, arrows and death! 26:18-19
- 23.6 Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed. 12:19
- 23.7 A truthful witness never lies; a false witness always lies. 14:5
- 23.8 A worthless witness cares nothing for truth – he enjoys his sinning too much. 19:28
- 23.9 A witness who tells the truth saves good men from being sentenced to death, but a false witness is a traitor. 14:25
- 23.10 Don't tell your secrets to a gossip unless you want them broadcast to the world. 20:19
- 23.11 Gossip is a dainty morsel eaten with great relish. 26:22
- 23.12 ***A gossip goes around spreading rumors, while a trustworthy man tries to quiet them. 11:13***
- 23.13 Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and tensions disappear when gossip stops. 26:20
- 23.14 The Lord despises those who say that bad is good, and good is bad. 17:15
- 23.15 Some people like to make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise soothe and heal. 12:18
- 23.16 Those who love to talk will suffer the consequences. Men have died for saying the wrong thing! 18:21
- 23.17 What dainty morsels rumors are. They are eaten with great relish! 18:8
- 23.18 An undeserved curse has no effect. Its intended victim will be no more harmed by it than by a sparrow or swallow flitting through the sky. 26:2

UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILY

FATHERS

- 23.19 It is a wonderful heritage to have an honest father. 20:7

- 24.1 Reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security. 14:26
- 24.2 White hair is a crown of glory and is seen most among the godly. 16:31
- 24.3 An old man's grandchildren are his crowning glory. A child's glory is his father. 17:6

WIVES

- 24.4 If you can find a truly good wife, she is worth more than precious gems! Her husband can trust her, and she will richly satisfy his needs. She will not hinder him, but help him all her life. She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. She buys imported foods, brought by ship from distant ports. She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household, and plans the day's work for her servant girls. She goes out to inspect a field, and buys it; with her own hands she plants a vineyard. She is energetic, a hard worker, and watches for bargains. She works far into the night!

She sews for the poor, and generously helps those in need. She has no fear of winter for her household, for she has made warm clothes for all of them. She also upholsters with finest tapestry; her own clothing is beautifully made – a purple gown of pure linen. Her husband is well known, for he sits in the council chamber with the other civic leaders. She makes belted linen garments to sell to the merchants.

She is a woman of strength and dignity, and has no fear of old age. When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule for everything she says. She watches carefully all that goes on throughout her household, and is never lazy. Her children stand and bless her; so does her husband. He praises her with these words: "There are many fine women in the world, but you are the best of them all!"

Charm can be deceptive and beauty doesn't last, but a woman who fears and reverences God shall be greatly praised. Praise her for the many fine things she does. These good deeds of hers shall bring her honor and recognition from people of importance. 31:10-31

- 24.5 A constant dripping on a rainy day and a cranky woman are much alike! You can no more stop her complaints than you can stop the wind or hold onto anything with oil-slick hands. 27:15-16
- 24.6 A nagging wife annoys like constant dripping. 19:13
- 24.7 Drink from your own well, my son – be faithful and true to your wife. Why should you beget children with women of the street? Why share your children with those outside

your home? Be happy, yes, rejoice in the wife of your youth. Let her charms and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight. Why delight yourself with prostitutes, embracing what isn't yours? For God is closely watching you, and He weighs carefully everything you do. 5:15-21

- 25.1 A worthy wife is her husband's joy and crown; the other kind corrodes his strength and tears down everything he does. 12:4

25.2 ***The man who finds a wife finds a good thing; she is a blessing to him from the Lord. 18:22***

- 25.3 Better to live in the desert than with a quarrelsome, complaining woman. 21:19
- 25.4 It is better to live in the corner of an attic than with a crabby woman in a lovely home. 21:9
- 25.5 It is better to live in a corner of an attic than in a beautiful home with a cranky, quarrelsome woman. 25:24

CHILDREN

- 25.6 My son, how happy I will be if you turn out to be sensible! It will be a public honor to me. 27:11
- 25.7 Young man, obey your father and your mother. Take to heart all of their advice; every day and all night long their counsel will lead you and save you from harm; when you wake up in the morning, let their instructions guide you into the new day. For their advice is a beam of light directed into the dark corners of your mind to warn you of danger and to give you a good life. Their counsel will keep you far away from prostitutes with all their flatteries, and unfaithful wives of other men. 6:20-24
- 25.8 A father can give his sons homes and riches, but only the Lord can give them understanding wives. 19:14

