

[to] **Know** or **No?**



That is the question.

[via Proverbs, the path to wisdom]

OMR

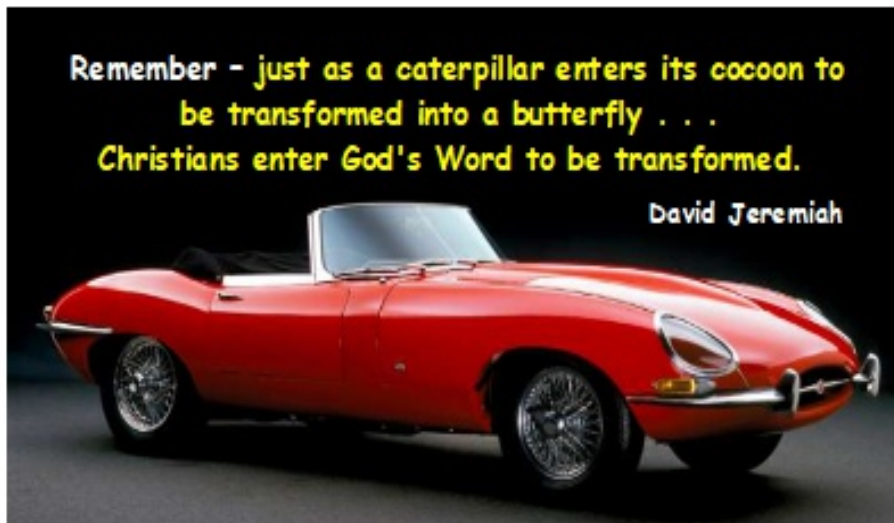
A Cabin Captures paperback

An Outing Adventures publisher. First published in Minnesota in 2021

Cabinright © Old Man River (aka Keith Gore) 2021, 2022 & 2023

Prologue

The picture and words shared on the cover page is just an example of the things that we struggle to understand or to obtain. Being lucky is nice but how often does that fall into place as we like? Now, as we age, being smarter tends to work to our advantage . . . but do we pursue it?



The Bible shows us that King Solomon wanted his children to pursue wisdom and to help them (as well as all of us), his wisdom as recorded in the **Book of Proverbs** is still teaching

those who pursue its wisdom (and the challenges starts with awareness).

As for what is contained in the following pages? Well, I started at the beginning of Proverbs and tried to grab one insight from each of the chapters written - to raise up those words for a review and challenge.

And just remember, there are so many insights in the **Book of Proverbs** but to give you some examples - I chose a mix that I hope at least touches on the types of insights or challenges in life that each of us should want to have an awareness to. Then, whether we wish to know more about it or to think that no more is required - is up to each of us.

So, as you pursue the following, please consider for each topic shared as you look at your life at this time and determine if they trigger thoughts or actions that you want to now pursue. It is just an example from time (starting late in 2019 and rolling through a challenging year of 2020) that we may have good intentions on living a good life, but reality can put huge challenges, sad times and frustrations along our path.

For example, after each topic covered, and the initial insights provided [to help you to possibly think a bit more on the words around the Proverb shared], there are some 'next steps?' words provided to give you some follow up considerations [aka 'a call to action'] for yourself and or for others that you may be able to help.

As for the 'what is ahead?' You'll find a few words wrapped around the following Proverbs [aka insights to consider]:

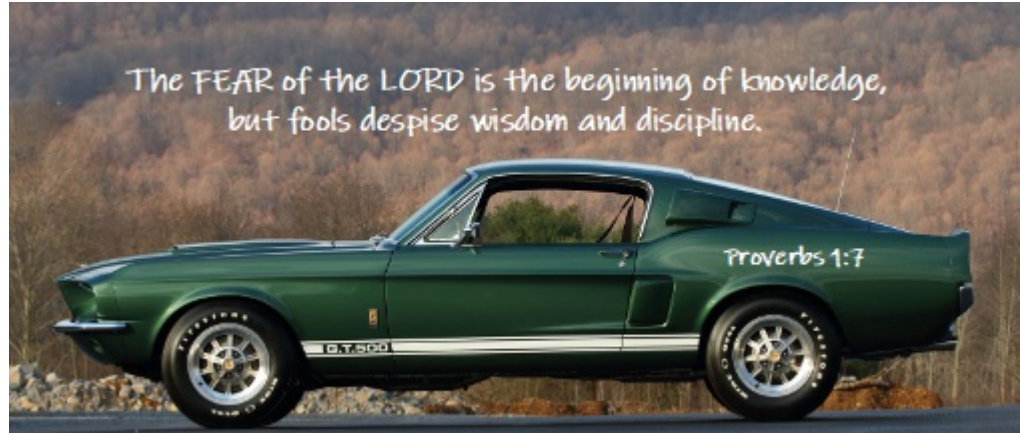
Fear: Proverbs 1:7, **Wisdom:** Proverbs 2:10,
Achievement: Prov. 2:21, **Trust:** Prov. 3:5, **Kindness:** Prov. 3:27,
Direction: Prov. 4:26, **Hate:** Prov. 8:13, **Appreciation:** Prov. 9:8,
Integrity: Proverbs 10:9, **Humility:** Proverbs 11:2,
Discipline: Prov. 12:1, **Honesty:** Prov. 13:3, **Patience:** Prov. 14:29,
Vigilance: Proverbs 15:3, **Motivation:** Proverbs 16:2,
Knowledge: Prov. 17:27, **Respect:** Prov. 18:1, **Character:** Prov. 19:20,
Compassion: Proverbs 25:21, **Discernment:** Proverbs 26:12,
and **Love:** Proverbs 27:5

