



Ancient Words of Wisdom: Volume 5

Ancient Words of Wisdom (117-151): Proverbs 14:1-35

“Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands. He who walks in his uprightness fears Yahweh, but he who is perverse in his ways despises him. The fool’s talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them. Where no oxen are, the crib is clean, but much increase is by the strength of the ox. A truthful witness will not lie, but a false witness pours out lies. A scoffer seeks wisdom, and doesn’t find it, but knowledge comes easily to a discerning person. Stay away from a foolish man, for you won’t find knowledge on his lips. The wisdom of the prudent is to think about his way, but the folly of fools is deceit. Fools mock at making atonement for sins, but among the upright there is good will. The heart knows its own bitterness and joy; he will not share these with a stranger. The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish. There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Even in laughter the heart may be sorrowful, and mirth may end in

heaviness. The unfaithful will be repaid for his own ways; likewise a good man will be rewarded for his ways. A simple man believes everything, but the prudent man carefully considers his ways. A wise man fears and shuns evil, but the fool is hot headed and reckless. He who is quick to become angry will commit folly, and a crafty man is hated. The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. The evil bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. The poor person is shunned even by his own neighbor, but the rich person has many friends. He who despises his neighbor sins, but he who has pity on the poor is blessed. Don't they go astray who plot evil? But love and faithfulness belong to those who plan good. In all hard work there is profit, but the talk of the lips leads only to poverty. The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools crowns them with folly. A truthful witness saves souls, but a false witness is deceitful. In the fear of Yahweh is a secure fortress, and he will be a refuge for his children. The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death. In the multitude of people is the king's glory, but in the lack of people is the destruction of the prince. He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a quick temper displays folly. The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones. He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors

him. The wicked is brought down in his calamity, but in death, the righteous has a refuge. Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding, and is even made known in the inward part of fools. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. The king's favor is toward a servant who deals wisely, but his wrath is toward one who causes shame." Proverbs 14:1-35 WEBUS

Ancient Words of Wisdom (117-151)

117. "Every wise man **builds his house**, but the foolish one **tears it down** with his own hands." Proverbs 14:1

Self-sabotage

- Men talk a lot, but if you really want to know what he believes, watch what he does.
- Everyone has met a man like this; he dreams of being a concert pianist, claims he would "do anything" to be that good.
- But, if you inquire of him, "How much do you practice?" And inform him, "You do know you would have to practice eight hours a day to be that good!" you would soon discover that he was never willing to do the work.
- Oftentimes a man talks a big game, but his lack of action proves to be much more effective in sabotaging his claim than building his dreams.

118. "He who walks in his uprightness **fears Yahweh**, but he who is perverse in his ways **despises Him**." Proverbs 14:2

Disposition

- You can discover a lot about a man by observing his attitude.
- A man with reverence for God walks circumspectly; he measures his every word, action, and priority against what is pleasing to the Lord.
- A man who hates God is a man who is more disposed to chase down his every lust and perverse desire, than to care for one second what the Lord thinks.

119. "The fool's talk **brings a rod** to his back, but the lips of the wise **protect** them." Proverbs 14:3

Invitation

- You have the power to invite either rebuke or praise into your own life.
- A foolish man makes choices that oftentimes require the heavy hand of the Lord's chastisement.
- A man who absorbs wisdom and carefully measures his words, invites the Lord shield.

120. "Where no oxen are, **the grain crib or trough is clean**, but much increase is by the **strength of the ox.**" Proverbs 14:4

☑ **Business Opportunity**

- ☑ If you invest in none of the tools or resources needed to conduct a successful business, you will produce no product and reap no profits.
- ☑ But, if you take a chance and invest in the resources necessary to equip your enterprise with all that is needed to produce excellent results, you will reap a harvest of success.

121. "A truthful witness **will not lie**, but a false witness **pours out lies.**" Proverbs 14:5

☑ **Authenticity**

- ☑ The passage of time is never kind to those who lie their way into the pages of history. The memory of them becomes shaky like a house built on shifting sands.
- ☑ The wonderful thing about truth is that it transcends time and culture. No matter what comes against it, even when explosives are set off at its foundation, when the smoke clears it is always still standing.