REBELLION

- 25.9 A sensible son gladdens his father. A rebellious son saddens his mother. 15:20
- 25.10 ***Happy is the man with a level-headed son; sad the mother of a rebel.*** 10:1
- 25.11 It's no fun to be a rebel's father. 17:21
- 25.12 A rebellious son is a grief to his father and a bitter blow to his mother. 17:25
- 25.13 A rebellious son is a calamity to his father. 19:13
- 25.14 A man who robs his parents and says, "What's wrong with that?" is no better than a murderer. 28:24

- 26.1 Young men who are wise obey the law; a son who is a member of a lawless gang is a shame to his father. 28:7
- 26.2 A son who mistreats his father or mother is a public disgrace. 19:26
- 26.3 God puts out the light of the man who curses his father or mother. 20:20

DISCIPLINE

- 26.4 Discipline your son in his early years while there is hope. If you don't you will ruin his life 19:18
- 26.5 If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don't love him; for if you love him you will be prompt to punish him. 13:24
- 26.6 A youngster's heart is filled with rebellion, but punishment will drive it out of him. 22:15
- 26.7 Don't fail to correct your children; discipline won't hurt them! They won't die if you use a stick on them! Punishment will keep them out of hell. 23:13-14
- 26.8 Scolding and spanking a child helps him to learn. Left to himself, he brings shame to his mother. 29:15
- 26.9 Discipline your son and he will give you happiness and peace of mind. 29:17

Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older he will remain upon it. 22:6

- 26.10 Punishment that hurts chases evil from the heart. 20:30

- 26.12 Every young man who listens to me and obeys my instructions will be given wisdom and good sense. Yes, if you want better insight and discernment, and are searching for them as you would for lost money or hidden treasure, then wisdom will be given you and knowledge of God Himself; you will soon learn the importance of reverence for the Lord and of trusting Him.

For the Lord grants wisdom! His every word is a treasure of knowledge and understanding. He grants good sense to the godly – His saints. He is their shield, protecting them and guarding their pathway. He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time.

For wisdom and truth will enter the very center of your being, filling your life with joy. You will be given the sense to stay away from evil men who want you to be their partners in crime – men who turn from God's ways to walk

down dark and evil paths, and exalt in doing wrong, for they thoroughly enjoy their sins. Everything they do is crooked and wrong. 2:1-15

Kingdom Concepts

As people in business, we need to understand our employees in order to motivate them, or we will have poor production which will put us out of business. We also need to understand our customers — what they want, and why they want it. Without understanding them and their needs, we may be serving them well but not satisfying them. Sometimes all they want is to be appreciated or recognized.

Every one of us have at least four basic needs:

1. *To be loved and appreciated.*
2. *To experience a sense of achievement or self-worth.*
3. *To have a sense of belonging.*
4. *To feel financially secure.*

We should keep these in mind whenever we deal with people, regardless of the situation. Business management consists of motivating people to service others.

This excerpt from the Leadership Principle of Developing People.

**Foundations for
Achievement**



DEALING WITH SELF-CONTROL



GUARD YOUR AFFECTIONS

28.1 Don't do as the wicked do. Avoid their haunts – turn away, go somewhere else, for evil men can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest unless they cause someone to stumble and fall. They eat and drink wickedness and violence!

But the good man walks along in the ever-brightening light of God's favor; the dawn gives way to morning splendor, while the evil man gropes and stumbles in the dark.

Listen, son of mine, to what I say. Listen carefully. Keep these thoughts ever in mind; let them penetrate deep within your heart, for they will mean real life for you, and radiant health.

28.2 ***Above all else, guard your affections. For they influence everything else in your life.***

Spurn the careless kiss of a prostitute. Stay far from her. Look straight ahead; don't even turn your head to look. Watch your step. Stick to the path and be safe. Don't side-track; pull back your foot from danger. 4:20-27

28.3 Listen to me, my son! I know what I am saying; listen! Watch yourself, lest you be indiscreet and betray some vital information. For the lips of a prostitute are as sweet as honey, and smooth flattery is her stock in trade. But afterwards only a bitter conscience is left to you, sharp as a double-edged sword. She leads you down to death and hell. For she does not know the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail, and doesn't even realize where it leads.