And please note. From those 21 insights, we have just initial words for you to consider. They may just be the start you needed to make some good decisions on what you need to start doing next. Or, they may get you to thinking about a related word, issue or action that you need to look into.

The key is to just think and to determine what helps you to next steps, whether it be for you or for some loved ones or for friends. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any comments or recommendations, please use our 'Contact Form' via our <https://decide2be.weebly.com> (website).

I. Fear . . .

Now I know that just about everyone, looks at **fear** and interprets or embraces it differently and that is



okay. Just do yourself a favor and ponder how you look at the aspects of fear and if you would embrace the words shared in **Proverbs 1:7** (because too many in our Christian faith, overlook the aspect of 'fear the Lord' and if they do, that is a mistake).

So then, **do you know fear or do you no fear?** Because . . .
To know fear is to embrace our faith, and no fear is to pursue folly.

Next steps: The above hopefully has you thinking a bit more on the aspects of fear. Consider the following and take action if needed:
First – what does it mean 'to fear the Lord?' **To fear God is absolute reverence and awe for an Almighty God, the Creator of all things.**

If we don't have that type of fear of God, means we really don't know of His holiness & our relationship with Him is not as it should be.

Second – what of all other fears (of animals, failure, injury, illness, loneliness, or even death)? Those are good, they help to protect us.

Third – as we gain an understanding of fear, we should not overlook the need to help our kids to also appreciate it – not to stop them but to guide them to do what they need to do, when they need to.

II. Wisdom . . .

We all appreciate **wisdom** and assume we gain more and more of it over time . . . but is that all that we do – slowly accumulate it or do we work



to gain it sooner rather than later?

If we embrace
Proverbs 2:10
(on wisdom),

we agree that the pursuit of knowledge is good. But is that good . . . good enough to prompt us to be proactive or aggressive in pursuing it?

So then, **do you no wisdom or know wisdom?** Because . . .

To know wisdom is knowledge pursued, for no wisdom is knowledge ignored.

Next steps: We should make the time to determine where we see our level of wisdom (in our faith, health, finances, etc) is at. Then we should look at those that we love (our kids & grandkids). And once we decide upon that status, we need to decide if other actions are needed.

If yes, for yourselves – adjust your priorities, make the time & pursue those actions that help you to work on those wisdom gained actions.

If for your kids or grandkids – then think on how best (when & where) to help them. One of the greatest gifts that we can give our loved ones is not gifts (material things) but wisdom, courage, and confidence. For if they are on a path to embracing those – their future will be as best enabled as you can do to help them. If they do not gain these things, they will be on the path of struggle (and that is a challenge they may not come back from – and no one wants that).

III. Achievement . . .

For most of us, **achievement** comes after work, as in our work done so that we could achieve. That usually requires thought, dedication, often sweat and worry and even some aspects of sacrifice. It can take some

time but when we have completed the actions required, we are usually pleased with what we have accomplished. But what say you – are you pleased with



your achievements so far? Or are you still in the churn, the pursuit or not even sure what you are trying to achieve? [it's good to answer. . .]

Do you know your achievement or have no achievement? Because . . .
To know achievement is effort done, for no achievement is poor effort done.

Next steps: Determine what you want to achieve and be accountable to it (make plans, take action and persevere in pursuit of it).

If for yourselves – stop those efforts that distract from the goals you wish to pursue (aka . . . quit wasting time).

If for your kids or grandkids – then help them to understand what it means to have goals in their lives and what it takes to achieve them (the hard work, the sacrifice, the dedication . . . and if possible, shown them what, how, when you did those things for your goals).

