



Early Childhood Education (Proverbs 3:1-35)

Wise Counsel: Do not forget...!

"My son, do not forget my law, **But let your heart keep my commands;** For **length of days** and **long life** And **peace** they will add to you. Let not **mercy and truth** forsake you; **Bind them around your neck,** Write them on the **tablet of your heart,** And so **find favor and high esteem** In the sight of God and man. **Trust in the Lord with all your heart,** And **lean not on your own understanding;** **In all your ways acknowledge Him,** And **He shall direct your paths.** **Do not be wise in your own eyes;** **Fear the Lord and depart from evil.** It will be **health** to your flesh, And **strength** to your bones. **Honor the Lord with your possessions,** And with **the firstfruits of all your increase;** So **your barns will be filled** with plenty, And your **vats will overflow** with new wine. Proverbs 3:1-10 NKJV

Proverbs 3:1-10

☑ *"My son, do not forget my law, But let **your heart** keep my commands; For **length of days** and **long life** And **peace** they will add to you."* Proverbs 3:1-2 NKJV

☑ **Do not forget my—keep it in your heart!**

☑ God's commands are most valuable when they are "top of mind!" You can view them as burdensome restrictions, or you can see them as a top priority, valuable guidelines from a loving Father!

☑ A Timeless Truth!

☑ *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"* Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV

☑ *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and keep His commandments.** For this is the love of God, that **we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**"* I John 5:2-3 NKJV

☑ **Benefits!**

- Length of days:** Each day you live will afford you a sense that you have extra hours to seek and accomplish God's purpose for your life!
- Long life:** When you obey the owners manual of the One who created you, all things in your life work better, and will last longer—including your lifespan!
- Peace:** The fruit of a life of obedience is a sense of freedom from burdens, because when God's way is the only way you are totally FREE!

- "Let not **mercy** and **truth** forsake you; Bind them **around your neck**, Write them on **the tablet of your heart**, And so **find favor** and **high esteem** In the sight of God and man."* Proverbs 3:3-4 NKJV
- Make these a priority...**
 - Mercy:** as God has treated you, treat other. Freely forgive as you have been freely forgiven. Offer others your goodness when they don't deserve it. Withhold consequences when they do deserve it.
 - "But go and learn what this means: '**I desire mercy and not sacrifice.**' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."* Matthew 9:13 NKJV

- Truth:** Deception is extremely damaging and there is nothing more deceptive than self-deception. There is nothing more freeing than the truth and there is no greater truth than Christ!
- "Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
John 14:6 NKJV
- "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" [36] Therefore **if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**"* John 8:31-32, 36 NKJV
- Bind and Write...**
 - Bind Mercy and Truth around your neck:** Let them be worn on the outside of your person for all the world to see.
 - Write Mercy and Truth on the tablet of your heart:** Let them be what invades your mind and inspires your every thought!
 - "Your word I have **hidden in my heart,** That I might not sin against You."* Psalms 119:11 NKJV
- Benefits in the sight of God and man!**

- ☑ **Find favor:** You will experience an advantage in every endeavor!
- ☑ **High esteem:** You will be well regarded and enjoy an impeccable reputation.

- ☑ ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV***
- ☑ **Famous Verse Alert! (And rightfully so!)**
 - ☑ What does it say to God when we do our own thing, when we search our own heart and rack our own brain to make a decision, to find an answer, to solve a problem?
 - ☑ It says we DO NOT trust God!
- ☑ **Better to seek His voice...**
 - ☑ When we submit to what the Lord desires for us, His will for our lives in EVERY area, we are guaranteed to be on the right path!
 - ☑ *“A man’s heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9 NKJV*
 - ☑ Some ways you might know it’s is the voice of God!
 - ☑ Conviction
 - ☑ His Word
 - ☑ Wise Counsel (Discipling)