Young men, listen to me and never forget what I'm about to say: Run from her! Don't go near her house, lest you fall to her temptation and lose your honor, and give the remainder of your life to the cruel and merciless; lest strangers obtain your wealth, and you become a slave of foreigners. Lest afterwards you groan in anguish and in shame, when syphilis consumes your body, and you say, "Oh, if only I had listened! If only I had not demanded my own way! Oh, why wouldn't I take advice? Why was I so stupid? For now I must face public disgrace." 5:1-14

PRIDE

- 29.1 The purity of silver and gold can be tested in a crucible, but a man is tested by his reaction to men's praise. 27:21
- 29.2 Just as it is harmful to eat too much honey, so also it is bad for men to think about all the honors they deserve! 25:27
- 29.3 There are those who curse their father and mother, and feel themselves faultless despite their many sins. They are proud beyond description, arrogant, disdainful. They devour the poor with teeth as sharp as knives! 30:11-14

WARNINGS TO THE PROUD

- 29.4 Proud men end in shame, but the meek become wise. 11:2
- 29.5 ***Pride disgusts the Lord. Take my word for it – proud men shall be punished.*** 16:5
- 29.6 Rich men are conceited, but their real poverty is evident to the poor. 28:11
- 29.7 The Lord destroys the possessions of the proud but cares for widows. 15:25
- 29.8 ***Pride goes before destruction and haughtiness before a fall.*** 16:18

29.9 A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance. 28:13

DISHONESTY

- 29.10 Kindness makes a man attractive. And it is better to be poor than dishonest. 19:22
- 29.11 A man who assists a thief must really hate himself! For he knows the consequence but does it anyway. 29:24
- 29.12 ***Dishonest gain will never last, so why take the risk?*** 21:6
- 29.13 "Utterly worthless!" says the buyer as he haggles over the price. But afterwards he brags about his bargain! 20:14

WARNINGS TO THE DISHONEST

- 29.14 Quick wealth is not a blessing in the end. 20:21
- 29.15 The Lord loathes all cheating and dishonesty. 20:23
- 29.16 People curse the man who holds his grain for higher prices, but they bless the man who sells it to them in their time of need. 11:26
- 29.17 The Lord despises every kind of cheating. 20:10
- 29.18 Some men enjoy cheating, but the cake they buy with such ill-gotten grain will turn to gravel in their mouths. 20:17

30.1 Good men will be rescued from harm, but cheaters will be destroyed. 28:18

DRUNKENNESS

30.2 O my son, be wise and stay in God's paths; don't carouse with drunkards and gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty. And remember that too much sleep clothes a man with rags. Listen to your father's advice and don't despise an old mother's experience. Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get. The father of a godly man has cause for joy – what pleasure a wise son is! So give your parents joy! 23:19-25

***Wine gives false courage; hard liquor leads to
brawls; what fools men are to let it master
them, making them reel drunkenly down the
street! 20:1***

30.4 Whose heart is filled with anguish and sorrow? Who is always fighting and quarreling? Who is the man with bloodshot eyes and many wounds? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new mixtures. Don't let the sparkle and the smooth taste of strong wine deceive you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous serpent; it stings like an adder.

You will see hallucinations and have delirium tremens, and you will say foolish, silly things that would embarrass you to no end when sober. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And afterwards you will say, "I didn't even know it when they beat me up...Let's go and have another drink!" 23:29-35

30.5 And it is not for kings, O Lemuel, to drink wine and whiskey. For if they drink they may forget their duties and be unable to give justice to those who are oppressed. Hard liquor is for sick men at the brink of death, and wine for those in deep depression. Let them drink to forget their poverty and misery. 31:4-7

LUST

30.6 O my son, whom I have dedicated to the Lord, do not spend your time with women – the royal pathway to destruction. 31:23

30.7 Do you like honey? Don't eat too much of it, or it will make you sick! 25:16

30.8 Don't lust for a prostitute's beauty. Don't let their coyness seduce you. For a prostitute will bring a man to poverty; and an adulteress may cost him his very life. Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned? Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet? So it is with

the man who commits adultery with another's wife. He shall not go unpunished for this sin.

Excuses might even be found for a thief, if he steals when he is starving! But even so, he is fined seven times as much as he stole, though it may mean selling everything in his house to pay it back.

