

SAYING GOOD-BY TO PROVERBS
PROVERBS 1:7; 9:10; 2:1-9 – THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Prov. 1:7 - NIV/KJV: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The fear of the Lord is an appropriate respect, reverence, awe, and wonder.

Prov. 4:7 – NIV - The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Prov. 9:10 – NIV - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”.

The place to start – the beginning point of knowledge, wisdom, understanding – is to develop the fear of the Lord – everything else flows from that!

There is a moral/behavioral element to the “fear of the Lord”:

Proverbs 3:7 - Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.

8:13 - The fear of the Lord *is* to hate evil;

16:6 - ... by the fear of the Lord *one* departs from evil.

I. DEVELOPING THE FEAR OF THE LORD - 2:1-4 “IF”

My son, **if** you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ²turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—³indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

A. Accept the Word of God

B. _____ up (KJV – “Hide”) His commandments

C. Turn your ear to wisdom - Attentive _____

You could summarize these first 3 steps as: BE WILLING TO HEAR FROM GOD.

D. Apply your heart to understanding.

“Heart” - your mind, will, and emotions. You must _____ it, too!

The step could be stated as: BE READY TO APPLY AND OBEY

E. Call out and cry aloud – _____

F. Look for it – search for it.

“Look for it” – with care and attention. (Don’t be sloppy in your _____!)

“Search” - diligence and consistency in your study.

v. 3 and 4 could be stated as: PRAY AND STUDY CONSISTENTLY!

II. V. 5 – 9 - THEN: THE BLESSINGS OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD

⁵ **then** you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

⁸ for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. ⁹ Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.

A. Understand the fear of the Lord - (being able to apply God's Truth to your _____ life). It also has with the idea of "being able to distinguish"

B. The knowledge of God – it comes from "yada" – the intimate knowledge of God.

C. v. 6 – "let me repeat: God gives wisdom (the ability to see life from God's perspective); knowledge (intimate knowledge of God) and _____ (ability to apply wisdom to your daily life.)"

D. v. 7 – God will be your "_____".
KJV – "lays up sound wisdom"; NIV – "holds success in store".

E. God will _____ us – v. 7b, 8

1) Shield - protection

2) Guard your course – the well-trodden roads – _____ life

3) Protects (KJV – Preserve) – hedge about with thorns; your "way" – course of life.

God will protect your daily living, and the "_____"
of your life!!

F. We will have understanding. V. 9

1) Right – (KJV – Righteousness) – right standing with God and others

2) Just – (KJV – Judgment) – ability to come to a proper understanding of things; to make good _____

3) Fair – (KJV – Equity) – fairness and justice

Every good path

I encourage you to make these 3 commitments:

BE WILLING TO HEAR FROM GOD

BE READY TO APPLY AND OBEY

PRAY AND STUDY CONSISTENTLY

THEN you will develop the fear of the Lord, and receive His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. And THAT'S the priority lesson of Proverbs.

