

## **STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON**

### **STUDY NUMBER SIX – PROVERBS 2:1-15**

In our last study Solomon thrilled the heart of God, when God gave him an invitation.

And God said, “Whatever you ask I will give you.”

And the Lord said because you have chosen wisdom and knowledge and not wealth, riches, honor, long life and the death of your enemies I am not only going to give you the knowledge and the understanding, but I am going to also give to you riches and wealth and so on and so forth.

And that’s how we ended our last study.

You know, what we really need to do is just stop and we all need to seek wisdom.

Now did Solomon really have wisdom?

Well it is reflected in his writings in the book of Proverbs.

Let’s look at Proverbs 2:1-15 and talk about wisdom and knowledge and the pursuit of each.

Let me remind you that when you start to study the subject of wisdom and understanding you have to realize there are a couple of red lights on the dashboard.

1. The first thing you must remember is that when you ask God for wisdom and knowledge you can also be in danger of becoming a know-it-all and arrogance comes with it.
2. Also one other thing and that is self-righteousness. Oh, I know so much, what new thing can you tell me? And so there is a danger here.

In fact the Lord told Jeremiah the prophet in essence the same thing. In Jeremiah 9:23 listen to this:

### Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.

Swindoll has a little book it is called *Active Spirituality*. It is kind of a reprint of some of his other stuff and in it he talks about how important it is to be a person of depth. He says:

People who really make a dent in society are those who peel off the veneer of shallow superficiality and live authentic lives that have real spiritual depth.

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Now, common denominator, we all want that don't we?

In today's study we are going to see wisdom involves:

- direction
- decision and
- determination

Just like walking a path. The word "path" occurs seven times in today's 15 verses.

**v. 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,**

Now in these first four verses there are two things I want to tell you before we start.

I. There are three "if" clauses. Let's circle them right now:

1. Verse 1 – "if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,"
2. Verse 3 – "if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,"

3. Verse 4 – “if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,”

Did you circle the three “ifs”?

II. Now there are eight verbs in those first four verses, two verbs in each verse. Let's underline them marked because they are going to be important for you as you follow me in this part of the study. Wisdom hangs on the three “ifs” but the verbs also tell you how to acquire it.

1. Verse 1 – “accept” and “store up”
2. Verse 2 – “turning” and “applying”
3. Verse 3 – “call” and “cry”
4. Verse 4 – “look” and “search”

Now having those things in mind, go back to verse 1, the first “if” clause: “if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,”

The psalmist said in Psalm 119, verse 130

Psalm 119:130 (King James Version)

The entrance of your words gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet

**and a light for my path.**

**The key to wisdom in verse 1 is not our “IQ” but our “AQ,” your “acceptance quotient.”**

**It will determine the level of your wisdom and your capabilities for understanding.**

**You say well what do you mean by “acceptance quotient”? Are you willing today, to accept the authority of the Scripture in your life? Are you willing to totally accept the authority of the Word of God and to memorize and hide its precepts in your heart? You see if you will accept my Word, to me that involves a decision, you have to get serious if you are going to experience the fruitage of wisdom that comes from God, if you will accept it.**

**Put yourself under the authority of the Scriptures.  
Psalm 1?**

**Psalm 1:1-3**

**Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.**

**But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.**

**Your first two verbs are “accept” and “store up.”  
“Accept my words” and “store up my commands within  
you.”**

**Now I know some of you are sitting here and you say, I  
cannot do that, well, I just cannot memorize anything, I  
have the hardest time.**

**Really when you begin to make your commitment to  
memorize the Word of God you are cooperating with  
what God wants in giving you wisdom. Now I say that  
because of a lot of what is in the Word of God.**

### **Psalm 119:9-11**

**How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your word.  
I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.  
I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.**