But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul. Wounds and constant disgrace are his lot, for the woman's husband will be furious in his jealousy; and he will have no mercy on you in his day of vengeance. You won't be able to buy him off no matter what you offer. 6:25-35

31.1 I was looking out the window of my house one day; and saw a simple-minded lad, a young man lacking common sense, walking at twilight down the street to the house of this wayward girl, a prostitute. She approached him, saucy and pert, and dressed seductively; she was the brash, coarse type, seen often in the streets and markets, soliciting at every corner for men to be her lovers.

She put her arms around him and kissed him, and with a saucy look she said, "I was just coming to look for you and here you are! Come home with me and I'll fix you a wonderful dinner, and after that – well, my bed is spread with lovely; colored sheets of finest linen imported from Egypt, perfumed with myrrh, aloe, and cinnamon. Come on, let's take our fill of love until morning, for my husband is away on a long trip. He has taken a wallet full of money with him, and won't return for several days."

So she seduced him with her pretty speech, her coaxing and her wheedling, until he yielded to her. He couldn't resist her flattery. He followed her as an ox going to the butcher, or as a stag that is trapped, waiting to be killed with an arrow through his heart. He was as a bird flying into a snare, not knowing the fate awaiting it there.

Listen to me, young men, and not only listen but obey; don't let your desires get out of hand; don't let yourself think about her. Don't go near her; stay away from where she walks, lest she tempt you and seduce you. For she has been the ruin of multitudes – a vast host of men have been her victims. If you want to find the road to hell, look for her house. 7:6-27

WARNINGS TO THE LUSTFUL

31.2 Only wisdom from the Lord can save a man from the flattery of prostitutes; these girls have abandoned their husbands and flouted the laws of God. Their houses lie along the road to death and hell. The men who enter them are doomed. None of these men will ever be the same again.

- 32.1 Follow the steps of the godly instead, and stay on the right path, for only good men enjoy life to the full; evil men lose the good things they might have had; and they themselves shall be destroyed. 2:16-22
- 32.2 O my son, trust my advice – stay away from prostitutes. For a prostitute is a deep and narrow grave. Like a robber, she waits for her victims as one after another become unfaithful to their wives. 23:26-28
- 32.3 A wise son makes his father happy; but a lad who hangs around with prostitutes disgraces him. 29:3
- 32.4 A man who strays from home is like a bird that wanders from its nest. 27:8
- 32.5 A beautiful woman lacking discretion and modesty is like a fine gold ring in a pig’s snout. 11:22
- 32.6 A prostitute is loud and brash, and never has enough of lust and shame. She sits at the door of her house or stands at the street corners of the city; whispering to men going by; and to those minding their own business. “Come home with me,” she urges simpletons. “Stolen melons are the sweetest; stolen apples taste the best!” But they don’t realize that her former guests are now citizens of hell. 9:13-18
- 32.7 A prostitute is a dangerous trap; those cursed of God are caught in it. 22:14
- 32.8 Pride, lust and evil actions are all sin. 21:4
- 32.9 Who can ever say; “I have cleansed my heart; I am sinless”? 20:9

WICKEDNESS

- 32.10 The wicked flee when no one is chasing them! But the godly are bold as lions! 28:1
- 32.11 Before every man there lies a wide and pleasant road that seems right but ends in death. 14:12
- 32.12 The Lord despises the deeds of the wicked, but loves those who try to be good. If they stop trying, the Lord will punish them; if they rebel against that punishment, they will die. 15:9-10
- 32.13 The Lord hates the thoughts of the wicked, but delights in kind words. 15:26
- 32.14 The Lord hates the gifts of the wicked, but delights in the prayers of His people. 15:8
- 32.15 Before every man there lies a wide and pleasant road he thinks is right, but it ends in death. 16:25
- 32.16 The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayers of the righteous. 15:29

- 33.1 When rulers are wicked, their people are too; but good men will live to see the tyrant’s downfall. 29:16
- 33.2 ***The Lord has made everything for His own purposes – even the wicked, for punishment.*** 16:4
- 33.3 The wicked man is doomed by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. He shall die because he will not listen to the truth; he has let himself be led away into incredible folly. 5:22-23
- 33.4 The wicked enjoy fellowship with others who are wicked; liars enjoy liars. 17:4
- 33.5 Wickedness loves company – and leads others into sin. 16:29
- 33.6 The wicked accuse; the godly defend. 12:6
- 33.7 The wicked man stares into space with pursed lips, deep in thought, planning his evil deeds. 16:30
- 33.8 A good man hates lies; wicked men lie constantly and come to shame. 13:5
- 33.9 Evil men don’t understand the importance of justice, but those who follow the Lord are much concerned about it. 28:5
- 33.10 An evil man loves to harm others; being a good neighbor is out of his line. 21:10
- 33.11 An evil man is suspicious of everyone and tumbles into constant trouble. 17:20
- 33.12 An evil man sows strife; gossip separates the best of friends. 16:28