122. *"A scoffer seeks wisdom, and doesn't find it, but knowledge comes easily to a discerning person."* Proverbs 14:6

☑ **Accessibility**

- ☑ How can a man obtain divine knowledge and understanding when he has rejected the one true God?
- ☑ A man who mocks God is a condescending fool. His attainment of true wisdom is elusive, like a blind man who grasps at the wind in hope of catching a bird.
- ☑ A man who delights in the Lord has complete access to God's input and thus his discernment is bathed in divine knowledge. Knowing the heart of God on any matter is as easy as fishing in a barrel.

123. *"Stay away from a foolish man, for you won't find knowledge on his lips."* Proverbs 14:7

☑ **Contamination**

- ☑ Bad company corrupts good morals. It is impossible to lean against wet paint without carrying off some of its color on your garment.
- ☑ It only takes a drop of poison to turn life-giving water into a deadly drink.
- ☑ What a man hears is bound to influence what he thinks, thus run far from a man whose words are marinating in a

cauldron of narcissistic dye. Even a small spill, or a single drip, will soil a pure white garment.

124. *“The wisdom of the prudent is to **think about his way**, but the folly of fools is **deceit**.” Proverbs 14:8*

Self-awareness

- The worst type of deception is self-deception; it's the form of deception that clouds the mirror and the eyes. Both types of cataracts hide self-reflection.
- A man who cannot observe his own image easily cements his beliefs in his sclerotic heart.
- A man whose mirror and eyes are clear admits that his thoughts, opinions, and beliefs are subject to correction; he is a man who is always open to God's best advice.

125. *“Fools mock at **making atonement** for sins, but among the upright there is **good will**.” Proverbs 14:9*

Contrition

- There are no sins too egregious for which the love and sacrifice of God cannot indemnify, and thus pardon, in a man with pure sorrow in his heart.
- And yet, there are also no sins too minor to be overlooked by the love and sacrifice of same God, and

for which there is no remedy in the man who will not repent.

126. "**The heart knows** its own bitterness and joy; he **will not share** these with a stranger." Proverbs 14:10

☑ ***Discrempathy**

- ☑ A godly man exercises both discretion and empathy.
- ☑ A wise man is discrete about with whom he shares the intimate thoughts and intentions of his heart, both the painful ones and the joyous ones.
- ☑ And, who can truly know a man's heart but the Lord? He discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- ☑ A yet, a man after God's own heart will develop a loving Christlike empathy for others, just as the Lord's.
- ☑ *Authors Note: this word was invented for the purpose of this proverb.

127. "**The house** of the wicked will be **overthrown**, but the **tent** of the upright will **flourish**." Proverbs 14:11

☑ **Stability**

- ☑ When you consider the structure of a man's dwelling you place a house and a tent in two different categories; one is firm and established, the other is tenuous and shaky.

- ☑ And yet, the man who lives a life out of integrity with God exists in a place that is ready to blow off its foundation at any moment, no matter how stable its construction. He is truly vulnerable to the winds of life.
- ☑ However, the man who lives planted in the will of God can dwell in the flimsiest of structures, and no matter what assault he faces, in the end he is left standing in godly prosperity.

128. *“There is a way which **seems right to a man**, but in the end it **leads to death**.” Proverbs 14:12*

☑ **Self-dependence**

- ☑ There are two worldviews under which a man can pitch his tent; trust in man or trust in God.
- ☑ A man who trusts alone in his own abilities and his own decision-making, or that of other men, lives in blind happiness.
- ☑ He has convinced himself that all is well, but the time is coming when all he has lived for will dissolve into dust.

129. *“**Even in laughter** the heart may be sorrowful, and **mirth may end in heaviness**.” Proverbs 14:13*

☑ **Pretense**

- ☑ The emotions of a man are deep waters, so what you see on the surface is not always indicative of what is happening below.
- ☑ Pain and sorrow and wrestling are, at times, painted over with bright colors that reflect amusement, merriment, and cheerfulness.
- ☑ Be sensitive and empathetic and you will part the waters.

