

The benefit of being a wise child ----

"The wise son makes his father glad." (Wise children make their parents glad.)
Proverbs 15:20 (NASB-U)

The benefit of being a wise employee ----

"Do you see a man (person) skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men."
Proverbs 22:29 (NIV)

This proverb is saying that people who work skillfully and wisely over a long period of time will be esteemed highly by others, and they will generally be rewarded.

The Consequences of Neglecting Wisdom.

"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
(CEV: *"All children are foolish, but firm correction will make them change."*)
Proverbs 22:15 (NIV)

The implications of this verse are that we are not just born with a blank slate waiting to see if our environment causes us to decide if we are going to head down the wise path or the foolish path.

Rather, we are all born with a case of the follies. We are all born with a human nature that has a bent toward sin and foolishness. This has to be dealt with and replaced with wisdom, or we are going to make a mess of our life. We must with God's help grow out of the "impulse gratification pattern" that is part of our life, and become mature people who can discern the temptation of desires and impulses, and choose to take the right and Godly path.

How To Become A Wise Person.

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge (wisdom),"
Proverbs 1:7 (NIV)

The phrase *"The fear of the Lord"* does not mean that we begin to become wise when we are afraid of God, but rather when we have a loving reverence or awe of God that leads us to submitting to his Lordship (his leadership) in our life. In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson captures what this verse is saying when he writes:
"Start with God—the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning."

We start to become wise when we realize there is a God who is powerful and personal and head over heels in love with each one of us. He has extended to us through Christ his Son, the hand of his gracious forgiveness of our sin. He says, 'Come on, take my hand, enter into a relationship with me, and I will forgive your sin and help you live a life of good choices and wise living.'

We have to respond and receive from him, his love and grace.
(See John 1:12-13 and Romans 10:9-10, 13)

2. Take God's wisdom and apply it to your life.

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
Proverbs 3:1-4

MESSAGE NOTES

Living Wisely: Life Lessons From Proverbs Part 1 of 13

“Pursue Wisdom” -- Proverbs 3:13-24

Introduction: The book of the Bible that we know as *The Proverbs* is a book that takes the ageless, priceless wisdom of God and it makes it understandable and accessible to regular people like you and me. No seminary degree is necessary to understand Proverbs. There are very few confusing theological terms in this book. – There are lots of pertinent truths for your everyday life and mine, and they are easily understood. In other words, it is a practical, plain-speaking, straight-forward book.

One of the dominant themes of *Proverbs* is the theme of pursuing wisdom. That is the topic for today’s message.

The Benefits of Attaining Wisdom

When talking about wisdom, Proverbs says that the payoff for acquiring wisdom is huge. If we arrange our life around becoming a wise person the payoff will exceed anything we can imagine. For example:

The benefit of being a wise parent ----

“...*the glory of sons (children) is their father.*”

Proverbs 17:6 (NASB-U)

This is saying that when it’s all said and done, children benefit for a life time if they have grown up under the influence of a wise dad. The same is said about children who are raised by wise mothers. In Proverbs 31:28-29, there is a classic text that says if a wife and mother conducts herself wisely, the result will be that her children will rise up and call her blessed, and her husband will say many women have done nobly, but you excel them all.

So what is the value of parental wisdom? Proverbs says it is better than gold.

If you are trying to become a wise person, ask yourself today -- Where am I folly prone these days? – Then read the book of Proverbs (read a chapter a day and read through Proverbs once a month), and find the verses that speak to you, write them down, and cling to the path of wisdom like a drowning person does to a life jacket in a raging sea. Recite those verses and pray through them when you are tempted to go sideways in your life.

3. Hang out with wise people.

“*Whoever walks with the wise will become wise; whoever walks with fools will suffer harm.*” Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

“*Very few of us can run with a bad set of dogs and not get fleas.*”

“*Bad company corrupts good morals.*” 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Do you and I want to become wise? -- We are going to have to make a very strategic decision to hang around a lot more with people who are on the path of wisdom; and hang around a lot less with people who are on the path of folly. **This does not mean that we do not hang around people who do not follow Jesus, because we are called to be a witness in our world for Christ. A great way to be a witness is to: “Make a friend; Be a friend; and Lead a friend to Christ.”** But what the Proverbs are saying is that if we hang with people who struggle in the same areas of life that we struggle with, we are going to be influenced down the path of folly.