O evil man, leave the upright man alone, and quit trying to cheat him out of his rights. Don’t you know that this good man, though you trip him up seven times, will each time rise again? But one calamity is enough to lay you low. 24:15-16

- 33.14 Deceit fills hearts that are plotting for evil; joy fills hearts that are planning for good! 12:20
- 33.15 When the wicked prosper, good men go away; when the wicked meet disaster, good men return. 28:28

WARNINGS TO THE WICKED

- 33.16 The wicked live for rebellion; they shall be severely punished. 17:11
- 33.17 The Lord preserves the upright but ruins the plans of the wicked. 22:12
- 33.18 The work of the wicked will perish; the work of the godly will flourish. 14:11

- 34.1 Wickedness never brings real success; only the godly have that. 12:3
- 34.2 The wicked shall perish; the godly shall stand. 12:7
- 34.3 The wicked man's fears will all come true, and so will the good man's hopes. Disaster strikes like a cyclone and the wicked are whirled away. But the good man has a strong anchor. 10:24-25
- 34.4 When the godly are successful, everyone is glad. When the wicked succeed, everyone is sad. 28:12
- 34.5 No real harm befalls the good, but there is constant trouble for the wicked. 12:21
- 34.6 You can be very sure the evil man will not go unpunished forever. And you can also be very sure that God will rescue the children of the godly. 11:21
- 34.7 Those who plot evil shall wander away and be lost, but those who plan good shall be granted mercy and quietness. 14:22
- 34.8 Even the godly shall be rewarded here on earth; how much more the wicked! 11:31
- 34.9 Because the wicked are unfair, their violence boomerangs and destroys them. 21:7
- 34.10 A man's goodness helps him all through life, while evil men are being destroyed by their wickedness. 13:6
- 34.11 If you repay evil for good, a curse is upon your home. 17:13
- 34.12 The man who sets a trap for others will get caught in it himself. Roll a boulder down on someone, and it will roll back and crush you. 26:27
- 34.13 ***The wicked will finally lose; the righteous will finally win. 21:18***
- 34.14 A murderer's conscience will drive him into hell. Don't stop him! 28:17
- 34.15 A man with hate in his heart may sound pleasant enough, but don't believe him; for he is cursing you in his heart. Though he pretends to be so kind, his hatred will finally come to light for all to see. 26:24-26
- 34.16 When an evil man dies, his hopes all perish, for they are based upon this earthly life. 11:7
- 34.17 The Lord hates the stubborn but delights in those who are good. 11:20
- 34.18 There are two things never satisfied, like a leech forever craving more: no, three things! no, four! Hell, the barren womb, a barren desert, fire. 30:15-16
- 34.19 Curses chase sinners, while blessings chase the righteous! 13:21

- 35.1 A false witness shall be punished and a liar shall be caught. 19:9
- 35.2 The curse of God is on the wicked, but His blessing is on the upright. The Lord mocks at mockers, but helps the humble. The wise are promoted to honor, but fools are promoted to shame! 3:33-35

Kingdom Concepts

1. Take charge of your mind.

Discipline it and feed it on a diet of healthy mind food. Develop it into a predetermined code or creed of what we want it to become.

2. Choose your destiny.

You must choose to become something, such as a positive, happy and successful person. A mind cannot be positive without a direction or track to run on. It will focus on something; if you don't give it direction, it will go to the path of least resistance.

3. See beyond the present

Along the way in pursuit of happiness or success, you will run into situations. Within every situation, you must see the future which will take us one step closer to your goal. This brings hope, and hope stimulates and motivates you into action to overcome the situations. Whenever you have discouraging thoughts, you must re-focus on your goal and the rewards of overcoming.

4. You must have the right foundation.

It's one thing to believe, but another thing to have the right to believe. With every goal, there must be the right reason; with every dream, there must be a right purpose; and for success, there must be right principles.