**And how can you fulfill Philippians 4:8 without having  
the Word in your heart?**

### **Philippians 4:8**

**Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.**

**How can you do that if you do not have a USB chip inside that is filled with the Word of God that you can call upon?**

**Paul in Acts 17:11 says:**

**Acts 17:11**

**Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**

**So before God right now what would you say your “acceptance quotient?” What is the level of your respect toward the Word of God and as far as you know are you submitting to the authority of the Word of God in your life? There is the reservoir of wisdom.**

**I always say wisdom resides in two things:**

- 1. the written Word and**
- 2. the Living Word Christ.**

**That is where it is.**

**Right here Solomon starts right out, he says accept it and then store it up in your mind - the Word of God.**

**Here is a verse.**

**2 Kings 22:19**

**Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord . . .**

**My question: is your heart responsive to the Word of God today and do you humble yourself before God to allow Him to speak through His Word?**

**Now what is the opposite of that? Isaiah chapter 1, verse 2.**

**Isaiah 1:2-4**

**Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the Lord; they**

have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.

That is the other side.

Joseph Stowell, president of the Moody Bible Institute, has written a new book called *Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century*. These statistics are a little bit startling, okay.

*(Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century by Joseph M. Stowell)*

Only four out of every ten adults will read any portion of the Bible outside of the church during the week. [*Four out of ten.*]

Those people who do read will commit about one hour to Bible reading during the week. Those people will actually spend more time showering, commuting to and from work, watching television, reading the newspaper, eating meals, or talking on the telephone.  
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...than they do reading the Word of God.

Why do we have such superficial, shallow, spiritual relationships? It is because of the neglect of the Word of God.

George Gritter said it well:

***(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)***

**Read it through; pray it in, live it out; pass it on.**

**—George Gritter**

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**And Martin Luther said:**

***(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)***

**The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.**

**—Martin Luther**

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**Tony Evans says:**

***(The Victorious Christian Life by Dr. Tony Evans)***

**The biblical writers held the pen; God authored the text. From Genesis 1:1 to the last verse in the Book of Revelation, from “pillar to post” and from cover to cover, this book is the absolute, uncompromising, authoritative, inerrant Word of God.**

**pp. 40-41**

**Hold it in your hands, the miracle of composition, the great source of wisdom.**

**F.B. Meyer is one of my favorite writers. When he comes to speak about the Word of God I love what he says:**

***(They Walked with God by James S. Bell, Jr.)***

**The advantages of a deep knowledge of the Bible are more than can be numbered here. It is the Storehouse of the Promises. It is the Sword of the Spirit, before which temptation flees. It is the all-sufficient Equipment of Christian usefulness. It is the believer's Guidebook and Directory in all possible circumstances. Words fail to tell how glad, how strong, how useful shall be the daily life of those who can say with the prophet: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart."**

**F. B. Meyer**

**(06/12)**

**The wise don't expect to find life worth living; they make it that way.**

**Anonymous**

**(From InfoSearch 3.51)**

**They make it that way because they accept the Word of God and they store it up in their lives.**

**So verse 1, first two verbs, tell us it involves an accepting and a storing up.**

Now verse 2, we turn and we apply in verse 2.

**v. 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,**

In verse 1, it is my mind, it is my acceptance.

Now I am looking to the ear and the heart in verse 2. I am turning my ear to wisdom and I am applying my heart to understanding. So your two verbs are “turning” and “applying.”

*“Turning your ear to wisdom.”* Now that involves three things doesn't it?:

1. You must have a desire to listen, don't you?
2. Secondly, you must have humility to be teachable.
3. And third, you must make a decision that you are going to listen.

As men we do not want to listen to anybody else. We want to be self-contained. We want to know all the answers and to ask somebody else is a sign of weakness; it is a sign of inferiority.

And yet the very next thing he says is “turning your ear to wisdom.”

Do you remember in our last study when Solomon was praying, he not only prayed for wisdom and knowledge,

remember what he prayed for? He prayed for a discerning heart. In the Kings passage that word “discerning” is the word for “hearing.” In other words, God give me a hearing heart so I can hear what You are trying to say to me. So the discerning is the hearing.

