

Message #48**Proverbs 14:26-27**

Wisdom is not an academic issue; it is a spiritual issue. The central question at stake for determining wisdom is “Do I fear the LORD?” This issue is the heart of wisdom theology and if an individual fails to grasp this point, he is not wise, no matter what the academic or social accomplishments.

To simply state the point, a person will not choose to walk in the wise ways of God until he begins to “fear the LORD.” This concept is so important that Solomon said everything God does is designed to bring man to a place where he will “fear before Him” (Eccl. 3:14). Moses said this was one reason for the Word of God (Deut. 6:24).

THERE ARE GREAT BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO FEAR THE LORD.

BENEFIT #1 – One who fears the Lord will have access to God’s wisdom. 1:7; 9:10; 15:33

This is the beginning point of gaining God’s wisdom.

BENEFIT #2 – One who fears the Lord will avoid God’s abandonment. 1:29

BENEFIT #3 – One who fears the Lord will live a long life. 10:27

This does not mean that every young person who is sick does not fear the Lord, nor every older person who is healthy does fear the Lord. This means that one who fears the Lord can, generally speaking, expect to outlive those who do not.

BENEFIT #4 – One who fears the Lord will have complete security. **14:26**

The Hebrew words “strong confidence” describes a security that has no fear at all. One reason is in the second part of the verse—God’s children have a fortress protecting them—God.

BENEFIT #5 – One who fears the Lord will have complete satisfaction. **14:27; 19:23a**

The phrase “fountain of life” in Hebrew is plural (“lives”), meaning full, complete life.

BENEFIT #6 – One who fears the Lord will have a departure from evil. 16:6

One will not stop sinning until one reverences God.

BENEFIT #7 – One who fears the Lord will not face divine judgment. 19:23

The words “untouched by evil” are “chiefly used of God chastening the wicked.” Hebrews 10:32 says, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

BENEFIT #8 – One who fears the Lord will receive great prosperity. 22:4

In Solomon’s day this would have meant literal wealth; our wealth is in heaven.

BENEFIT #9 – One who fears the Lord will receive fulfilled dreams. 23:17-18

Four times in Proverbs the concept of not envying sinners shows up (3:31; 24:1, 19; 23:17-18). God wants us to know that those who will ultimately prosper and have fulfilled dreams are those that fear Him.