Success is guarded by problems.

This excerpt from the Self-Government Principle of Attitude.

Foundations for
Achievement



WISDOM



THE VOICE OF WISDOM

36.1 Wisdom shouts in the streets for a hearing. She calls out to the crowds along Main Street, and to the judges in their courts, and to everyone in all the land: "You simpletons!" she cries. "How long will you go on being fools? How long will you scoff at wisdom and fight the facts? Come here and listen to me! I'll pour out the spirit of wisdom upon you, and make you wise. I have called you so often but still you won't come. I have pleaded, but all in vain. For you have spurned my counsel and reproof. Some day you'll be in trouble, and I'll laugh! Mock me, will you? I'll mock you! When a storm of terror surrounds you, and when you are engulfed by anguish and distress, then I will not answer your cry for help. It will be too late though you search for me ever so anxiously.

"For you closed your eyes to the facts and did not choose to reverence and trust the Lord, and you turned your back on me, spurning my advice. That is why you must eat the bitter fruit of having your own way and experience the full terrors of the pathway you have chosen. For you turned away from me – to death; your own complacency will kill you. Fools! But all who listen to me shall live in peace and safety, unafraid." 1:20-33

36.2 "I, Wisdom, give good advice and common sense. Because of my strength, kings reign in power, and rulers make just laws. I love all who love me. Those who search for me shall surely find me. Unending riches, honor, justice and righteousness are mine to distribute. My gifts are better than the purest of gold or sterling silver! My paths are those of justice and right. Those who love and follow me are indeed wealthy. I fill their treasuries. The Lord formed me in the beginning, before He created anything else. From ages past, I am. I existed before the earth began. I lived before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters onto the earth; before the mountains and the hills were made. Yes, I was born before God made the earth and fields, and the first handfuls of soil. I was there when He established the heavens and formed the great springs in the depths of the oceans. I was there when He set the limits of the seas and gave them His instructions not to spread beyond their

boundaries. I was there when He made the blueprint for the earth and oceans. I was the craftsman at His side. I was His constant delight, rejoicing always in His presence. And how happy I was with what He created – His wide world and all His family of mankind! And so, young men, listen to me, for how happy are all who follow my instructions.

Listen to my counsel – oh, don't refuse it – and be wise. Happy is the man who is so anxious to be with me that he watches for me daily at my gates, or waits for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the Lord. But the one who misses me has injured himself irreparably; Those who refuse me show that they love death." 8:14-36

37.1 It is God's privilege to conceal things, and the king's privilege to discover and invent. You cannot understand the height of heaven, the size of the earth or all that goes on in the king's mind! 25:23

37.2 To learn, you must want to be taught. To refuse reproof is stupid. 12:1

37.3 Every word of God proves true. He defends all who come to Him for protection. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. 30:5-6

37.4 ***Listen to this wise advice; follow it closely, for it will do you good, and you can pass it on to others: Trust in the Lord. In the past, haven't I been right? Then believe what I am telling you now, and share it with others.*** 22:17-21

37.5 My son, how I will rejoice if you become a man of common sense. Yes, my heart will thrill to your thoughtful, wise words. 23:15-16

37.6 How much better is wisdom than gold, and understanding than silver! 16:16

37.7 The Lord is watching everywhere and keeps His eye on both the evil and the good. 15:3

37.8 My son, honey whets the appetite, and so does wisdom! When you enjoy becoming wise, there is hope for you. A bright future lies ahead! 24:13-14

FRUITS OF WISDOM

37.9 The wise man is known by his common sense, and a pleasant teacher is the best. 16:21

37.10 The advice of a wise man refreshes like water from a mountain spring. Those accepting it become aware of the pitfalls on ahead. 13:14

37.11 A fool's fun is being bad; a wise man's fun is being wise! 10:23

38.1 The anger of the king is a messenger of death and a wise man will appease it. 16:14

38.2 ***A wise man is mightier than a strong man. Wisdom is mightier than strength. 24:5***

38.3 A wise woman builds her house, while a foolish woman tears hers down by her own efforts. 14:1

38.4 ***A man's conscience is the Lord's searchlight exposing his hidden motives. 20:27***