The problem is, Hebrews 5:11, we may become “dull of hearing.”

### Hebrews 5:11

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

### Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Turn your ear to wisdom. A choice is involved. When you accept something there is a choice. When you turn to accept something you make a choice. And when you apply you make a choice and that is the next phrase.

*“Applying your heart to understanding.”* The choice has to be preceded by the inner desire and now I want to apply my heart to understanding. How do you do that?

**You say, oh, God I really want to understand what You are doing in my life. Oh, God I really want to understand the plan You have for my life because I want to be doing that. Oh, God make clear to me what my role is in this community where I live, in this job where I work. Help me, Father, to understand my spiritual gifts and to be a faithful steward. And so I am applying my heart to understanding. How do you do that?**

- 1. Well number one, you must have an attitude of being teachable, don't you? You have to be willing to be taught.**
- 2. And second, you have to open up your heart and say okay I really do want to understand what is going on.**

**James, chapter 3, verses 14-17 describe the two kinds of wisdom. It describes the wisdom which is from beneath and the wisdom which is from above. I think it is very relevant right now.**

### **James 3:14-17**

**But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom**

from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

That is the difference.

Now look at those four verbs:

1. “ACCEPT my words,”
2. “STORE UP my commands,”
3. “TURNING your ear to wisdom,” and
4. “APPLYING your heart to understanding.”

We’re on a roll?

Look at verse 3. You have two more.

**v. 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,**

Now, we move from:

- the mind
- to the ear
- to the heart
- to the tongue

Now I verbalize it. I verbalize it in my prayer. I “*call out for insight*” and I “*cry aloud for understanding.*” I

use my tongue and I tell God in prayer, O God, I am calling out to you. I am crying aloud.

Job when he speaks of wisdom in Job 28 and he desperately needed it. He said:

Job 28:12

“But where can wisdom be found?  
Where does understanding dwell?

Job 28:20

“Where then does wisdom come from?  
Where does understanding dwell?

And the answer he gives in Job 28:23 is:

Job 28:23

God understands the way to it  
and he alone knows where it dwells,

And Colossians 2:3 tells you where it dwells:

Colossians 2:3

in whom [*Christ*] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**So it is in the person of Christ and it is in the written Word of God that I find the wisdom of God.**

**Now you say, well, man, I've been praying like this for a long time and God doesn't seem to be answering. I don't seem to be any wiser and I'm making some dumb decisions and I feel like a klutz every day I get up. It just seems like God isn't answering.**

**I love what Tony Evans says:**

***(The Promise by Tony Evans)***

**If you have been praying and yet God is silent, let me give you some good news. Whenever God is silent over an extended period of time, it is generally because He has a big one coming through the pipe.**

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**He probably is getting ready to really bless you and you are going to be amazed at all of the things that have happened to bring you to the moment and the significance of what you have to say is going to really touch somebody's heart because that little well inside is beginning to be filled up with the wisdom of God.**

**So call, cry out for it, he says, call for the insight, cry out for the understanding.**

**And then verse 4:**

**v. 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,**

We have verbs seven and eight.

7. *“if you LOOK for it”* and

8. if you *“SEARCH for it.”*

This is the third “if” clause. Now, you will look and you will search, this tells us there is some research involved. This is not going to come to you like goose bumps. It is not going to come to you like warm fuzzies and you are going to feel good because now you have wisdom as this spiritual gift. No, you are going to have to roll up your sleeves and look for it.

And then secondly, you are going to have to search for it like a hidden treasure. That tells me there is a passionate pursuit involved if I am going to be a person who is characterized by a wisdom that Solomon prayed that he would have.

Jeremiah 29:13 would be a good one.

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

When you get serious about this, then you are going to know it.

And then how about Romans 11:33? I call this the diving verse. I love this.

### Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

As you dig in you begin to understand and that is what is wonderful: it does not come by experience, it comes by exploration. You have to look, you have to search, you have to dig for it like you mine for gold and for silver.

