

Proverbs 2:1-11

¹ My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— ³ indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 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. ¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. ¹¹ Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

- Notes

- Chapter 2 has an elaborate structure of 22 lines (Hebrew alphabet as 22 letters) divided in two halves, 1-11, and 12-22. The first half focuses on developing wisdom and the second half on deliverance from wicked men and women.
- Notice the numerous verbs, accept and store, turning and applying, look and search, call out and cry aloud, give and come from, holds, shields, guards, protects, etc.
- Remember as well, so many of these verbs that relate to knowledge, have an experiential or personal connotation. We are not talking about knowing facts at a distance in some cold objective way, but in a very personal and intimate way.

Questions

1. Notice all the verbs in verses 1-4. What does it say about how we gain wisdom?
2. Now notice all the verbs in verses 5-8, what does it say about what God will do?
3. Why do you think we need to both seek wisdom and we should receive it from God?
4. Verse 5 talks about the “fear of the Lord” and the “knowledge of God” capturing the need for awe and personal relationship with him. How have both been important in your walk with God?
5. Give an example where you listened to foolish advice that did not work out well in your life. What did you learn from that experience?
6. Give an example where you received good advice from scripture or other believers that helped you in your life. What did you learn from that experience?
7. Proverbs is not offering a guarantee, but a path. How does this help us be gracious with others and ourselves as we make decisions in life?