



Proverbs Daily Dose of Wisdom Devotional



Chapter 13 By Dallas Smith

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When we teach people about God and what He's done in our lives, some people will listen and other people will refuse to accept our stories, and that is not our fault. We all like to think we have the most wise children, and they will take advantage of the knowledge our family has already accumulated and learned the hard way. Surely they will accept instruction from their fathers, the head of the home, but not always. Good words have a good effect and feed into their lives. Such words will inform and help them if they chose to listen and not only hear! If a child doesn't learn by correction, (with a rod if necessary), they are headed for serious trouble that will affect themselves and others negatively. It is up to wise parents to teach their children what is right and good, and to love their children in doing so. We want our child's life to be blessed by God as they journey through life. We all say we would do anything for our children, yet we must limit ourselves and realize when they must learn to be adults. Parents must let go and allow their children to mature and learn to fly on their own. If not, that parent has failed their duty and responsibility. They cripple and stifle a child's ability to soar and excel in life that God has for them. But they must first get out from under our stubborn, protective, parental wings. We parents, as much as it pains us, must sit back and allow them the independence to stumble and learn on their own in the world.

Words mean a lot and they can never be taken back. Jewish ladies may introduce their son as "here is Jacob, my someday docta! Or here's Hiram my future lawyer!" Kids hear this and aspire to that. On the other hand words can curse. "You'll never amount to anything"; "You're a lousy helper, just like the rest of your family." After a while this kid will not even try to do well. My Daddy always taught me that a man was only as good as his word and that a firm handshake was his bond that guaranteed his vow. Whatever you agree to or tell someone you will do, you did no matter what came. Your word was your oath of honesty. He would also tell me that we have two ears and only one mouth. That was God's way of saying we should listen twice as much as we talk!

People can only lie and put up a false image for so long before their true character comes out. So many people are all visionary talkers and do nothing to accomplish anything. They want what everyone else has but are not willing to work for it as others

have done. 2 Thes. 3:10 tells us very simply, "If you don't work, you don't eat." Hunger is a good motivator to be creative and innovative to supply your needs.

At one time in my life, it was nothing for me to sell my plasma and blood, shoplift for food, pawn everything I owned (even my 1st wedding ring) for a fraction of its cost, stole money, lie to get things, beg at food banks, and live in abandoned buildings. But I knew God was there every minute, and it was up to me to move toward Him. The world is a cruel place that will rob you of everything material, and this is why you must save eternal things that you can depend on later. Nothing mentioned here was good or fun but natural evil instinct kicked in and took over. It takes a conscious effort to subdue that nature, to seek God and wisdom for something better to make a repentant heart and complete a change of direction.

We are told to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure and lovely. These are basic instructions right from God. When He tells us not to do one thing, He usually has several good things that will benefit us just obeying His commands. All of the Torah is the foundation that we need to live a solid, faithful life. God's good Word like this protect us from falling into Satan's snares like lying, doing evil and living a life of shame, immorality and violence. A good person hate lies and deception, but an evil man loves to tell lies for no reason but to cause chaos.

We can't make ourselves perfect or act like it, but asking God to forgive us can perfect us. Bearing false witness can be many things, not only count as our testimony. Swaying your story to benefit an agenda or your own personal gain at other's expense is one example. Being 2-faced, living and putting on a front that implies one is to be something they are not, just for personal and financial gain or lying for others to cover their sin is wrong! Many times good people are done wrong and we must realize that if the world hated Jesus, they will also hate us. If we live Godly in Jesus we will suffer persecution at times. But God will make good what was intended for evil. We must be patient and accept his blessings in His time, not our own. Someone who is grounded may wonder why something is happening to them, but God's joy will always shine in their hearts causing them to be content no matter what situation they are in for a season. Those wicked who purpose in their hearts to lie, cheat and constantly take advantage of good people's generosity will eventually reap the bad crop they have sown over a lifetime of serving the wrong master and leading a sinful life. They can expect a fair judgment from God – one that may be cold and lonely.

Not all benefits of wealth are real. Thieves will not steal from the poor because they have nothing, same as the thief! Some think money, riches and wealth are the answer to filling the hole in their heart. But many who put this as their goal, and reach it, are still empty. Getting it by stepping on others, shifty means, and compromising Godly standards will only be a temporary fix. Maturity is the ability to postpone pleasures and hold out for the eternal gifts which are freely given to us.

Christians will always have Faith, Hope and Joy in their hearts no matter what life throws at them. Receiving advice, teaching and experiences will fulfill, reward and deliver us into God's hands eventually. Those who do as the world does will be in

constant torment, suffering, envious of what others have and hate God. Prideful people argue because they only speak their own thoughts. A proud person always thinks that they are right and everyone else is wrong. They think they don't need to heed anyone else's thoughts or advise. The wise person, although intelligent, will always listen and weigh another's experiences.

Worldly people do not spend their money wisely or save it, but will party, gamble or appease others for a short time to be his friend. Prosperity rewards the righteous and this is done by being with successful people who are prosperous in things other than just money. We must learn from those who are older and wiser and learn from lessons they learned the hard way. Just as the Proverbs 31 woman is a very busy, wise lady who can delegate in her business affairs, the good, honorable man must be savvy in many areas, to allow his blessings to work for him. He must provide for his family as well as generations after him. Someone who works hard feels good about receiving payment at the end of the day because he earned it, where others who look for handouts constantly lose their dignity and honor. Ordinary wisdom can save a person from natural dangers and death. God's wisdom can save a person from the danger of Hell. God's wisdom will bring that person to Heaven!

Study chapter 13 of Proverbs today.

What verse stood out to me _____

What is God's wisdom to me _____

What can I do today to go forward with God's wisdom in my life _____

Dallas Smith has been married to Jennifer for almost 29 year, have a daughter, a son and 3 grandchildren. He met his wife over a Tupperware gathering, he booked a party from her, she liked me, she found Jesus and the rest is blessed history! Dallas has been a school bus driver for Bixby the last 10 years and Jenks 7 years before that. He has 15 years restaurant management experience, QC reactor fitting inspector, a degree in electronic engineering, diploma in meteorology, and rotary engine mechanics. He has done extensive genealogy research for 40 years, dating the Smith family back to early 1600's in England and written family histories. He and Jennifer have a small catering business at www.MrsSureFire.Com. We can feed 2 or 250! He and his family joined Midwest Ministries in 1996. He has served in many church areas: food bank director, special events/activities coordinator, Sunday school teacher, Passover demonstration

teacher, writing bulletins, photography and videographer. The Smiths have studied Hebrew Roots of Christianity since 1989, have been to Israel and are currently the leaders of the Torah Study classes. They are both ordained deacon. He's a published writer in several local newspapers, the Community Spirit Magazine, short stories at various churches and still writing. He served 6 years in the Air Force as a meteorologist at Fort Sill & Lawton, OK (Tornado Alley)! Due to a corrupt, sinful lifestyle of being raised in taverns, there wasn't much good to do or hope for and nothing to ever laugh about. This may be a reason now why life is so much fun in Jesus and not so serious every moment! God has restored a joy I didn't deserve and I bask in it daily!