Now are you ready for wisdom? You have the three “ifs” and the eight verbs right. Okay what is going to happen?

Look at verse 5.

“*Then*” – when you have a “then” it is going to tell you what is going to happen when you do the other.

v. 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Do you want that? Oh, man, look what you got. Look at the payoff. You are going to “*understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.*” You say now I don’t even know what I got.

Okay, what is, “*understanding the fear of the Lord?*”

Basically it is understanding that God delights to meet you everyday early in the morning. And the level of communion is so sweet and so wonderful you would not trade it for anything in the whole world. When you first get started in this deal and you get thrilled with meeting with God and you sense His presence right there in the room with you, man, there is nothing in the whole world that can take the place of that. You start doing that on a daily basis friend and I’m telling you, you are going to understand the fear of the Lord. You are going to understand that He is right there and He is all ears too and He is listening to you and He is right there with you in that room. And you are going to find the knowledge of God.

And that is what Paul says,

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

Oh, but that I might know Him.

Then he says earlier in the third chapter:

**Philippians 3:8**

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,

The depths, the riches, the wonder that comes, it will be yours but you will look for it and you will search for it, you will understand the fear of the Lord, you will know the knowledge of God.

I put down there **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

However, as it is written, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

And reveals them to us.

So we sit here with a magnificent wonder tonight of what the Lord has prepared for us and we know a little

bit about it when we spend quality time in His presence.

### 1 Corinthians 1:30

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Don't you love verse 6?

**v. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.**

He gives it. Do you want it? We started out wanting it. He is available to give it – “*and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*”

James 1:5 comes to mind.

### James 1:5

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

And so the Lord gives wisdom. But, look at verse 7.

**v. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,**

**Can you think of anything more wonderful than to know that there is victory in the Lord Jesus Christ and that He is your shield.**

**Here's the point. To know and to be aware that He is the one who is going to give the victory.**

**1 Corinthians 15:57**

**but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Not only does He give you the victory but He is your shield.**

**Psalm 84:11**

**For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.**

**And it does not stop there. Look at it. It just keeps getting better.**

**v. 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.**

Let's put those four things together? This is a commitment on the part of God the Father to you as a person as you pursue the path of wisdom.

1. "He holds victory in store for the upright" V.7
2. "he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless," V.7
3. "he guards the course of the just" V.8 and
4. he "protects the way of his faithful ones." V.8

When you get to verse 9 you have another "then". You had a "then" back in verse 5.

**v. 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.**

Is it worth it? What does Micah 6:8 say?

**Micah 6:8**

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Then you are going to understand all of that.

**Proverbs 3:13**

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,  
the man who gains understanding,

Swindoll said this in his *Finishing Touch* which is his devotional book.

*(The Finishing Touch: Becoming God's Masterpiece: A Daily Devotional by Charles R. Swindoll)*

Believers throughout church history—the early church Fathers, the Reformers, the Puritans—have been inspired by these lists to reduce spirituality to two lists known as “the seven sins and the seven virtues”.... The former includes pride, envy, anger, sloth, avarice, gluttony, and lust. The latter includes wisdom, justice, courage, temperance, faith, love, and hope.

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But then he says, listen to Mahatma Gandhi's “seven deadly sins.”

Wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, politics without principle.

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He says it well.

Why do we have such superficial, shallow lives? It is because we do not use what we have up here. We do

not cooperate with the plan of our Father who is waiting to make us into what He wants us to become.

But one writer said it well:

*(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)*

Man is pretty much a fool—  
When it's hot he wants it cool,  
When it's cool he want's it hot,  
Always wanting what it's not.

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Never satisfied.

You are going to understand three things here:

1. What is RIGHT,
2. what is JUST, and
3. what is FAIR.

And then he summarizes it in the last statement:

***“EVERY GOOD PATH.”***

Why? Reason, verse 10.