IV. Trust . . .

We now pause to ponder what **trust** means to us. Do we embrace the aspects of it: a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of



someone or something?

I would think that most would agree to that definition. So, if we agree with that, then

we raise the question . . . in what or whom do we trust? As for me, I like the words as shown above – **Proverbs 3:5** – but what say you?

So then, **do you not trust or do you know trust?** Because . . .
To know trust is a great comfort, for no trust is an ongoing worry.

Next steps: We all have probably heard numerous good quotes on trust, like this one . . . *'Never lie to someone who trusts you and never trust someone who lies to you.'* So then - define how you view trust and work then to embrace that belief (expect it and live it).

If you agree – adjust your view and expectations on others and step up to that same expectation on yourself. Honor this and you'll be glad.
If for your kids or grandkids – then review how and when [or not] you review trust with them. Do they understand it, do they appreciate it or do they struggle with it. As you pursue this with them, remember that there could be issues on this that they have. Respect them and pursue an action plan that works this to a long time commitment.

V. Kindness . . .

Today is a good day to pause and to look at the **kindness** that we do or do not do [are we happy with ourselves or a little disappointed?]. Why?

Because it is so easy to get in the grind of each day that we may not see if our kindness actions are even unfolding. And I know you are wondering if this is really



that important or not. Well . . . it is. Just think of the times when you saw others being kind to someone – didn't it make you feel good and then make you want to be kind, compassionate, helpful in some way [as best you can] to someone? **Proverbs 3:27** – reminds us to ask . . .

Do you know kindness or do you do no kindness? Because . . .

To know kindness is a blessing, for no kindness is scorn.

Next steps: We all can do this and if more and more of us start doing acts of kindness – just think of the positive ripple effects.

If you agree – adjust your focus over the next few days so that you are looking for times to be kind, helpful, encouraging or whatever you can do to help someone. And as you do so, keep an eye out for others as they do acts of kindness. What do you think, how do you feel?

If for your kids or grandkids – find ways to encourage them to pursue acts of kindness as best they can and do so for them to know you are joining in. Let's all work to make kindness seen more and more.

VI. Direction . . .

Today is an interesting point in history because we have a world wide tumble unfolding due to the Corona virus that is impacting all countries.



The steps we take now determine the **direction** we are going . . . is it forward effectively or around foolishly?

The reason

we should pause and reflect on this – is because we are all in motion, jumping from fire to fire [as they say] as we juggle all the things that are on our agenda. The news can be frightening and our desire to do the right thing, could actually have us doing the wrong things. So ponder this, adjust as needed for Proverbs 4:26 – challenges us:

Do you do no to direction or do you know your direction? Because . . .

To have no direction is folly; to know your direction is confidence.

Next steps: We all just need to start looking around, to start thinking and to take action that helps – as best we can, when we can.

If you agree – step up to do the right things – not just what others tell you or try to scare you into doing. You've got a brain, use it!

If for your kids or grandkids – this is not an easy discussion because there is no simple way to get into it. So, think about 'direction' & how best to pursue a discussion and encouragement with them. The goal, to raise their awareness so they can ensure their path as they desire.

VII. Hate . . .

Today is a drastically different world from what we knew just a few weeks ago. And most of us would agree . . . there are plenty of things that we now know that frustrate us or have jumped on our worry pile. But what about **hate**?



We know there is a list of things that God hates but our focus is on you. Do you hate noisy neighbors, or politicians who frustrate you, or dealing with traffic, or as we see in **Proverbs 8:13** . . . do you hate what is listed?

The reason we surface this, is to remind you of the calling of our faith.

The Lord hates all aspects of evil and we must as well.

Ponder this, adjust as needed and know it challenges us to ask:

[So]

Do you do know what hate is and do you say no to evil? Because . . .

To have no faith is to know the fruit of hate .

Next steps: We have to determine if we take a stand against the things we should hate. If you do, great – but if you don't, why not?

If you are struggling on this – make the decision to step up to being accountable on this. Once you do, you'll see blessings grow in your life.
If for your kids or grandkids – this is another of those tough subjects but so critical to find ways to talk, to encourage and if needed, to help. The world wants to promise fun and excitement but reality too often brings sadness when we don't learn to fight against the fruit of hate.

VIII. Appreciation . . .

COVID-19 had drastically effected how we view life and of what we **appreciate**, what we allow and of what we ignore. Now what those



are, will all depend on each of our experiences.