38.5 A growing population is a king's glory; a dwindling nation is his doom. 14:28

38.6 To do right honors God; to sin is to despise Him. 14:2

38.7 To complain about the law is to praise wickedness. To obey the law is to fight evil. 28:4

PROMISES TO THE WISE

38.8 Reverence for God adds hours to each day; so how can the wicked expect a long, good life? The hope of good men is eternal happiness; the hopes of evil men are all in vain. God protects the upright but destroys the wicked. The good shall never lose God's blessings, but the wicked shall lose everything. The good man gives wise advice, but the liar's counsel is shunned. The upright speak what is helpful; the wicked speak rebellion. 10:27-32

38.9 ***The Lord is a strong fortress. The godly run to Him and are safe. 18:10***

38.10 The path of the godly leads to life. So why fear death? 12:28

38.11 Evil men shall bow before the godly. 14:19

38.12 Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. 14:34

38.13 The godly have a refuge when they die, but the wicked are crushed by their sins. 14:32

38.14 Reverence for God gives life, happiness, and protection from harm. 19:23

38.15 Reverence for the Lord is a fountain of life; its waters keep a man from death. 14:27

38.16 A man is a fool to trust himself! But those who use God's wisdom are safe. 28:26

38.17 Wisdom is a fountain of life to those possessing it, but a fool's burden is his folly. 16:22

38.18 Wise men are praised for their wisdom; fools are despised for their folly. 14:24

39.1 Wisdom is enshrined in the hearts of men of common sense, but it must shout loudly before fools will hear it. 14:33

39.2 A mocker never finds the wisdom he claims he is looking for, yet it comes easily to the man with common sense. 14:6

39.3 The simpleton is crowned with folly; the wise man is crowned with knowledge. 14:18

39.4 A rebel's foolish talk should prick his own pride! But the wise man's speech is respected. 14:3

39.5 Fear of man is a dangerous trap, but to trust in God means safety. 29:25

39.6 He who loves wisdom loves his own best interest and will be a success. 19:8

39.7 Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when dreams come true at last, there is life and joy. 13:12

39.8 The depths of hell are open to God's knowledge. How much more the hearts of all mankind! 15:11

39.9 A man with good sense is appreciated. A treacherous man must walk a rocky road. 13:15

39.10 Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep His laws. 29:18

39.11 ***Silver and gold are purified by fire, but God purifies hearts. 17:3***

39.12 If you search for good you will find God's favor; if you search for evil you will find His curse. 11:27

WISE OBSERVATIONS

39.13 I am tired out, O God, and ready to die. I am too stupid even to call myself a human being! I cannot understand man, let alone God. Who else but God goes back and forth to heaven? Who else holds the wind in His fists, and wraps up the oceans in His cloak? Who but God has created the world? If there is any other, what is his name – and his son's name – if you know it? 30:2-4

39.14 There are three things too wonderful for me to understand – no, four!

How an eagle glides through the sky.

How a serpent crawls upon a rock.

How a ship finds its way across the heaving ocean.

The growth of love between a man and a girl. 30:18-19

39.15 There is another thing too: how a prostitute can sin and then say; "What's wrong with that?" 30:20

- 40.1 Just as water is turned into irrigation ditches, so the Lord directs the king's thoughts. He turns them wherever He wants to. 21:1
- 40.2 There are four things that are small but unusually wise:
 Ants: they aren't strong, but store up food for the winter.
 Cliff badgers: delicate little animals who protect themselves by living among the rocks.
 The locusts: though they have no leader, they stay together in swarms.
 The lizards: they are easy to catch and kill, yet are found even in king's palaces! 30:24-28
- 40.3 There are three stately monarchs in the earth – no four:
 The lion, king of the animals. He won't turn aside for anyone.
 The peacock.
 The male goat.
 A king as he leads his army. 30:29-31
- 40.4 There are three things that make the earth tremble – no, four it cannot stand:
 A slave who becomes a king.
 A rebel who prospers.
 A bitter woman when she finally marries.
 A servant girl who marries her mistress' husband. 30:21-23
- 40.5 For these are six things the Lord hates – no, seven:
 Haughtiness,
 Lying,
 Murdering,
 Plotting evil,
 Eagerness to do wrong,
 A false witness,
 Sowing discord among brothers. 6:16-19

IN CONCLUSION...



The man who knows right from wrong and has good judgment and common sense is happier than the man who is immensely rich! For such wisdom is far more valuable than precious jewels. Nothing else compares with it. Wisdom gives:

A long, good life
Riches
Honor
Pleasure
Peace

Wisdom is a tree of life to those who eat her fruit; happy is the man who keeps on eating it.