**v. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.**

**It will just come. It will be there. It is the result of following the path of wisdom.**

**Remember Paul was talking to the Philippians in Philippians 2? He says:**

**Philippians 2:12-13**

**work out your salvation with fear and trembling;  
for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and  
to work for His good pleasure.**

**So you are working out what God has already put in  
and daily in your disciplined walk with God you are  
beginning to understand what God would have you do.**

**v. 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding  
will guard you.**

**Now I realize I am in “fours” today, kind of, but that is  
the way these things break down. Look at verses 10  
and 11 because you have four different words again:**

- 1. “WISDOM will enter your heart”  
oh, boy, that is wonderful**
- 2. “KNOWLEDGE will be pleasant to your soul”**
- 3. “DISCRETION will protect you”**
- 4. “And UNDERSTANDING will guard you.”**

**You are going to be careful. You are going to be cautious. You are going to be concerned that you are walking in the will of God.**

**In his first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln said:**

***(The Essential Abraham Lincoln by John Gabriel Hunt)***

**Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.**

**(Abraham Lincoln in his First Inaugural Address,  
March 4, 1861)**

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***(I'm So Glad You Told Me What I Didn't Wanna Hear by  
Barbara Johnson)***

**The husband and wife were both late for work on Monday morning and were frantically hurrying to get dressed when the zipper on the back of the wife's dress got hopelessly stuck. She struggled to free it, but the dress was one of those slim, fitted styles, and try as she might, she just couldn't get a good enough grip on the zipper to work it loose.**

**She asked her husband to help, and with an exasperated sigh, he hurried over to her, grabbed the zipper, gave it a mighty yank—and broke the tab off!**

The woman was livid. “You *broke* it?” she cried, squirming around to see her back in the mirror. “This is my favorite dress, and you’ve broken the zipper!”

Unfortunately, as the man tried to help with the zipper his wife squirmed and turned frantically, trying to get out of the dress, and the poor man was tickled. *That* didn’t help matters one bit! Finally the wife gave up, jerked open a dresser drawer, pulled out a pair of scissors, and pointed them at him with a glacier-forming stare.

The husband thought at first she might be planning to attack him with the weapon, but instead she barked at him, “You’ll have to cut me out of it.”

He quickly snipped away the dress and the wife rushed to find something else to wear, then the two of them headed off to work in opposite directions, both in a state of frustration.

The wife was still fuming when she returned home that evening and found his car parked in the garage with a pair of familiar-looking, denim-clad legs sticking out from beneath it. When she thought of her ruined dress, she momentarily considered kicking those long legs that protruded from under the car. Then a better idea came to her. She bent down, grabbed the tab of his trousers zipper, and roughly zipped it up and down half a dozen times.

She secretly enjoyed hearing him bang his head on the car’s axle and cry out in alarm as he reacted in shocked terror. Smiling with satisfaction, she went on into the house . . . and was **ASTONISHED** to see *her husband* standing in the kitchen, cooking supper.

“What are you doing in HERE?” she croaked.

“I’m cooking your favorite dinner. I thought it would be a good way to apologize,” he said sweetly.

“Wh-wh-who is that out there in the garage under your car?” she managed to stutter.

“Oh, that’s our new neighbor. He came over to help me work on the transmission.”

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*“Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.”*

**v. 12** Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

And those men are described in verse 13.

**v. 13** who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,

Instead of saying ...

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light for my path.

...they go away.

And then Donald Luce says:

*(Time-Out Leadership by Donald Luce)*

Choose where you are going. Keep moving. Keep developing. Dedicate yourself to worthy lifework. You will find that happiness and contentment stay as long as you are moving toward something notable.

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And this great quotation by Katie Wiebe:

*(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)*

I sense an attitude in students and even in older Christians . . . to commit themselves to anything as “long as they feel good about it” and are having a “beautiful” experience. Such an approach to life seems as dependable as a roof shored up by a wet noodle.