Have you seen that the actions that are being taken, have brought out in you, agreement, support and a sense of calmness

(as in . . . we'll get through this)? Or, are you frustrated, feeling cooped up & probably getting mad at how slowly things are going? We know there is no simple way at looking at this, at who is doing what or not doing, etc. Consider **Proverbs 9:8** . . . what do you appreciate?

[So]

Do you say no to appreciation or do you know appreciation? Because . . .
To know appreciation is to have no regrets - we appreciate!

Next steps: We have to determine if we truly embrace appreciation in our life. If you do, great - but if you don't, why not?

If you are struggling on this - slow down, start looking around at the good things that others do & find ways to thank them for doing so.
If for your kids or grandkids - talking with them on this subject is good but remember that demonstrating this (being a role model) is such a powerful teach tool. How best, when and where is up to each of us and that is a part of the fun and the challenge. Things happen when we want them to happen so want it, do it and appreciate it.

IX. Integrity . . .

Our walk through the **Book of Proverbs** has already touched on some great lessons to embrace on fear, wisdom, achievement, trust, kindness,



direction,
hate and
appreciation
and today
we look at
integrity
(needed in all
yet possessed
by too few).

Which raises the question – if needed by all, why do so few have it? Is it the commitment required that turns so many away or is it the ease of the opposite that snares the masses? Consider **Proverbs 10:9** . . . and appreciate your walk of commitment to integrity.

[So]

Do you know integrity or do you say no to integrity? Because . . .
To have no integrity is to know integrity and the price it costs.

Next steps: We most likely have embraced integrity but is it of the depth that is truly needed? For only some is to cheat honor.

If you are struggling on this – find out why and make the decision to step up & to truly embrace integrity – for it is never too late to do so.
If for your kids or grandkids – raise the awareness & benefit to them for it is a value that increases as their lives unfold. For when they have integrity, they don't have worries that may trip them up at the most unexpected times. Integrity is our investment and when we have it, it is an attribute that our family & friends appreciate of us.

X. Humility . . .

As we look at the world around us today, the **Book of Proverbs** has a great reminder for us on the pitfalls of pride but it's in the embrace of **humility**, that we see a path forward in life that Jesus showed us [that we should work to embrace].

For if we know that pride is what God hates and if we are

wise, we all would work to understand it & to avoid it. So please join us in embracing humility in our lives. Start with the words that we see in **Proverbs 11:2** . . . and if at all possible, pursue humility in your life.

[So]

Do you say no to pride and do you know humility? Because . . .

To have no humility is to know pride.

Next steps: We all need to understand the dangers of pride (it is the first sin of creation that Lucifer embraced and we should avoid).

If you are struggling on this – force yourself to turn away from pride (it is okay to be proud of your accomplishments, just keep it in check).

If for your kids or grandkids – this is not an easy topic to bring up and then if you can, how best to share concerns or recommendations?

You may find that it helps to point to examples of people who exhibit pride and why you believe it is hurtful. For me, it can lead to over confidence and can take us into the embrace of narcissism.



XI. Discipline . . .

Now as we move forward, we pause and ponder **discipline** which sadly . . . in my opinion . . . is sorely needed by so many. Now why is that



you wonder? Because if you take a good look at those with discipline, you see those that are on track with their life. So if **discipline** is good for us, but what is it? Well, in life we learn it **is**

control gained by enforcing obedience or order aka self-control. And from Proverbs 12:1 . . . our pursuit of discipline reminded us not to be foolish.

[So]

Do you say no to foolishness because you know discipline? Because . . .

To have no discipline is to know foolishness.

Next steps: If we all step up to the challenge of discipline - we embrace the path of integrity, dedication and self-control. But that is only if we make the commitment to it.

If you are struggling on this - take it a step at a time. Determine what is your top priority (discipline required) and make the commitment to make progress on it. Once that is progressing, add your next focus. **If for your kids or grandkids** - this is a great topic to begin discussing, to gain their perspectives on and to build the desired awareness and support of it (this is a foundation skill to leverage).



Side note: After writing and posting the above, I came across this pic and words in my file. It reminded me how intertwined that discipline, self-control and perseverance are. And that is the interesting nuance on values, once you embrace one, you find yourself embracing more & more [and that is a very good thing]. Which is why I am writing this

book. If we are not committed to learning, to growing, to improving . . . then we are on the wrong side of life. And that is something that I do not want to see for my extended family or friends.

So with that said – now is a good midpoint time to pause and do a double check on what we have covered so far. How are you doing on . . .

Fear: Do you have the right awareness and approach?

Wisdom: Are you working to pursue it and is it ongoing?

Achievement: Are yours ones that you are proud of?

Trust: Do others have this in you and you in others?

