PROVERBS BY THE DOZEN

Direction

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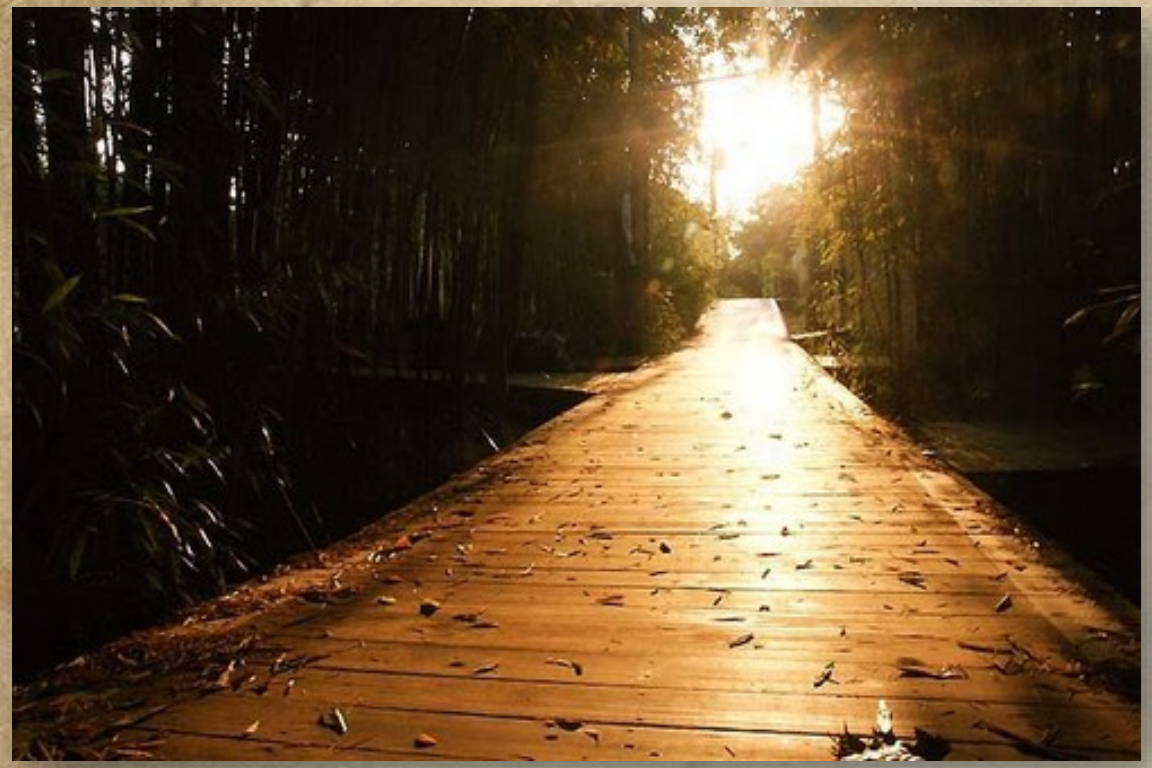


At the start, following God seems like the difficult way, but the further you walk, the sweeter it becomes.

Living according to your own understanding and for your own desires will block the satisfaction in life you are pursuing. Few people figure that out.

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

Proverbs 4:18-19

Watch over your heart
with all diligence,
for from it flow
the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

You will do what is in your heart to do.

Any desire put above God will pollute the rest of your life and end with disastrous consequences.

If your heart is going in the wrong direction, turn around. Ask God for a new heart.

Keep your eyes on your Master and His will for you.

Distractions will come across your path to divert your attention, but don't let anything move you off the trail.

Stay focused and intentional in following God's will.

Let your eyes look directly
ahead and let your gaze be
fixed straight in front of you.
Watch the path of your feet
and all your ways
will be established.
Do not turn to the right
nor to the left;
turn your foot from evil.
Proverbs 4:25-27

Choose one way—the right way.

Repeating an action is choosing a direction.

God sees whether you are following in a pure way of faithfulness or in lustful cravings like those who do not know His ways.

For the ways of a man
are before the Lord,
and He watches
all his paths.

Proverbs 5:21

Listening—not talking.
Watching—not looking at everyone else.
Waiting—not rushing away to the next thing.

It takes time to seek the Lord and learn wisdom.
Set aside that time. Block it off on your calendar and don't let anything encroach on it.

Blessed is the man
who listens to me,
Watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts.

Proverbs 8:34

If you have stopped asking your wise friends for counsel because you already know what they would say, you might be going in the wrong direction.

If your wise friends have stopped giving you their perspective, it is not necessarily that they agree with you but that you have stopped listening.

He is on the path
of life who
heeds instruction,
But he who
ignores reproof
goes astray.

Proverbs 10:17

Just because you can justify doing something doesn't mean you can escape the consequences of doing it.

Asking "What's wrong with it?" is an indication that you are unsettled about doing it.