—Katie Funk Wiebe

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Recognizing the fact that that is not the way to walk.

These people delight in doing wrong and they rejoice in the perverseness of evil.

**v. 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,**

**You have four statements there:**

- 1. their “words are perverse,”**
- 2. they “leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,”**
- 3. they “delight in doing wrong” and**
- 4. they “rejoice in the perverseness of evil”**

**v. 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.**

**WOW! What a description:**

**their “words are perverse,”**

**they “leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,”**

**they “delight in doing wrong” and**

**they “rejoice in the perverseness of evil,”**

**their “paths are crooked” and**

**they “are devious in their ways.”**

**But they do not get away with it.**

**Proverbs 5 by Eugene H. Peterson.**

***(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)***

## Proverb 5

Mark well that God doesn't miss a move you make;  
he's aware of every step you take.

The shadow of your sin will overtake you;  
you'll find yourself stumbling all over yourself  
in the dark.

Death is the reward of an undisciplined life;  
your foolish decisions trap you in a dead end.

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What I want to do now, I want to end with a couple of statements but then I want us to pray a prayer that Max Lucado concludes one of his chapters in *Gentle Thunder* with this.

**Max Lucado concludes one of his chapters in *Gentle Thunder* with prayer.**

**Max Lucado's prayer:**

**Precious Father, I praise your name. You have reclaimed so much in my life. I was lost, and you found me. I was confused, and you guided me. I had nothing to offer, but still you loved me.**

**I confess that I still need help. I have a part of my life that needs your touch. Satan is battling for a garden in my heart. Don't let him win. Drive him out. He is a liar and has been since the beginning. Please defeat him. I'll give you the glory.**

**And here are the two prayers where you fill in the blank:**

- 1. Father, here is the area where I need your strength \_\_\_\_\_ . Each of us brings something today to fill into that blank, what is it? And tell the Father.**
- 2. Secondly, Father here is the area where I need your wisdom \_\_\_\_\_ . Now carefully fill in the blank.**

## **LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

**LESSON #1: It is in the written Word, the Bible, and the Living Word, Christ, that we find the wisdom of God.**

**LESSON #2: If we would have His wisdom, “we must accept his words and store up His commands within us.”**

**LESSON #3: Choice is involved in accepting and turning and applying.**

**LESSON #4: Desire, humility, and decision are all involved in the acquisition of wisdom.**

**LESSON #5: We must “call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding.”**

**LESSON #6: If we would gain wisdom, we must “look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure.”**

**LESSON #7: It is “the Lord [who] gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.”**

**LESSON #8: When we have wisdom “we will understand what is right and just and fair.”**

**LESSON #9: “Wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.”**

**LESSON #10: The fake, the superficial, and the shallow will depart with the coming of God’s wisdom.**

**LESSON #11: Wisdom protects us from the “wicked . . . whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, and whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.”**

**LESSON #12: The walk of the wicked is “crooked,” and their ways are “devious.”**

**STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON**  
**STUDY NUMBER SIX — PROVERBS 2:1-15**

Notes

Proverbs 2:1-15

**v. 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,**

**v. 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,**

**v. 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,**

**v. 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,**

**v. 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.**

**v. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.**

**v. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,**

**v. 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.**

**v. 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.**

**v. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.**

**v. 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.**

**v. 12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,**

**v. 13 who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,**

**v. 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,**

**v. 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.**

**QUESTIONS:**

**1. Read Proverbs 2:1-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.**

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**2. Outline the three “if” clauses in verses 1-4.**

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**3. What two things will result from pursuing wisdom, according to verse 5?**

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**4. What does the Lord do for us, according to verse 6?**

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**5. What does the Lord do for his faithful ones, according to verse 8?**

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**6. Describe the good path, according to verse 9.**

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**7. What will wisdom do for us, according to verse 12?**

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**8. Describe the wicked men in verses 12-15.**

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**9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

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**10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

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