Kindness: Is needed in every day, is it found in yours?

Direction: We are all heading in one way, is yours correct?

Hate: Does what God hate, what you hate as well?

Appreciation: I gratitude in action, is yours happening?

Integrity: Some have it, some don't, do you have it?

Humility: God hates pride but He loves the opposite, what say you?

Discipline: Is for those on the path to success, would you agree?

Now – are there more? Yes there are and the pages that follow will share some considerations that I hope you add to the above. For it is when we learn, we have a better grasp on what to know.

XII. Honesty . . .

For our next NoK to share , we take a look at **honesty** and it goes beyond just what we say, it also is in what we do . . . for our thoughts, words and actions reflect who we are and if we can, we need honesty across all three.

Now, have I been perfect in all my thoughts, words & actions?

No and I am pretty sure that you have not been

as well. Why is that? Because if we are not focused and thinking at all times, *we can easily slide down the slippery slope of "I wish I had never done that."* Yes, we will stumble but as the saying goes, failure is not fatal. And from **Proverbs 13:3** . . . we at least learn to start by guarding what we say and then building up from there.

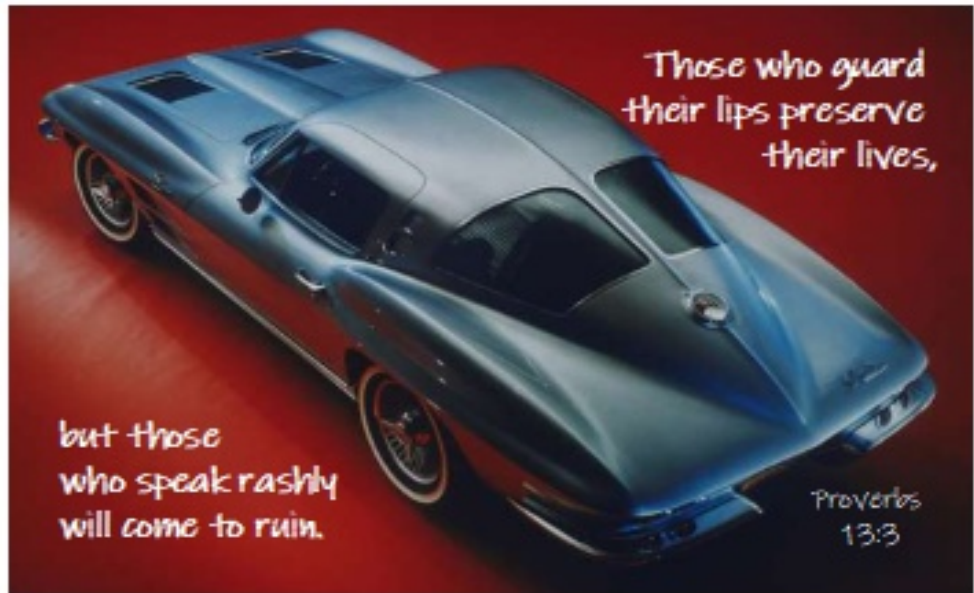
[So]

Do you know honesty and say no to a life of lies? Because . . .

To have no honesty is to know no honor.

Next steps: Start today – honesty all the way!

If you are struggling on this – take it a day at a time. Work on it.
If for your kids or grandkids – this is an easier talk and easier yet if you are a good role model for honesty. Kids need to learn and to appreciate that honesty embraced will save a lot of heartache and problems down the road. Do what you can to instill this appreciation.



XIII. Patience . . .

The year of 2020 has unfolded plenty of frustrations and in dealing with those – our need for **patience** had been challenged probably more



then the typical year would provoke. So, why not think about this in two ways? The first, to remember the way

that God responds to our prayers. It is either . . . no (as in never), or not now, or yes, or I have something better planned. For when we have learned to embrace this, we learn it is okay to wait on the smaller issues as well. Easy? No but doable. And from **Proverbs 14:29** . . . we remember to avoid the quick-tempered path (always regrettable).

[So]

Do you say no to patience and know folly? Because . . .
To have patience is to travel the path away from regrets.

Next steps: Make the commitment to embrace patience.

If you are struggling on this – get some help from friends, family or both to look at where you struggle on this & work to make this easier.

If for your kids or grandkids – this is a great subject to talk about, to get them to open up on if this is an issue for them & then to think of ways to build skills and comfort on understanding that having patience is such a critical life skill to have. For when we all have this skill, stress is greatly reduced & who doesn't want less stress?

XIV. Vigilance . . .

As the Fall of 2020 unfolds – our issues of violence, ignorance and in some cases, apathy, continue to unfold across our country. **Vigilance**



is not often thought about and that is unfortunate, because we need it!

