

## APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

## WISEGUY

As revolutionary as the impact of the personal desktop computer was 25 years ago, PDA's (Personal Digital Assistants) and cell phones have emerged on the scene as handheld tools and have revolutionized the way we navigate information, activities and communication today.

Four letters tell the story: APPS. "Apps for everything" is the iPhone theme with 4040 Apps currently in circulation—1,469 new Apps as of July!

While we live in an age exploding with knowledge, I have found there is a drought of wisdom. T.S. Eliot said, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in Information?" We have geeks, geniuses and gurus galore in the explosive world of technology, but there are few people who can navigate life skillfully and successfully. Where are the wise men and women of this age?

I have a breakthrough Apps announcement to share with you—you can download wisdom! Proverbs is a book of "Apps" wisdom for every day.

Warren Wiersbe: "The book of Proverbs is all about godly wisdom, how to get it and how to use it. It's about priorities and principles, not get-rich-quick schemes or successful formulas. It tells you not how to make a living, but how to be skillful in the lost art of making a life... The pages of history are filled with the names of brilliant and gifted people who were smart enough to become rich and famous, but not wise enough to make a successful and satisfying life."

Wisdom is *the ability to live life skillfully*.

Dr. Roy Zuck: "Wisdom means being skillful and successful in one's relationships and responsibilities... observing and following the Creator's principles of order in the moral universe."

Every Proverb has at least three distinct and vital components: (1) It contains a timeless truth, (2) it is based on a common life experience and (3) it is morally and ethically sound, verifying and validating the revelation of God's character and nature.

<sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: <sup>2</sup>To know **wisdom** and **instruction**,

to **understand** words of insight, <sup>3</sup>to receive instruction in **wise dealing**, in **righteousness**, **justice**, and **equity**; <sup>4</sup>to **give prudence** to the simple, **knowledge** and **discretion** to the youth—<sup>5</sup>Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands **obtain guidance**, <sup>6</sup>to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. <sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:1-7 ESV).

Who doesn't need or want each of these qualities in life? So many of life's failures, injuries and negative consequences come as a result of the neglect of one or more of the qualities listed here.

There is one clear, succinct and absolute foundation in the teaching of Proverbs. It is the key to opening the wisdom found in this book:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7 ESV).

The phrase, *fear of the LORD*, is found in at least 18 passages in Proverbs. Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10 are the foundational verses of the entire book.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight (Proverbs 9:10 ESV).

What is the *fear of the LORD*? The word, *fear*, means *respect* and *reverence*. It means *honor* and *accountability*.

**Here is the clear and simple App of the WiseGuy: Take God seriously!**

**1. We take God's Word seriously when we heed His warnings.** God has written warnings into His Word to protect us. He has *not* established one big demerit system to find a way to discredit adventure, fun or the good in life. God simply provides "guard rails" to keep us from injury.

"A stupid person makes mistakes and learns nothing. A smart person makes mistakes and learns from them. A wise person observes others' mistakes and learns from them."

If you develop the wrong friends, you will end up doing the wrong things. If you downplay temptation,



## WiseGuy

## Apps Series, Introduction

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Scripture: Proverbs 1:1-7



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.



Fools despise wisdom and instruction.



**WARREN**  
a way of life!

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## WISEGUY &gt;&gt;&gt; CONTINUED

you will end up in a trap. If you dishonor God by harming others, you will harm yourself. God's prohibitions are given to protect us!

By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil (Proverbs 16:6 ESV).

## 2. We take God's Word seriously when we follow His instructions.

...but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster (Proverbs 1:33 ESV).

<sup>1</sup>My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you... <sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; <sup>7</sup>he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity... (Proverbs 2:1, 6-7 ESV).

My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion... (Proverbs 3:21 ESV).

The Bible is an "owner's manual on life." You need to know it and understand it. You need to believe it and practice it. Proverbs has 31 chapters. My challenge to anyone who wants to obtain wisdom and direction in life is to read one chapter every day in your personal Bible study. At the end of one month, you will have read the entire book of Proverbs.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves (James 1:22 ESV).

## 3. We take God's Word seriously when we accept His provisions.

<sup>16</sup>Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it... <sup>33</sup>The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor (Proverbs 15:16, 33 ESV).

The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm (Proverbs 19:23 ESV).

<sup>17</sup>Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. <sup>18</sup>Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off. <sup>19</sup>Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way (Proverbs 23:17-19 ESV).

## 4. We take God's Word seriously when we believe His promises.

The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life (Proverbs 22:4 ESV).

There are so many lies we believe and yet we fail to believe the One who loves us and made us to live for His glory. This is the ultimate expression of disrespect for God; this is the opposite of fearing God.

God gives His best to those who trust Him.

Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! (Psalm 31:19 ESV).

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them (Psalm 34:7 ESV).

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them (Psalm 145:19 ESV).

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised (Proverbs 31:30 ESV).

The way of life, the way of blessing, the way of confidence and the way of reward are all achieved through the *fear the LORD*. Take God seriously!

Credit must be given and noted in the following way when excerpts are printed or used: David H. McKinley, Pastor; Warren Baptist Church, Augusta, GA.

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