- ☑ A timely message (a sermon, a friend, a stranger)
- ☑ Prayer
- ☑ Peace

- ☑ *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be **health** to your flesh, And **strength** to your bones."* Proverbs 3:7-8 NKJV
- ☑ **The opposite of trusting the Lord!**
 - ☑ The single worst thing you can do as a believer is to think you are smart enough to go it alone!
 - ☑ *"Don't worry God; I got it from here!"* Words spoken by every Christian who ultimately came to the same conclusion... *"I regret not seeking the Lord, or not waiting on the Lord, or not properly interpreting the Lord's instructions, before I chose..."*
- ☑ **We already learned...**
 - ☑ *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."* Proverbs 1:7 NKJV
 - ☑ It will keep you from wicked ways and wicked people!
 - ☑ It will preserve your life!

☑ *"Honor the Lord **with your possessions**, And with the **firstfruits** of all your increase; So **your barns will be filled with plenty**, And your **vats will overflow with new wine**." Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV*

☑ **Where did it come from and how did it get there?**

☑ Everything you have comes from God, 100% of it. He puts the breath in your lungs, and He alone is the author of your success. It's all His and you get to use it!

☑ *"**Do not be deceived**, my beloved brethren. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down **from the Father** of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. **Of His own will** He brought us forth by the word of truth, **that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures**." James 1:16-18 NKJV*

☑ Notice that this is not a simple math formula meant to be used to calculate a percentage of your income that you can donate back to your church or favorite charity.

☑ Yes, you should give to your church and to other good causes, but it is MORE THAN THAT. All of your possessions are on loan from God—every good thing.

- As such, consider the best of it and offer it back to God as a gesture of understanding from where it comes! And then, step back and watch what happens!
- “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and **running over** will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”* Luke 6:38 NKJV
- Your Generosity equals filled barns and overflowing vats!**
- This is the one thing God will continually test. Will you live your life with an open hand?
- “**Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me!** But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ **In tithes and offerings.** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. **Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,** That there may be food in My house, **And try Me now in this,**” Says the Lord of hosts, **“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,** So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; “And all*

nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:8-12 NKJV

- ☑ **Prayer:** *"What is mine is Yours God. Use it as you wish. I acknowledge that really it is all Yours and that I am just a grateful steward who happily enjoys what You have graciously given to me. It is not I who generously gives a portion of what is mine to You; it is You who allows me to use what is Yours, and that is 100% of everything I have!"*
- ☑ An Excellent Business Plan!
- ☑ *"But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, **always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*****" II Corinthians 9:6-8 NKJV
- ☑ Offer everything you have to God for Him to use as He pleases. Do so with a pure heart and sincere desire to honor God. And you will ALWAYS...
- ☑ Have an adequate supply of anything you need!
- ☑ An overflow of success in the work of your hands!

- ☑ NOTE: this is NOT limited to money!
- ☑ If you forget...
 - ☑ *““And you shall remember the Lord your God, for **it is He who gives you power to get wealth**, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then it shall be, **if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods**, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that **you shall surely perish**.” Deuteronomy 8:18-19 NKJV*
 - ☑ If you forget... that your success and abundance comes from God and not because you are some wildly intelligent entrepreneur, and...
 - ☑ If you forget... to give God all the credit and become enamored with the items of your success instead, then...
 - ☑ What you have will ultimately shrivel into a worthless bag of dust.
 - ☑ NOTE: you will find yourself forever chasing things to make you happy, and you will never be satisfied, as you will never find the true source of joy!

- ☑ *"Now **godliness with contentment is great gain**. For we **brought nothing into this world**, and it is certain **we can carry nothing out**." 1 Timothy 6:6-7 NKJV*

Wise Counsel: Do not despise...!

