



Ancient Words of Wisdom: Volume 4

Ancient Words of Wisdom (92-116): Proverbs 13:1-25

“A wise son listens to his father’s instruction, but a scoffer doesn’t listen to rebuke. By the fruit of his lips, a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful crave violence. He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing, but the desire of the diligent shall be fully satisfied. A righteous man hates lies, but a wicked man brings shame and disgrace. Righteousness guards the way of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. There are some who pretend to be rich, yet have nothing. There are some who pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth. The ransom of a man’s life is his riches, but the poor hear no threats. The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out. Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is with people who take advice. Wealth gained dishonestly dwindles away, but he who gathers by hand makes it grow. Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when longing is fulfilled, it is a tree of life. Whoever despises

instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command will be rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a spring of life, to turn from the snares of death. Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard. Every prudent man acts from knowledge, but a fool exposes folly. A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy gains healing. Poverty and shame come to him who refuses discipline, but he who heeds correction shall be honored. Longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil. One who walks with wise men grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Misfortune pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous. A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored for the righteous. An abundance of food is in poor people's fields, but injustice sweeps it away. One who spares the rod hates his son, but one who loves him is careful to discipline him. The righteous one eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the belly of the wicked goes hungry." Proverbs 13:1-25 WEBUS

Ancient Words of Wisdom (92-116)

92. "A wise son ***listens to his father's instruction***, but a scoffer ***doesn't listen to rebuke.***" Proverbs 13:1

Belligerent

- ☑ It is common as children grows and begin to make decisions about the world around them that they start to question the instructions of their own parents.
- ☑ It is not a point of disrespect. Every parent should hope their children learn to exercise their thinking apparatus.
- ☑ However, that is not the same as a child becoming arrogant, concluding that they know it all, or minimally that they know more than their parents.
- ☑ This is often revealed during a time of correction when differing opinions emerge.
- ☑ A know-it-all child risks developing a habit of ridiculing their parents advice, oftentimes becoming belligerent to their own detriment.

93. “By the **fruit of his lips**, a man enjoys good things, but the **[soul of the] unfaithful** crave violence.” Proverbs 13:2

☑ **Soul-Food**

- ☑ A man’s words have within them the power of life and death, richness and poverty.
- ☑ Words come in two flavors; those he looses from his mouth and those that speak to him internally.

- ☑ A man who believes he need not be accountable to the living God is free to speak anything he wishes and usually uses his words to harm others.
- ☑ Ironically, he also freely wounds himself by feeding on self-talk that is an assault to his very own soul.

94. “He who **guards his mouth** guards [preserves] his soul. One who **opens wide his lips** comes to ruin.” Proverbs 13:3

☑ **Restraint**

- ☑ If go back one verse and take a moment to contemplate the power of words, it makes perfect sense why a man must exercise utter restraint, to guard his words as if they are precious jewels.
- ☑ A man’s soul, his mind, will, emotions, intentions, motivations, inspirations, and aspirations are all shaped with his words.
- ☑ A man who cares for his words like they are his most valuable asset will prosper; a man who treats his words like a cheap bag of chips that he purchased at a 24-hour convenience store will find they serve as a detrimental self-fulfilling prophecy.

95. “The **soul of the sluggard** desires, and has nothing, but the **desire of the diligent** shall be fully satisfied.” Proverbs 13:4

Diligence

- To cultivate a healthy soul: mind, will, emotions, intentions, motivations, inspirations, and aspirations, takes effort.
- A man who is not willing to do the work, to meditate on his desires and affirm they are from the Lord, and to then step out and actually act on where the Lord leads him, is a man who waves a banner over his head that reads, “Wishful Thinking.”
- But, a man who is willing to do the mental and physical work will be fulfilled by what he produces and by the satisfaction he feels for putting in the effort!

96. “A righteous man **hates lies**, but a wicked man **brings shame** and **disgrace**.” Proverbs 13:5

Intentional

- A man who knows that what he says and does is constantly being evaluated by God is very careful about how he lives.
- He measures carefully what he says, how he acts, and is concerned about what impression he makes on others.

- ☑ If a man has no reverence for God he could not care less what others conclude about him and thus he makes no efforts to keep himself in check.

