

The Pathway to Eternal Wisdom

[Part 10]

The simpleton and seductress –

This chapter resembles that of **Proverbs 6:20-35** presented, however, not in generalisations but dramatically.

Proverbs 7:1-5 [NIV] *“My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, ‘You are my sister,’ and call understanding your kinsman; they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.”*

It is shown once more that the best advice is useless against strong temptations unless it is thoroughly taken to heart and translated into habits.

The intimate relationship that the parent wants the child to have with their wise advice, is shown in **v4**. To make wisdom part of the family. [**Matthew 12:50**]

Although the advice is directed towards the son, young women should take heed as well.

Any person who has no purpose in life is simple-minded.

The Hebrew word translated “*simple*” in this passage of scripture is “*pethîy*” from a root word meaning open, that is seducible.

Without purposeful direction in our lives, with a real goal we desire to attain, we are vulnerable to many temptations.

Proverbs 7:6-23 [NIV] *“At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: ‘I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! I have covered my bed with coloured linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let’s drink deep of love till morning; let’s enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.’ With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.”*

Even though the young man doesn’t know where he is going, the adulteress knows where she wants him, to be used for her benefit.

Notice the adulteress’ strategies –

She dresses to allure men [**v10**]

Her approach is bold [**v13**]

She invites him over to her place [**v16-18**]

She cunningly answers all his objections [v19-20]

She persuades him with smooth talk [v21]

She sets a trap for him into which he falls [v22-23]

Even then this poor drifter in life doesn't know what has happened to him, he has become spiritually dead and his physical life, his vitality for life, lost. [Hebrew word used is "nephesh" referring to every aspect of physical life.]

The strategies used by this adulteress are common to any temptation so we need to be aware of them in many situations.

Proverbs 7:24-27 [NIV] *"Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death."*

After watching the drama of this young man's life we are made to consider ourselves as conceivably filling the same role.

There are definite steps we can take to avoid falling for this temptation or others similar.

- 1) Guard our mind and what we allow to enter into it. That is, **don't** read books, look at pictures or encourage any fantasies that stimulate the wrong desires.
- 2) Keep well away from places or other people who would tempt you to indulge in this sinful action.
- 3) Don't think only of the moment, consider the future and outcome of your actions. Today's thrill may lead to tomorrow's ruin.
- 4) Don't consider that you are strong enough to resist the temptation when you find yourself confronted with it, for many powerful men have been destroyed by sexual and other sins. [v26]
- 5) Look past the woman's seductive charm and recognise her as a broad highway to spiritual and maybe physical death.

Is a moment of thrill and physical pleasure worth such a fatal end?

In other words, *"let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he falls."*

There is a strange irony to these Proverbs given by King David to Solomon.

1 Kings 4:29-32 [NIV] *"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite, wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five."*

Solomon had a wonderful beginning to his life as King of Israel. God gave him wisdom beyond any other human being.

1 Kings 11:1-6 [NIV] *"King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, 'You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.' Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon*

grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.”

Solomon did **not** apply the wisdom he knew and had been given by the Creator God, and as a result became spiritually dead, turning his back on his Creator God.

God must control our lives from the beginning right to the end.

The whole of this chapter is a praise of wisdom, in a sustained appeal of great beauty and immense range in value.

It ends in true climax “*now therefore ...*” **verses 32-36.**

Wisdom is the would-be guide to every human –

Proverbs 8:1-5 [NIV] *“Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: ‘To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.’”*

Wisdom’s call is in contrast to the call of the adulteress. Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who guides us in our everyday life, with dignity and in public places pleads with all humans to receive her.

Wisdom promises to change your life for the better –

The simple and seducible will become prudent.

Foolish and silly will gain perception and discernment.

Wisdom and morality are in partnership –

Proverbs 8:6-13 [NIV] *“Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge. Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. ‘I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.’”*

Wisdom’s words are true, straightforward and sincere. The value of what wisdom is offering to any person is beyond any value that jewels and fine possessions can bring us. Far beyond the things that some devote their whole life to attain.

How is this true?

Because God and wisdom hate the same things.

Wisdom, for all its practical, earthly uses, does **not** clash with or conflict with godliness. [**Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 1:7**]

Wisdom being rooted in an awe for the Creator God is freed from the faults and weaknesses of human wisdom. [**James 3:13-17**]

Proverbs 8:14-16 [NIV] *“Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.”*

Sound rulership is the result of being filled with and driven by Godly wisdom.

All true Christians should seek this Godly wisdom because of the future job that Jesus Christ has for us, as leaders and teachers in the new world that will arise after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. **[Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10]**

Proverbs 8:17 [NIV] *“I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.”*

We show our love for wisdom by asking God for it **[James 5:1; Luke 11:9-13; Galatians 5:22-23]**.

We show our love for wisdom by applying it to our day-to-day life.

James 2:18, 20 [NIV] *“But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.” ... “You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?”*

Wisdom is like faith, it is a “fruit” of the Holy Spirit, whom God will send to all who trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and obey Him. **[Acts 5:32]** For the true Christian the Holy Spirit is always active in our lives, flowing through us in acts of love for other human beings. **[John 7:38-39]**

Likewise we need to express the Godly wisdom in our lives and our relationships with other human beings.

Proverbs 8:18-21 [NIV] *“With me are riches and honour, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.”*

One word in this passage of scripture is the key to these treasures that the active use of Godly wisdom will bring us.

The word is “enduring” the Hebrew word “*âthêq*” literally meaning antique, that is of enduring value, on the spiritual level this is eternal, not short-lived physical.

Wisdom gives such enduring qualities because they are righteously obtained. **[v18, 20]**

If people are in authority **[v15-16]** they need wisdom for justice not personal advantage.

Wisdom’s role in creation –

Proverbs 8:22-31 [NIV] *“The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so that the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.”*

Certain things are brought out about Godly wisdom.

Wisdom is an abstraction made personal for the sake of poetic vividness. In the next chapter wisdom is portrayed in a new guise as a great lady. **[9:1-6]**

Wisdom is what the Creator God considered primary and indispensable in the act of creation.

Wisdom is older than the universe and fundamental to its existence, for every speck of matter [v26b] and the foundation of the universe's order. [v27-29]

Using His wisdom in the physical creation brought great joy to our Creator God. [v30-31]

Even the already-created angels sang for joy when they saw God's wisdom in action at the physical creation of the earth. [Job 38:4-7]

Wisdom's appeal is reinforced –

Proverbs 8:32-36 [NIV] *“Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favour from the LORD. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death.”*

These verses disclose their full and eternal meaning when we relate them to Jesus Christ Who is the exact representation of God and God Himself [Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15], and creator of all the universe.

We should read these verses as Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God or the Wisdom of God in action.

To miss Godly wisdom we wrong ourselves and to hate her is to commit suicide, both refer directly to our relationship with our only Saviour Jesus Christ.