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

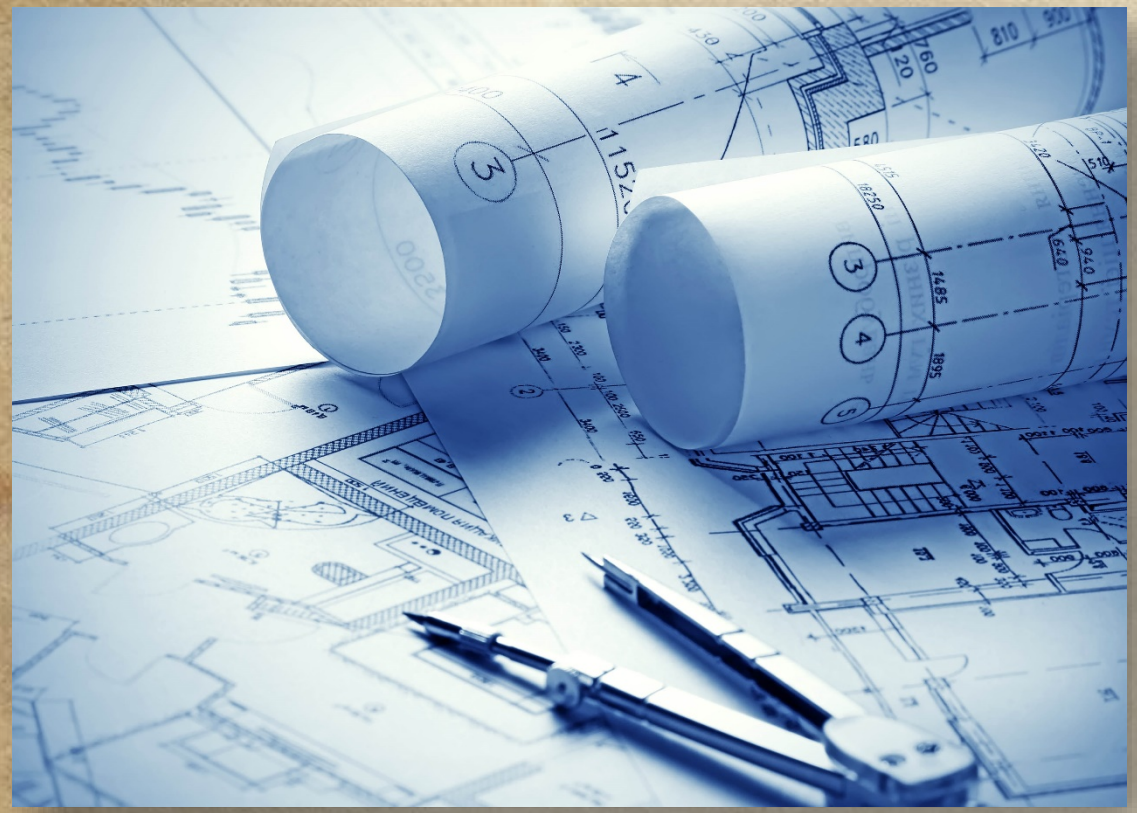
Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25

"God does not measure what we bring to Him.
He weighs it." --Mark Guy Pearse
It's not what is seen and noticed by others that matters,
but what is genuine and true of heart.
Even a small thing, an imperfect thing, a seemingly
insignificant thing, can be done with the right motive.

All the ways of a man are
clean in his own sight,
but the Lord weighs
the motives.

Commit your works
to the Lord
and your plans
will be established.

Proverbs 16:2-3



The mind of man
plans his way,
but the Lord
directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

Hold your plans with an open hand and do not grow impatient with interruptions, delays, or redirects.

The Lord knows when and where He is leading those who follow Him and what work He has for them to do.

There is always someone following your example, whether you are aware of it or not.
Ask these questions:

"Can I think of someone older than me who has gone this same way?"
"Do I want my child or grandchild doing this?"
"If someone copies my attitude and actions, will it draw them to the Lord?"

A righteous man who walks in his integrity—
how blessed are his sons after him.

Proverbs 20:7

Some situations are marked with temptations.
It's stupid to think you are strong enough to put yourself in temptation's path and remain unaffected.

Temptation doesn't find you when you are strong but at your weakest moments.
Stay out of the way before you get to that moment.

The prudent sees the evil
and hides himself,
but the naïve go on,
and are punished for it.

Proverbs 22:3

Life does not start tomorrow. It is not out in front of you. Enjoy the now. Do what is at hand with thankfulness.

Look to the Lord for each day's resources—He will be there for tomorrow's situation as well.

Do not boast about

tomorrow,

for you do not know what

a day may bring forth.

Proverbs 27:1

How to Keep a Proverbs Notebook

The Book of Proverbs has 31 chapters and can be easily read by doing **one chapter each day**.

Whichever date it is, read that chapter of Proverbs.
Example: On the 5th of the month, read chapter 5. On the 23rd of the month, read chapter 23.

Do not try to "catch up" on chapters if you miss a day—just read that day's chapter of Proverbs.

The simplest notebook is **to write your favorite verse** from the chapter. The next month when you read through, choose a different favorite verse. At the end of the year, you will have 12 verses written from each chapter.

Or, for more of a challenge, **look for different themes** each time you read through the book, and write the verses you find in your notebook. Here are some common themes:

- "My son…"
- Wisdom
- Money
- Friends
- Speaking
- Heart matters
- Women
- Fools
- Work

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