*"**My son**, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; For **whom the Lord loves He corrects**, Just as a father the son in whom he delights. **Happy** is the man who **finds wisdom**, And the man who **gains understanding**; For her proceeds are **better than the profits of silver**, And her gain than fine **gold**. She is **more precious than rubies**, And all the things you may desire **cannot compare** with her. **Length of days** is in her right hand, In her left hand **riches and honor**. Her ways are ways of **pleasantness**, And all her paths are **peace**. She is a **tree of life** to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her. The Lord **by wisdom founded the earth**; **By understanding He established the heavens**; By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew." Proverbs 3:11-20 NKJV*

Proverbs 3:11-21

- ☑ *"My son, **do not despise the chastening of the Lord**, Nor detest His **correction**; For **whom the Lord loves He corrects**,*

*Just as a father the son in whom he delights.” Proverbs
3:11-12 NKJV*

- ☑ **There is no better commentary on this than in the letter to the Hebrews 12:5-11!**
- ☑ “And you **have forgotten** the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:
- ☑ “My son, **do not despise the chastening** of the Lord, **Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked** by Him; For **whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.**”
- ☑ If you endure chastening, **God deals with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?
- ☑ But if you are **without chastening**, of which all have become partakers, then **you are illegitimate and not sons.**
- ☑ Furthermore, we have had **human fathers who corrected us**, and we paid them respect. **Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**
- ☑ For they **indeed for a few days chastened us** as seemed best to them, **but He for our profit**, that we may be **partakers of His holiness.**

- Now ***no chastening seems to be joyful*** for the present, ***but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness*** to those who have been ***trained by it.***

- "***Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.***" Proverbs 3:13-18 NKJV

- Reminder...**
 - Knowledge:** the acquisition of God's intent on any matter.
 - Understanding:** the proper perception of God's intention.
 - Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge and understanding.
 - The man who places the greatest value on these things is the man who finds utter contentment.

- ☑ They are worth more than any physical possession you could chase all the days of your life! The comparison is not even close.
- ☑ **FOUR-FOR-ONE!**
- ☑ Seek the most important things and you can have it all!
- ☑ Want it all (length of days, riches, honor, peace)? Take and eat from the Tree of Life!
- ☑ Remember Proverbs 3:1-2: *"My son, do not forget my law, But let **your heart** keep my commands; For **length of days** and **long life** And **peace** they will add to you."*
- ☑ **Length of days:** Each day you live will afford you a sense that you have extra hours to seek and accomplish God's purpose for your life!
- ☑ **Long life:** When you obey the owners manual of the One who created you, all things in your life work better, and will last longer—including your lifespan!
- ☑ **Peace:** The fruit of a life of obedience is a sense of freedom from burdens, because when God's way is the only way you are totally FREE!
- ☑ Here is how to have it all! *"**She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.**"*
- ☑ *"Therefore I say to you, **do not worry** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your*

body, what you will put on. **Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.** Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? **Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.** Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?** “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:25-34 NKJV

☑ *“The Lord **by wisdom founded the earth**; By understanding He **established the heavens**; By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.” Proverbs 3:19-20 NKJV*

☑ **Wisdom Personified AGAIN!**

☑ In Chapter one, Proverbs 1:20-33, wisdom was personified as a ***woman** and we learned that it was an allusion to the **Holy Spirit** (See [The Call of Wisdom](#)).

Now we see wisdom personified as the **Son!**

☑ Yes, the Holy Spirit and the Son share character traits. For instance... neither speak on their own but humbly do what they are told.

☑ **The Son:** *“Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do**; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. “ John 5:19 NKJV*

☑ **The Holy Spirit:** *“However, when [***She**], the Spirit of truth, has come, [***She**] will guide you into all truth; for [***She**] will not speak on [***Her**] own authority, but whatever [***She**] hears [***She**] will speak; and [***She**] will tell you things to come.” John 16:13 NKJV*

- ☑ Now we see wisdom's connection to the One through whom there was creation; *"The Lord **by wisdom founded the earth.**" That was the Son!*
- ☑ *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**"* John 1:1-3 NKJV
- ☑ *"**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**"* Colossians 1:15-17 NKJV

Wise Counsel: Do not let them not depart from your eyes...!