130. *“The unfaithful will be **repaid for his own ways**; likewise a good man will be **rewarded for his ways**.” Proverbs 14:14*

☑ **Comeuppance**

- ☑ Consequence for one’s actions are governed by the laws of sowing and reaping.
- ☑ It may not always seem to be so in the moment, but a man will always get what’s coming to him; his fitting punishment or his just reward.

131. *“A simple man **believes everything**, but the prudent man carefully **considers his ways**.” Proverbs 14:15*

☑ **Gullible**

- ☑ There is a wide chasm between blind acceptance and wise discernment, yet both follow the same interrogation.

- ☑ The separation exists not within the questions but with the assessment of the answers.
- ☑ A fool has predetermined what he believes and thus accepts any answer as valid, even those that are obviously flawed.
- ☑ A wise man enters an interrogation with an open mind and filters what he determines through God's voice.

132. "A wise man **fears and shuns evil**, but the fool is **hot headed and reckless**." Proverbs 14:16

☑ **Intentional**

- ☑ A man who first considers God's opinion before he acts or even speaks will find himself sprinting away from things that are offensive to Yahweh.
- ☑ His lifestyle and choices appear to be carefully measured—calculated, deliberate, and thoughtful. He guards all his ways by living in a defensive posture against what is wicked.
- ☑ A man who has no use for God lives a life that appears erratic and unpredictable. He will most often speak before he thinks, fire before he aims, and jump before he considers on what he will land.

133. "He who is **quick to become angry** will commit folly, and a **crafty man** is hated." Proverbs 14:17

☑ Temperament

- ☑ Be quick to listen and slow to speak, slow to anger, and slow to act. It is a rare instance that the impetuous choice yields anything truly good and the man who brandishes its sword is never admirable.
- ☑ That is one level of bad; one level lower in reputation is the man who schemes in advance and is deliberate in his foolish choices.

134. "The simple **inherit folly**, but the prudent are **crowned with knowledge**." Proverbs 14:18

☑ Portion

- ☑ Some men live for the day, the pleasure of the moment. Present satisfaction is all they desire and thus they are willing to mortgage their future for immediate gratification and momentary happiness. What they will inherit is fool's gold.
- ☑ Other men are aware that today's choices write tomorrow's history and thus show great care, concern, and forethought about the future. They see their present

decisions as an investment into a greater return later, and at times that means sacrifice.

135. “The evil **bow down before the good**, and the wicked **at the gates of the righteous.**” Proverbs 14:19

☑ **Rank**

- ☑ It may not always seem so, but God’s people are the leaders at every moment, the head and not the tail, above and not below.
- ☑ And don’t mistake serving leaders with followers. They serve from the bottom up, by placing themselves under those who they intend to govern. This is so they can serve others from below instead of dictate from the top.
- ☑ In God’s economy, serving leaders are positioned at the highest station; in the end everyone who denies God will be governed according to His divine order.

136. “The poor person is **shunned** even by his own neighbor, but the rich person has **many friends.**” Proverbs 14:20

☑ **Influence**

- ☑ Don’t think in terms of finances and resources—think in terms of character and charisma.

- ☑ The man who cannot be trusted, who has a questionable reputation, and who is abrasive and unapproachable, will usually stand alone in a crowd. Even those closest to him will not be willing to take his counsel.
- ☑ A man who has invested in his community and made himself transparent and available is a great asset to those around him. He does not stand alone in a crowd, but instead stands out in a crowd as a man who can be trusted and admired. He will draw many people close who will gladly take his wise counsel to their betterment.

137. “He who **despises his neighbor** sins, but he who has **pity on the poor** is blessed.” Proverbs 14:21

☑ Charity

- ☑ It is not possible for one man to help every man in need, but can you imagine if a collective of men viewed life through the same lens of giving?
- ☑ There are many ways you can help others: donate time, deploy talents, volunteer service, share resources, provide financial support, and offer wise counsel.
- ☑ A man who is not moved by the needs of others, by definition, does not have the love of God in Him; there is

no better way to show the love of God than to meet the needs of a neighbor.