97. *“Righteousness **guards** the way of **integrity**, but wickedness **overthrows** the sinner.” Proverbs 13:6*

☑ Assurance

- ☑ A man of God will seek the Lord’s approval in every arena of life and thus his testimony is consistent; his lifestyle is an exact reflection of what he claims to believe. A man of integrity is never worried that he may have fooled someone and thus lives with “peace of mind”.
- ☑ It is not the same for an unrighteous man; he is vulnerable to being exposed for his inauthenticity. He lives in constant risk of hearing the “piece of mind” of someone he crossed.

98. *“There are some who **pretend to be rich**, yet have nothing. There are some who **pretend to be poor**, yet have great wealth.” Proverbs 13:7*

☑ Insecurity

- ☑ Self-conscious, people-pleasing, approval-seekers are more concerned about what others think than the truth.
- ☑ A man who is secure in his identity need not hyper-focus on impressing on others.

99. “The **ransom of a man’s life** is his riches, but the **poor hear no threats [rebuke].**” Proverbs 13:8

☑ **Distractions**

- ☑ A wealthy man has much to lose and many concerns. He is at constant risk of making choices that prioritize the preservation of his status among men rather than caring more about his good reputation with God.
- ☑ A man with few possessions does not feel the constant pressure to protect his stuff and thus he has fewer temptations to make choices that will not be looked upon favorably by God.

100. “The **light of the righteous** shines brightly, but the **lamp of the wicked** is snuffed out.” Proverbs 13:9

☑ **Illumination**

- ☑ You can either be a source of light or a source of darkness. And for clarity, darkness is simply the absence of light.

- ☑ One lights the path for others to make God-honoring decisions.
- ☑ The other throws blackout curtains over the truth in hopes of steering others off a cliff.

101. "***Pride*** only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is with people who ***take advice***." Proverbs 13:10

☑ **Contrarian**

- ☑ There is a man who will always contend for the opposite of what is being said.
- ☑ He has no concern for truth or facts; his food is contention and his soul feeds on conflict.
- ☑ Another man is open-minded; truth matters more to this man than the need to be right.

102. "***Wealth gained dishonestly*** dwindles away, but he who ***gathers by hand*** makes it grow." Proverbs 13:11

☑ **Sustainability**

- ☑ Some men will do whatever it takes to get rich because the material wealth itself is the ultimate destination; when he arrives at his journey's end he will sadly discover that the stuff that he chased is being sucked into a sinkhole into which he cannot follow. He will find

himself stranded at the wrong location with empty pockets.

- ☑ A man who works hard and keeps his priorities in order will become wealthy in due time; he will not chase material wealth into dangerous neighborhoods. Instead, his riches are spread over all areas of his life: spiritual, relational, material, physical, and emotional. His wealth is safe, healthy, and sustainable.

103. "**Hope deferred** makes the heart sick, but **when longing [desire] is fulfilled**, it is a tree of life." Proverbs 13:12

☑ Hope

- ☑ Hope is experienced on two sides of the same coin.
- ☑ It fuels a man's perseverance while simultaneously yielding disappointment when he reaches the end of the next bend in the road only to find another expansive vista with no end in sight.
- ☑ And then there is that life-changing moment when he peaks around the bend and smacks right into for what he's been waiting, for so long, and the feeling of satisfaction is exhilarating.

104. “Whoever **despises instruction** will pay for it, but he who **respects a command** will be rewarded.” Proverbs 13:13

☑ **Reverence**

- ☑ There are many reasons to honor the advice of a man to whom there deserves deep respect.
- ☑ First, it demonstrates reverence for one who has earned a place of honor. Plus, a man wise enough to take the advice of an honorable man will benefit immeasurably, while a man who shuns the wise counsel of an experienced elder oftentimes pays a hefty price.

105. “The **teaching of the wise** is a spring of life, to **turn** from the **snare of death**.” Proverbs 13:14

☑ **Fertilizer**

- ☑ A man who amalgamates into his life the ancient wisdom of men who have proven to be trustworthy to the Lord will find he has planted his seeds in fertile soil.
- ☑ A man who shuns such wisdom invites barrenness and decay into his fields.

106. “**Good understanding** wins favor, but **the way of the unfaithful** is hard.” Proverbs 13:15

☑ **Appropriation**

- ☑ It is one thing to acknowledge wise words on paper; it is all together different to take those words and put them into practice. That is what it looks like to truly understand them. He who does so has an advantage every time.
- ☑ A man who is exposed to the truth, and yet chooses to follow a different path will find himself on a twisted rocky road.

