



◀ Proverbs 3 ▶

New International Version

Wisdom Bestows Well-Being

1My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
2for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity.

I'm sure many of us who have given our lives to Christ and has committed to living in accordance to God's Word, guidance and direction can attest to the fact that in doing so, you experience very little if any stress in your life and many of the challenges that you use to encounter have been eliminated or at the very least, you are able to deal with them better.

When you live a life that is more at peace and you have prosperity, not just materially, but spiritually as well, these attributes can lead to you living a longer life, just as verse 2 tells us.

3Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.

Living a life with a heart filled with love for God and others will in most cases win you favor and a good name in both God and humanity's eyes because the majority of people, even some who are intent on doing evil, have to respond favorably to acts of kindness and love and even when people reject your love or treat you wrong, God will bless you because we reap what we sow and God knows the heart.

5Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.^a

This ties back to what was covered in Proverbs 2 about having the ability and the gift to discern because of the knowledge God gives and shares with us because of our relationship with Him.

If we seek and pray to him about all we do, he will give us direction and understanding to keep us on the straight path, which is the path that corresponds to the will and purpose that God has for our lives. This is the path where we will receive our ultimate blessings and happiness while here on earth.

When we consult the Lord in this way, it prevent us trying to be wise in our own eyes and from making bad decisions that might cause us to sin or do evil as verse 7 states.

7Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.

8This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.

You will live a healthy life just based on the fact that you will have less to worry about because you are giving your cares to God and seeking His guidance and direction on matters and understand that even the things that appear to be bad that are taking place in your life will eventually somehow work out for your good per God's words in Romans 8:28.

9Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

When you accept Jesus Christ as the savior who died for your sins, when you decide to change your life and live in accordance to God's word and God starts to bless you with wealth, be sure that you honor God with the blessing he bestowed upon you by using those blessing to spread the Gospel and/or to bless and help others in the name of Jesus and the Father to exalt their Holy names. If you do that, you will receive overwhelming and overflowing blessings and generosity from the God in Heaven who is your father.

11My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline,
and do not resent his rebuke,
12because the LORD disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he delights in.^b

When you do things that do not fall in line with God's word or commandments or that differentiate from what God has planned for you, do not get upset, take issue or resent God's reprimand for your wrong doing because He is only trying to keep you on the path of obedience and righteousness because of His love for you. He will not just sit back and watch you get lost.

13Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
14for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
15She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.

This is another reminder that nothing is more important, valuable or comparable to wisdom and understanding.

16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.
19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations,
by understanding he set the heavens in place;
20 by his knowledge the watery depths were divided,
and the clouds let drop the dew.

Only the creator of the universe can give you this kind of wisdom and understanding because He is knowledgeable of all things because he created all things. John 1:3 tells us: Through Him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made.

21 My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight,
preserve sound judgment and discretion;
22 they will be life for you,
an ornament to grace your neck.
23 Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble.
24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
25 Have no fear of sudden disaster
or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
26 for the LORD will be at your side
and will keep your foot from being snared.

These scriptures are assuring us that if we seek, obtain and focus on wisdom and understanding from the Lord, we will have nothing to worry or concern ourselves about. Our sleep will be sweet and sudden disasters that overtake the wicked will not overtake us because God will be by our side to protect and direct us away from harm.

27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to act.
28 Do not say to your neighbor,
“Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you”—
when you already have it with you.
29 Do not plot harm against your neighbor,
who lives trustfully near you.
30 Do not accuse anyone for no reason—
when they have done you no harm.

31 Do not envy the violent
or choose any of their ways.
32 For the LORD detests the perverse
but takes the upright into his confidence.
33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the home of the righteous.
34 He mocks proud mockers
but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.
35 The wise inherit honor,
but fools get only shame.

Conclusion

Proverbs 3 tells us that there are benefits to having access to kingdom knowledge or wisdom from God. One of the benefits is less stress in your life because you cast all of your cares on and to the Lord and seek His guidance. This alone could lead to you having a prolong life, which is mentioned in verse 2.

This Proverb also stresses the importance of having love and faithfulness. It tells us that these attributes will give us favor and a good name.

We also learn in this lesson to seek God in all things and do not lean or depend on our own understanding.

We learned that when God blesses us that we should use those blessing to honor the Lord. How can we do that? We can do that by blessing others in the name of Jesus thereby exalting the Father and the Son. What happens when we do that? Verse 10 tells us that God will abundantly bless us or that our blessing will be overflowing.

This chapter also lets us know that when we get out of line, our father will discipline us and when He does, we should not get mad or upset at God because He's disciplining us out of His love for us.

The chapter ends telling us that the knowledge we receive from God will give us honor. Those who do not have access to it will get only shame.

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Until next time, God bless and Shalom.