

Trusting God's Guidance, part 4

"Wisdom is the right use of knowledge." C.H. Spurgeon

Proverbs 10:14; 13:16; 14:18; 15:14; 18:15; 19:2; 20:15; 21:11; 23:12; 24:3-4 CSB

10:14 The wise store up knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool hastens destruction.

13:16 Every sensible person acts knowledgeably,
but a fool displays his stupidity.

14:18 The inexperienced inherit foolishness,
but the sensible are crowned with knowledge.

15:14 A discerning mind seeks knowledge,
but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

18:15 The mind of the discerning acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks it.

19:2 Even zeal is not good without knowledge,
and the one who acts hastily^[a] sins.

20:15 There is gold and a multitude of jewels,
but knowledgeable lips are a rare treasure.

23:12 Apply yourself to discipline
and listen to words of knowledge.

24:3 A house is built by wisdom,
and it is established by understanding;

4 by knowledge the rooms are filled
with every precious and beautiful treasure.

Footnotes

a. 19:2 Lit who is hasty with feet

Something to think about...

If we truly believe that God's will is the source and center of joy, we will obey him in all things. If you are not obeying him in an area of your life, what do you think it is that you are not believing? What truth of Scripture have you not yet accepted?

A CLOSER LOOK: KNOWLEDGE

23:12. Knowledge is vitally important, so Proverbs commands us to apply ourselves to the task of gaining it. Here is the key to true education: use not only your ears but your heart, receptive to be changed by what you hear.

20:15; 24:3-4. Knowledge is also valuable. These verses compare it to the costliest treasures. We normally think of gold and gems as valuable because of their scarcity as well as their beauty. But the ability to speak words of knowledge appropriate for the occasion is an even rarer treasure. Broadening the imagery, the writer tells how wisdom builds a house, understanding provides the foundation, and knowledge fills its rooms with rare and beautiful treasures. Though these statements could apply to a person's literal house, they refer more directly to a person's character, life, or family.

10:14; 13:16. Like wisdom and prudence, knowledge stands in stark contrast to the behavior of a fool. Wise men reserve their knowledge to use at the proper time, while a fool spouts off without thinking and gets himself in trouble. A prudent person uses his knowledge to foresee and avoid danger, but a fool exposes his folly like a peddler spreading his wares in the marketplace.

14:18; 15:14. Both the gullible simpleton and the talkative fool are unable to gain wisdom for themselves. The fool feeds, or grazes randomly like cattle, nibbling on his own brand of folly. But the prudent or discerning man carries on a search for knowledge that is well rewarded.

18:15. He who has knowledge knows how little he knows, so he constantly seeks more. The NIV obscures the fact that the Hebrew mentions knowledge in both lines, emphasizing its value. Knowledge is so precious, in fact, that the wise person not only listens for it with his ears but folds it into his heart, or inward self.

19:2. A person may have zeal (literally, Heb. nephesh, soul) with a strong inner drive for success. But if this motivation is not directed by knowledge, it can lead to hasty blunders. Many people act hurriedly, then blame God for their mistakes.

21:11. This verse discusses three mental attitudes. First, the mocker has a closed mind; even when he is punished, he learns nothing. Second, the simple person has an empty mind; he can be startled into attention by a vivid lesson like the penalty inflicted on the scoffer. Third, the wise man has an open mind and will learn simply from instruction.

Knowledge is power—not to dominate others but to approach life from God's perspective.

"LET US PRAY..."

Lord, you have made us and gifted us to gain knowledge and to share it. I pray that we would use these gifts eagerly and wisely. Help us to pursue wisdom and not foolishness. Lord we trust you and thank you for your guidance. AMEN