138. “Don’t they go astray **who plot evil**? But love and faithfulness belong to those **who plan good**.” Proverbs 14:22

Motives

- If you could see into the heart of a man, you would discover what are the underlying driving forces that move him and inspire his decisions. It would answer the all-important question about purpose: Why?
- Is a man motivated and inspired by what is virtuous or what is wicked—what pleases God or what satisfies his flesh?
- If the sum of a man’s intentions cater to his own needs, the road he is traveling ends as he is falling into a bottomless pit of despair; if rather it is to align with the heart of God, the road never ends and is lined with infinite possibilities and fulfilled dreams empowered by the love of God.

139. “In all hard work **there is profit**, but the talk of the lips **leads only to poverty**.” Proverbs 14:23

Action

- ☑ Talk is cheap. A man can talk about his plans for a lifetime, but unless he lifts a finger to take action, the only thing he will have to chew on is his own lips.
- ☑ Sure, words are powerful when they impart God's grace to others; and positive self-talk is, of course, also healthy and important.
- ☑ But no bridge was ever built, no marriage ever flourished, no vision ever came to pass, no destination was ever reached, no change ever took place in the world, and no man was ever saved, by the man who sat on the sidelines talking and never stepped into the arena!

140. "The crown of the wise **is their riches**, but the folly of fools crowns them **with folly**." Proverbs 14:24

☑ **Crowns**

- ☑ A wise man who reaches his last breath, should he be so fortunate to have a few moments to contemplate what he will soon leave behind, will assess only one thing—his relationships.
- ☑ He will rightfully wonder if he is leaving this earth with any regrets in regards the people he leaves behind and the God he served.

- ☑ There are no imperishable rewards for the stuff and accomplishments a man chased for a lifetime; all those vanish into vapor.
- ☑ The only legacy that will adorn his head when he is gone and into eternity is if he loved well; therefore, the wisest of men don't wait to contemplate their relationships until their dying breath!

141. "A truthful witness **saves souls**, but a false witness **is deceitful**."

Proverbs 14:25

☑ **Attraction**

- ☑ Truth attracts; lies repel. That may not seem to be accurate on the surface, as oftentimes we find men running from the truth.
- ☑ But, if we leave appearances behind and examine the soul of a man, his deepest inspirations, emotions, and beliefs, you will find that men are drawn to the truth like a moth is to a flame.
- ☑ However, truth is appealing to a man's heart, only after the hardened plaque that acts as an impenetrable shell is dissolved by God's grace.

- ☑ First to enter after a man's heart is softened is the truth about God Himself; what follows is that all other truths become beautiful to his soul!

142. *"In the fear of Yahweh is a **secure fortress**, and He will be a **refuge** for his children."* Proverbs 14:26

☑ **Assurance**

- ☑ A man who lives with reverence for the Lord is a man who walks in safety and the covering he enjoys extends over his children.
- ☑ Blessed assurance, that is how every believer enters the day. His eyes open with confident anticipation and when his feet touch the ground the waters part and the earth will not be moved from under him.
- ☑ God is his walled city which cannot be breached, nor can its supply lines be interrupted.

143. *"The fear of Yahweh is a **fountain of life**, turning people from the **snare of death**."* Proverbs 14:27

☑ **Reservoir**

- ☑ The weakness of every walled city and every strong tower is not first its brick and mortar; instead it is the lifeline that brings it fresh water.

- ☑ Cut off the lifeline and the city will eventually dehydrate.
- ☑ But, a man whose life is characterized by an unwavering reverence for the living God will discover that the Lord is his deep well, a living water supply that cannot be broken.