107. “Every prudent man **acts from knowledge**, but a fool **exposes folly**.” Proverbs 13:16

☑ **Behavior**

- ☑ To truly know something means that it has become intimately woven into your life. Actual knowledge informs and then changes behavior.
- ☑ Only a fool will disregard valuable information. When a man knows something is true and then ignores the obvious facts, it reveals his foolish nature.

108. “A **wicked messenger** falls into trouble, but a **trustworthy envoy** gains healing.” Proverbs 13:17

☑ **Ambassador**

- ☑ An authentic ambassador is a perfect copy of whom he is a spokesman. His character and the message he carries is

a true representation of his master's wishes, beliefs, intentions, and authority.

- ☑ A man who is rather a counterfeit speaks on behalf of himself, represents his own will, and is inspired by selfish ulterior motives. He will eventually be indicted for his fraudulent nature.

109. *"Poverty and shame come to him who **refuses discipline**, but he who **heeds correction** shall be honored." Proverbs 13:18*

☑ Dismissive

- ☑ A man with a dismissive attitude, who refuses to be guided and corrected, is a man who soon comes to ruin.
- ☑ A man who is willing to be wrong and is open to good advice, and then allows that advice to change his course, is a man who will succeed.

110. *"**Longing fulfilled** is sweet to the soul, but fools **detest turning from evil**." Proverbs 13:19*

☑ Patience

- ☑ Oftentimes, even the righteous things a man longs for are not forthcoming in his desired timeframe. However, the longer it takes for his dreams to come into fruition, the sweeter they are when they do.

- ☑ A foolish man is unwilling to wait for his desires to be fulfilled. He is easily persuaded to take the path of least resistance to get what he wants, even if that path is paved with darkness.

111. “One who **walks with wise men** grows wise, but a **companion of fools** suffers harm.” Proverbs 13:20

- ☑ **Companions**

- ☑ A man is the sum total of the people with whom he spends the greatest amount of time. If he fellowships with selfless men of love, faith, honor, integrity, wisdom, and success, he too will become those things.
- ☑ A man who commiserates with imbeciles and surrounds himself with self-centered, lazy, unproductive, unmotivated, uninspired, and faithless men, he too will become those things.

112. “Misfortune **pursues sinners**, but prosperity **rewards the righteous**.” Proverbs 13:21

- ☑ **Destiny**

- ☑ It is not a coincidence that tragedy chases down workers of iniquity and slays them.

- ☑ It is also not a coincidence that faithful men of excellent character, who aim to please God, are rich in all arenas of life—spirit, soul, and body.

113. “A good man **leaves an inheritance** to his children’s children, but the **wealth of the sinner** is stored for the righteous.”

Proverbs 13:22

- ☑ **Legacy**

- ☑ A man of God does not chase down riches because he desires to live a lavish life of extravagance and self indulgence. He considers his wealth as a benefit for others, including his own children and grandchildren.
- ☑ A man filled with iniquity sees material wealth as his final destination. Ironically, the pleasure of his riches is his final reward because in eternity he will look back and see it was his only benefit. Even more ironic is that all that wealth will be left behind for someone else to enjoy.

114. “An **abundance of food** is in poor people’s fields, but injustice **sweeps it away.**” Proverbs 13:23

- ☑ **Injustice**

- ☑ All the earth is the Lord's and its provision is for His people. But evil men strain to obfuscate God's provision with red tape and unjust policies.
- ☑ Fortunately, the greater promise is that the meek will inherit the earth and the food they will harvest is eternal. Those who intended to oppress them are the ones who will experience the ultimate famine.

115. "One who **s pares the rod** hates his son, but one who loves him is careful to **discipline him**." Proverbs 13:24

☑ **Chastening**

- ☑ To let sin go unrecognized or unpunished is not love. Permissiveness is a sign of passive aggression and reveals your contempt for another.
- ☑ One who loves his neighbor or his child will lovingly point out his transgression, which allows for correction.

116. "The righteous one eats to the **satisfying of his soul**, but the belly of the wicked **goes hungry**." Proverbs 13:25

☑ **Want**

- ☑ When the only food that will satisfy your mind, will, emotions, intentions, motivations, inspirations, and

aspirations, is the food that feeds God's desires for you, you will be truly fulfilled.

- ☑ But, if your desires are fueled by darkness, you will never feel satisfied, no matter how much junk food of self-indulgence you consume.

NEXT TEACHING

Ancient Words of Wisdom: Volume 5 (Proverbs 14:1-35)