"My son, let them not depart from your eyes— Keep sound wisdom and discretion; So they will be **life** to your soul And **grace** to your neck. Then you will **walk safely** in your way, And your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your **sleep will be sweet**. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; For

the Lord will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught. **Do not withhold good** from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, **“Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it,”** When you have it with you. **Do not devise evil** against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety’s sake. **Do not strive** with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm. **Do not envy** the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; For **the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord**, But **His secret counsel is with the upright**. The **curse of the Lord** is on the house of the wicked, But He **blesses the home of the just**. Surely He **scorns the scornful**, But **gives grace to the humble**. The wise shall **inherit glory**, But shame shall be the **legacy of fools.**” Proverbs 3:21-35 NKJV

Proverbs 3:21-35

☑ *“My son, **let them not depart** from your eyes— **Keep sound wisdom and discretion**; So they will be **life to your soul** And **grace to your neck**. Then you will **walk safely** in your way, And your **foot will not stumble**. When you lie down, you will **not be afraid**; Yes, you will lie down and **your sleep will be sweet**. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; For **the Lord will be your confidence**,*

*And will keep your foot from being caught.” Proverbs 3:21-26
NKJV*

☑ **There is nothing like a peaceful night’s sleep!**

- ☑ Maintain a lifelong reverence for wisdom as your counsel and chief advisor in every decision. The benefit are immeasurable.
 - ☑ An infusion of godly energy to you mind, will, emotions, intention and inspirations.
 - ☑ Ongoing access to divine power that exudes from your very being and changes the atmosphere when you enter the room—as you foster the presence of God!
 - ☑ A sense of security in your inner being in all of life’s endeavors.
 - ☑ Every step you take will feel sure footed: *“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, **for if you do these things you will never stumble;**”* II Peter 1:10 NKJV
 - ☑ Your sleep will be surrounded by contentment, fulfillment, confidence and peace.
- ☑ ***“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it,”***

When you have it with you. Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety's sake.“ Proverbs 3:27-29 NKJV

☑ **Your fruitful life is NOT ABOUT YOU!**

☑ No better way to say than how Peter says...

☑ *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to **virtue** knowledge, to **knowledge** self-control, to **self-control** perseverance, to **perseverance** godliness, to **godliness** brotherly kindness, and to **brotherly kindness love**. For if these things are yours and abound, **you will be neither barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* II Peter 1:5-8 NKJV

☑ If you have the power to do good for someone—DO IT! Not doing so is actually evil because God places those in need in your life to **DEPEND ON YOU** and they **NEED YOU** to be Godly!

☑ The entire reason you are blessed is to be a blessing to others. You are blessed to be a blessing.

☑ *“I will make you a great nation; **I will bless you** And make your name great; And **you shall be a blessing.**”*
Genesis 12:2 NKJV

☑ **Look at the pattern**

- (the foundation) Faith | (the Practice) Virtue, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance | (the outcome) Godliness | (the outflow) Brotherly Kindness, Love

- "Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm." Proverbs 3:30 NKJV*
- Do not invite unnecessary conflicts into your life; they will only be a distraction!**
- Paul says it simply...
 - "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18 NKJV*

- "Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; For the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord, But His secret counsel is with the upright. The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools." Proverbs 3:31-35 NKJV*
- Take a long look at those who abuse and take advantage of others...**
 - Don't join them! It will end badly for both of you!
 - Stark Contrasts...**

- ☑ (1) The person whose priorities are twisted to favor themselves, at all times, is grossly detestable to the Lord. But God will inhabit the mind of the person who is honest and has pure intentions to help others!
- ☑ (2) The Lord brings affliction, plagues and destruction into the lives of twisted individuals, but He pours out favor and abundance on those who are fair-minded, equitable, generous, and honest.
- ☑ (3) God brings punishment on those whose intent is to punish others, but He empowers those with contrite hearts.
- ☑ (4) Live with wisdom from your youth and your ending will be glorious. Choose the way of the fool and, in the end, all you will have is disappointment and regret.

NEXT TEACHING

The Benefits of Wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-27)