

Proverbs

Everyday Choices...
ETERNAL IMPACT

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How does a wise person get deceived (1 Kings 11:4)... and how does a strong believer fall into sin (2 Samuel 1:19)? Because the battle is deeper than intellect, and stronger than human strength.

Life is not neutral, it's always moving in a direction, shaped by the voices we listen to and the choices we make. And the choice is fully ours.

Proverbs gives many examples of two very different paths such as wisdom or foolishness, righteousness or wickedness, life or death. It echoes God's words in Deuteronomy 30:19-20 *This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now **choose** life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.* (Deuteronomy 28)

Every decision moves you somewhere. And the battle behind those decisions isn't really what's around you... it's what's within you (James 1:13-15). Your mind and will are being pulled between truth and deception, wisdom and seduction, and Spirit and flesh (Romans 8:5-6).

That's why Proverbs is critical for today. It teaches you to discern the voices that shape your heart before they become the decisions that determine your direction. Our everyday choices DO have eternal impact!

THE FOUNDATION

1. Why do wise people make stupid decisions and strong people fall into dark sin? The answer is clear in Proverbs, but it doesn't begin with behavior; it starts with a specific foundation upon which our behavior and our lives are built... **the fear of the LORD**. Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (wisdom), but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
 - **In the Hebrew** | Fear: Reverence, a heart that recognizes God's authority and holiness; Beginning: It is the foundation and controlling basis for life; Knowledge: This is more than mental awareness, it is *experiential* knowledge and understanding that affects how you live!
2. This is where everything begins. Wisdom is not about intelligence, it's about being in a right relationship with God. You can be educated and still be deceived. You can be gifted and still be off course (Matthew 7:22-23). If the fear of the LORD is not the foundation, everything else in your life is unstable (James 1:8). The fear of the LORD keeps your heart with His, it humbles your spirit, and it positions you to hear God more clearly.

3. Do a personal study on the fear of the LORD using the following passages: Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 8:13; 10:27; 14:26–27; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23.

THE WARNING

1. Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*
 - There is a way that looks right, feels right, and makes perfect sense, but what feels right is not always right in the eyes of God. You can convince yourself, defend it, and walk it with confidence... and still be heading straight toward destruction.
2. The enemy doesn't show you destruction, he shows you something that *looks right*. That's why strong people fall. That's why leaders collapse. Deception doesn't announce itself. It comes wrapped in logic, emotion, even spiritual language. You can be sincere and still be wrong. You can be confident and still be deceived.
 - Don't ask, "Does this *feel* right?" Instead ask, "Is this in line with God's will, submitted to His Word, and led by His Spirit?"

THE ANSWER

1. **So how *do we live*?** How do we stay on the right path? Proverbs 3 provides deeply penetrating and transformational truths. Remember, it does not begin with action but the attitude of the fear of the LORD. Proverbs 3 has the keys to living in a life of victory.
 - Proverbs 3:5–6 (Key words are translated from the Hebrew) *Trust (not casual belief, this is full reliance, placing your weight on Him) in the LORD with all your heart (mind, will, emotions) and lean not on (rely on and stay in) your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him (not just acknowledgement but to know Him relationally in every decision), and he will make your paths straight (He doesn't just guide us, He removes obstacles). Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the Lord...*
2. **This is the path. Not trusting yourself... but surrendering direction to God.** This is where everything is decided!



A PROPHETIC WORD...

You will either trust God fully, or you will lean on your own abilities. You and your future are shaped by that choice. You cannot walk in the Spirit while leaning on your own understanding. You cannot be led by God while trusting your own voice. When a man or woman fully surrenders, when they truly fear the LORD, when they submit their ways and refuse to trust in themselves, God steps in!

Lay down your understanding and control. Crucify your human reasoning. Submit your ways, your thoughts and actions to the LORD. The path of surrender is the **ONLY** path where God takes over... and that path leads to life.

Next Week: Part 2, Making it Practical