Think about it. If God is

vigilant, doesn't it make good sense for us to be vigilant as well? And in **Proverbs 15:3** . . . we have insight which should prompt our action.

[So]

Do you know vigilance and say no to evil? Because . . .

To have vigilance is to be prepared and to have no regrets.

Next steps: Take action to help yourself and to encourage others.

If you are struggling on this – step up! Quit coasting & challenge yourself to be watchful and to have options ready 4 next steps.

If for your kids or grandkids – consider Tony Dungy's Diary of . . .

3 'Must-Do' milestones for your kids before middle school.

First, know that Middle schoolers are growing spiritually, mentally, and physically and they learn things that will shape their identity as adults. They're ready for major milestones. Second, they explore who they are. This is part of adolescent development and it's normal. Parents can help shape kids by encouraging and equipping them before adolescence hits.

Here are **3 childhood milestones** for them before middle school.

1. The Pressure Test

We all grow tremendously when we are put under pressure. We will face it and succeed, leaving us more confident and experienced, or we will fall under pressure, leaving us with lessons learned. Kids need to feel some pressure and the weight of responsibility. Think about and then do a project together with you pre-teen where they need to do something that requires their focus and effort (for example, have them help you build something & they need to do a part of the building action (working with tools, making sure it is built correctly, etc). They may be nervous but use it as good experience and then later - remind from time to time how proud you are and thankful for their help (it builds their confidence).

2. A Independence Try-Out

Independence is a product of trust. The more trust you have for your child, the more independence you allow them to have and in middle school, they want independence. They want the freedom to explore but also still want a safety net at home. You need to give them opportunities to earn trust before middle school. This way, when they ask for more independence, you've established the trust you'll need to give them.

3. The Sex Talk

If you do not talk about sex with your kids, they will find out about it in one way or another and what they'll learn definitely won't be accurate. We have the opportunity to give our kids a healthy understanding of what sex is. To do so, be honest. Don't use cute nicknames for body parts and don't be afraid of questions. And yes, for you both it may seem like an awkward talk – but when done, you both will be glad that you did.

XV. Motivation . . .

As we saw the march toward election day 2020, we saw a whole lot of things continuing to unfold across our country. What **motivates** you and me, what of the politicians, what of the protesters and what of the troublemakers?

The answers to that stacked question varied



widely. For me, there was no wrong answer but there were a lot of different perspectives on this. From **Proverbs 16:2** . . . we Christians should never forget – God is watching all that we think, say and do.

[So]

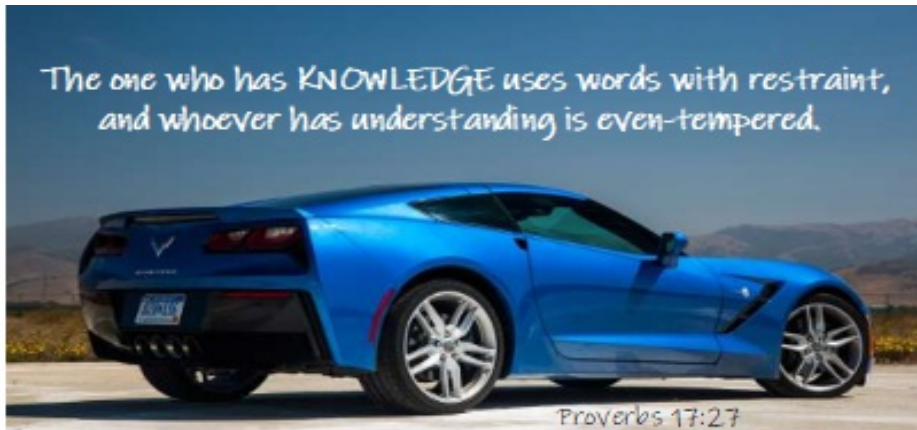
Do you know good motives and say no to bad motives? Because . . .
For one to have bad motives is one who will embrace bad actions.

Next steps: Review what motivates you and determine if it is good.

If you are struggling on this – admitting this is a good first step. Next, step up to what God calls us to do – to put away the old self and to embrace the upward call of God through Christ our Savior.

If for your kids or grandkids – this is another of the good discussions to have with them. Gain their perspective, share yours, discuss others who may be good and bad examples of what you believe are examples to learn from (just looking at 2020 – the bad cops, the rioters/arsonists, the good protesters, our politicians, etc . . . provides a lot of examples to talk about and to learn from). The key to not overlook is how our motivations can keep us on the upward call (our growth) or can lead us to the slippery slope of regrets.