144. *“In the multitude of people is **the king’s glory**, but in the lack of people is the **destruction of the prince**.” Proverbs 14:28*

☑ Communities

- ☑ There can be no leader without people over whom a man can lead. Whether a kingdom, a company, or a household, until there are subjects, employees, and family members, there is no true test of a man’s leadership.
- ☑ Any man can fabricate that he is the wisest ruler, the most successful boss, and the best husband and father in his own mind. But these are all paper soldiers in an imaginary war until the battlefield is real.

145. *“He who is slow to anger has **great understanding**, but he who has a quick temper **displays folly**.” Proverbs 14:29*

☑ Composure

- ☑ Which describes you best: ready—shoot—aim, or ready—aim—shoot? How about: judge—jury—trial, or trial—jury—judge?
- ☑ A tempered man measures his actions and words and withholds his response until all the facts are gathered. And even then, his response is not rash or angered.
- ☑ He does not act from impulse; he is composed and depends on careful, thoughtful forethought before he reacts.

146. “The life of the body is **a heart at peace**, but envy **rots the bones**.” Proverbs 14:30

☑ **Contentment**

- ☑ Wants like tomorrow are never satisfied. Tomorrow never comes because as it arrives it is today. Wants are never attained because when they are secured they are readjusted to need more.
- ☑ If what a man has forever falls short of what he wants or believes he needs, while simultaneously observing another enjoying those things, the anxiety over his lack will rot his body from the inside out.

- ☑ It is godliness with contentment that is the greatest form of achievement—it's in the pursuit of being pleasing to the Lord in every area of life that true fulfillment exists.

147. *"He who oppresses the poor **shows contempt for his Maker**, but he who is kind to the needy **honors Him**."* Proverbs 14:31

☑ Golden Rule

- ☑ An infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God needs nothing from us, but He has told us what He wants from us—to love Him. But how can you love a God who you cannot see?
- ☑ This is how you love God; love your neighbor as much as you love yourself, and obey His commands.
- ☑ This is how you obey all of God's commands in an instant—love your neighbor and do not hurt them.
- ☑ The common thread is to love and prefer others and that is because God is love!

148. *"The wicked is **brought down** in his calamity, but in death, the righteous **has a refuge**."* Proverbs 14:32

☑ Guarantee

- ☑ A man without God is a man who has only one aim and that is to find all his fulfillment in this life. Any one

tragedy will block his path to winning and will lead to his complete ruination.

- ☑ But, even in death the man whose mind is fixed on the Lord is fully satisfied—he lives in peace because he already knows the final score, as if he is watching the rerun of a game that was played yesterday that he has already won!

149. *“Wisdom rests in the heart of **one who has understanding**, and is even made known in the **inward part of fools.**” Proverbs 14:33*

☑ Certainty

- ☑ Wisdom does not remain as some vague intellectual ascent; it involves action, as the godly application of knowledge and understanding.
- ☑ A man after God’s heart on all matters is a man whose heart is fixed on pleasing the Lord—as he takes his last breath he is fully satisfied.
- ☑ In the end, even a man who has denied God is made aware of what would have been the wise choices, but in his case he dies with regret.

150. "Righteousness **exalts a nation**, but sin is a **disgrace to any people**." Proverbs 14:34

☑ **God and Country**

- ☑ Following after God is not just a personal matter, it will affect the entire nation. As goes its leaders, so goes its people in both cause and effect.
- ☑ Leaders who follow God bring blessings on a nation; leaders who deny God invite curses.
- ☑ A nation that legislates sin into its culture will breed a people with shame in their DNA; but a nation that honors God with its laws births a people who are elevated in the eyes of God.

151. "The king's favor is toward **a servant who deals wisely**, but his wrath is **toward one who causes shame**." Proverbs 14:35

☑ **Return in Investment**

- ☑ A man must enter his day with this in mind; as I go out into the world I am an ambassador for my God. I represent Him by how I interact with others.
- ☑ If he is a godly representative he will find he walks with God's approval and experiences great profit; if his behavior is a disgrace to God, he will find nothing but humiliation.

NEXT TEACHING

Ancient Words of Wisdom: Volume 6 (Proverbs 15:1-33)