The Lord's wisdom founded the earth; His understanding established all the universe and space. The deep fountains of the earth were broken open by His knowledge, and the skies poured down rain.

Have two goals: wisdom – knowing and doing right – and common sense. Don't let them slip away; for they fill you with living energy; and bring you honor and respect. They keep you safe from defeat and disaster and from stumbling off the trail. With them on guard you can sleep without fear; and you need not be afraid of disaster or the plots of the wicked men; for the Lord is with you; He protects you.

My son, never forget the things I've taught you. If you want a long and satisfying life, closely follow my instructions. Never tire of loyalty and kindness. Hold these virtues tightly. Write them deep within your heart. If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success. Chapter 3

God's laws are perfect.
They protect us, make us wise and give us joy and light.
They are more desirable than gold.
They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.
For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them.

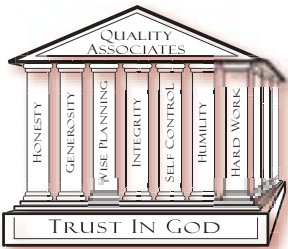
Psalms 19

HOW TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. Acknowledge your need of God, and that without Him you are a failure.
2. Recognize that Jesus is the King, and in charge of the Kingdom.
3. Accept Him as your personal Savior and solution.
4. Ask Him daily to rule and be the Lord of your life, and follow His instructions.

PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Our lives can be built on a foundation of success by putting the following principles in practice:

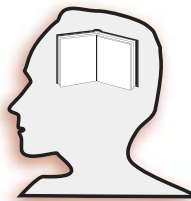


In order to make these principles part of our daily lives, they first need to be implemented in our minds. Our personal behavior begins with the way we think.

ACHIEVING THE CHANGE

By constantly internalizing the Principles given to us by God, and by implementing them in our hearts, we can achieve a renovation of our minds.

Participation in a Roundtable gives you the opportunity to learn and practice the principles.



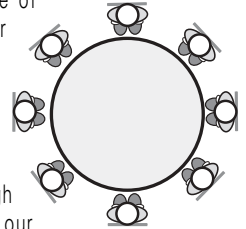
"...As a man thinketh, so is he..."



THE ROUNDTABLE

What is a Roundtable?

The La Red Roundtable is a one hour weekly meeting of up to seven persons. They should be of the same gender, and get together to discuss and analyze a business subject led by a Facilitator.



1. Purpose:

- To renew our minds through new ideas. To develop our minds through discussions of the principles specifically prepared for the Roundtable Network.

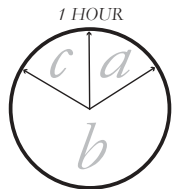
2. Goals:

- Build a transformational group.
- Mentor Personal Growth under God's Umbrella.
- Build a Business Support System.

The Roundtable is divided into the following time frames:

A. First 10 minutes

- Let participants comment on the results of practicing last week's principle. This is done while eating and sharing.



B. Next 40 minutes

- Ask that the principle be read slowly and have people underline the important ideas.
- Equally divide the speaking and reading time among ALL the participants
- Promote the participation of EVERYONE. Have them answer questions.
- Keep the discussion going. Focus on the subject.
- Encourage EVERYONE to take notes.

C Final 10 minutes

- Ask EVERYONE to evaluate themselves from (1 to 10) on the application of each principle studied.
- Pray for all prayer requests.

Foundations for Achievement

*For those who want to lead
a World in Transition...*

These Foundational Principles of God's Kingdom will give you insight into:

- The value of conflicts and how to resolve them
 - The value and purpose of developing your own leaders
 - How to keep your organization on track through proper discipline
 - How to handle pressure without destroying you and others
 - How to plan for positive results
 - How to get the most value out of common sense
 - How to turn problem people into team players
 - How to create a productive environment
- Plus much more of what you need to know to wisely and confidently lead, manage, and supervise yourself and others!

We Build on Absolutes!

This one-year character development program is being used in 5 continents by government officials, business leaders and pastors as a part of building their Nations under God.

INFORMATION

To participate, or for more information about La Red Business Network, call, write, or visit us on the Internet at:



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This ministry is funded through the membership and donations of people who believe that the future is in the Kingdom of God.