XVI. Knowledge . . .



In Today's world we need as many people as possible to become more knowledgeable. Why? We have too many who just speak or

act and you just wonder. 'what were they thinking' (or not)? We need everyone to understand that we don't have a perfect world, that others will say & do things that irritate us but we can handle it – we can be the ones that pursue the **knowledge** that builds our wisdom.

From **Proverbs 17:27** . . . we are given a great reminder on restraint and the pursuit of a good temperament (handy in this world of too many hot heads). The question is – do we embrace or lack this?

[So]

Do you know the goodness of knowledge and say no to the lack of?

Because . . .

For one to pursue knowledge is one who is on the path to wisdom.

Next steps: Just make sure you are working to continue learning.

If you are struggling on this – the good news is that you realize this. Step up to the challenge, work on learning as you go and as fast as you can – learn when best to speak up and when best to be quiet.

If for your kids or grandkids – this is an encouragement to start when they are young and to continue to re-enforce it as they grow up. How best and when is tricky because sometimes they think they are smart enough. Just find ways to keep supporting & encouraging them.

XVII. Respect . . .

As 2020 rolled toward year end – one thing we saw lacking too much was **respect**.



Recognizing this is a start that we all should work to do better on . . . but the challenge that presents is to actually take action and do so.

From **Proverbs 18:1** . . . we are warned of unfriendly actions but we must be able to recognize this in ourselves and in others.

[So]

Do you know respect and say no to the lack of it? Because . . .
For us to receive respect from others, we must also respect others.

Next steps: Don't take this lightly for too many others do. Please do what you can to be respectful of others even when it seems they are not being respectful to you (two wrongs never make a right).

If you are struggling on this – it is good to know that all of us can start immediately at working on this. Think about it, watch for opportunities and then taken action on being respectful of others [it is another way that we can step up].

If for your kids or grandkids – this is a great subject to have a good conversation on this with them . . . and it helps if you are a good role model of it as well. Our world needs more respect to be given, for it goes hand in hand with kindness.

XVIII. Character . . .

2020 taught us – please know that our pursuit of wisdom still has a ways to go . . . but in all pursuits, it is good to pause occasionally to check how well we are doing. And today we encourage you to look at the



essence of who you are at this time – a look at your own **character**.

From **Proverbs 19:20** . . . we learn that learning is critical for our development and when we learn well, our character grows.

[So]

Do you say no to being a character because you know character?

Because . . .

Our character is how all others see and know us.

Next steps: It is easy to be distracted by the crazy pace of things in the world in which we live. Yes, people believe they are okay and doing what they need to do, but – if you don't periodically take a hard look at your thoughts, words and actions . . . you could be blending in with those who are more of the problem than with those being the solution.

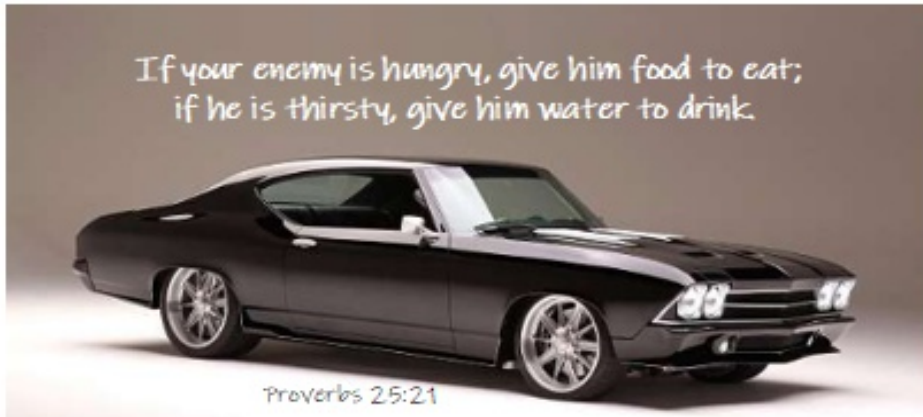
If you are struggling on this – challenge yourself to step up and make changes in your life that embrace the type of character you desire.

If for your kids or grandkids – find ways to encourage awareness and pursuit of an honorable character. Help them to get on track on this.

XIX. Compassion . . .

The last third of January 2021 showed us as the start of new year, as it continued to move forward, and with a new Presidency, most hope a new start for everyone. The challenge was the frustrations that

were bubbling away in so many.



What then should we do? Well, let's start today with the first of our last three looks into Proverbs.

If you take a look at your embrace of **compassion**, would you see it?

