

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”
Proverbs 15:2-7

1 Timothy 4:7b-9

Titles of individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

1. Seek a Tongue of Wisdom – 2

“tongue of the wise” – in order to speak wise words, it is necessary to be a wise person. Wisdom gives a person the ability to control their tongue (according to Proverbs 15):

- Speaking with the right tone – 15:1
- Knowing when to speak – 15:23
- Choosing the right words – 15:28

“commends knowledge” – wisdom results in using the right words at the right time with the right tone to point others to knowledge that will help them glorify God rather than lead them into folly

Example: Job’s friends

“fools” – they don’t have the knowledge of God in their heart. As a result, they have nothing worth saying.

2. Live a Joyful Life Under the Gaze of God – 3

“eyes of the Lord” – refers to God’s presence in every situation we experience.

Another well-known verse on the eyes of the Lord – 2 Chronicles 16:9

“every place” – the Lord is in every situation and is omniscient

The non-believer (the fool) tries to forget the omniscience of God – Psalm 10:11

“keeping watch” – God is keeping watch on everyone from the most important leader of a nation to the homeless person living on the street.

“evil” – God is just and therefore must punish their sin. This verse is a warning to non-believers.

“good” – believers

In order to bless and reward them

R.C. Sproul often exhorted us to live our lives “Coram Deo” (“Under God’s Gaze”)

“For the child of God, the gaze is no threat. Rather, it is a promise of safekeeping that God will keep us in His tender care and work out all the circumstances of our lives to His great glory and our eternal benefit.” Bob Beasley, *The Wisdom of God*.

3. Seek Healing Words – 4

“gentle tongue” – ESV footnote: “healing”

The word speaks of words that are able to bring health to the soul. There are people all around us who have a wounded spirit.

The wise person has the means of bringing healing to the wounded spirit.

“a tree of life” - “the tree of life” in Scripture is in the Garden of Eden and has a counterpart in the New Jerusalem and its leaves are for the “healing of the nations” – Revelation 22:2

Healing doesn't imply illness (there will be no illness in Heaven) but “life-giving”, “health-giving”.

“perverseness” - that which is twisted or false

The person with a perverse tongue has no constructive advice to offer.

God has given us the capacity to either give help or inflict harm by words that come out of our mouth.

“breaks the spirit”- it fractures – Psalm 60:2; Isaiah 30:4

John Kitchen: “What potential lies within our words! We are endowed by our Creator with the capacity to bring either genuine, substantive help to those around us or to inflict incalculable lasting harm upon them – all of that by simply opening our mouths.”

4. Obey All in Authority – 5

“instruction” – The Hebrew word describes a process of instruction that takes place through correction. Romans 15:14-16 (v. 14 “instruct” / “admonish”)

“heeds reproof” – from those whose authority we are under

Reproof from God's Word – Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“prudent” – able to avoid the pitfalls of life and spiritual dangers

5. Spread Godly Knowledge – 6

“much treasure” – some believers have a lot of money and material things but that's not true of all believers. But all believers have better treasure (eternal, can't be stolen or lose its value).

2 Corinthians 6:10

“wicked” – the contrast isn't that the righteous become materially rich and the wicked become poor. Rather, it's the effect of those riches that are contrasted. It's the ability to enjoy what is accumulated that is the point here.

Jesus said to store up eternal treasure – Matthew 6:19-21

6. Sow the Seeds of Righteousness – 7

“lips” – since the lips speak of what's in the heart (Luke 6:45), the point is that the hearts of the wise are full of wisdom, knowledge and understanding and therefore they leave a trail of learning behind them.

“spread knowledge” – the breath of the wise person spreads wisdom far and wide, while the hearts of fools yield only empty wind.

Matthew 28:19-20

2 Timothy 2:2