From **Proverbs 25:21** . . . we learn that for compassion to unfold, we must first open our eyes and our heart so that we can see it.

[So]

Do you know compassion and say no to the lack of it? Because . . .
Our compassion is judged by what we do, not by what we think & say.

Next steps: Take a look back at your years past – do you see acts of compassion? If yes, build upon those and continue as best you can & if you don't like what you see, challenge yourself to do better in all things.

If you are struggling on this – you don't need to become a Mother Theresa type over night. Just start when you can as best you can.

If for your kids or grandkids – when you see their acts of compassion, let them know of your appreciation and work to encourage it, and if possible, to model it. Because a lot of compassion is never a bad thing.

XX. Discernment . . .

Now before we wrap up our insights from within the **Book of Proverbs**, today's words remind us of the challenge of understanding what we see around us as it impacts ourselves and those we care for.

By that we mean to leverage the **discernment** that we have available to us (our minds, our wisdom).

If we are not thinking as we pursue each day, or if we move through life – arrogantly, we are on the wrong track. Ask yourself – do I have the discernment I should, or do I need it?



From **Proverbs 26:12** . . . we learn to pursue discernment and to beware of the follies of others or our own that may trip us up.

[So]

Do you say no to discernment and know the ramifications? Because . . .
Our discernment is leveraging the wisdom that God desires for us.

Next steps: Like the other insights shared before, take a look back at your years past – do you see more good and less of the bad?

If you are struggling on this – it is time to step up. Start thinking and work on developing your discernment (it's never too late).

If for your kids or grandkids – if you've seen them stumble, find ways to encourage their discernment. For the sooner they gain it, the better.

XXI. Love . . .

Today we conclude our insights from the **Book of Proverbs**. The words below are like all of the ones shared above – brief and with the hope they trigger some additional thoughts. Why? Because these



words tie well to the request that Jesus gave us . . . to love others as He loved us. Easy? No but all we have to

do is to just try as best we can. By that we need to embrace **love** by helping others when we can, by being grateful and forgiving. Now, how best to do so – consider the words from **Proverbs 27:5** . . . and answer:

Do you say no to love and know the difficulties of it? Because . . .
To know love is to enjoy life and no love creates a sad life.

Next steps: Just take a look back over your last 12 months. Do you see aspects of love in your life that should continue or start?

If you are struggling on this – start by being considerate, work on being helpful and grateful, and watch aspects of love start to grow.

If for your kids or grandkids – a great action is always to be a great role-model. Try to show your love as best you can. And if you get the chance to talk about love – share why you think it is great to have.

Epilogue

There you go. 21 insights pulled from the **Book of Proverbs** that we hope you found of interest. The question now – where do you go from here? While you think about that, we will share these words as a recap (similar to the question format that we used up on page 15)

Honesty: God looks for this in us, can it be found within you?

Patience: Is understood as goodness, but do you have it?

Vigilance: God's eyes see everything, but are you on the watch too?

Motivation: We all are motivated to a degree, are you as needed?

Knowledge: Book smart is a start, but are you in pursuit of more?

Respect: Unfriendliness has no place in life, would you agree?

Character: A good one is so appreciated, is yours a good one as well?

Compassion: A small act is helpful, are your acts happening?

Discernment: More need it, is yours turned on as it should be?

Love: It is the critical foundation for life, would you agree?

With the above as a closing summary of pages 16 through 26, you now have a great foundation of just some of the key insights as found in this book of the Bible - Proverbs. But is there more to consider?

I believe so – but it requires you to ask . . .

What next?

I would recommend that you also remember the following.



Why not help others to learn?

All of the above was shared as a framework of considerations tied to the wisdom found in the Book of Proverbs. Yes the topics covered was just a start. For each Proverb covered, there were words on considerations for yourself and for your kids and/or grandkids. The 'What next' is up to you.

To possibly help, I'll offer the following. It was December 11th, 2019 when I just started reading Volume 3 of J.Vernon McGee's 'Thru the Bible' and it started with his review of the Book of Proverbs. I have been enjoying his insights (his commentaries on what he believes we should learn from the Bible) and I had jotted down the following words as to what we can learn when we read the Book of Proverbs:

Wisdom: the ability to use knowledge (information) right.
Instruction: insight pursued from the range of 'good to know' to the 'critical to know'. **Discipline:** the appropriate penalty.
Discernment: insightful perception. **Principles:** guiding beliefs.
Values: embraced attributes for our character. **Discretion:** respectful thoughtfulness. **Ignorance:** apathy to information.

And then – what if each of us worked to understand these and to help teach these to our loved ones?

The choice is yours. **Do what you deem best.** Thank you.