

INSIDE: Discover how apps can increase wisdom for life's decisions

FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Apps

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Aug–Nov 2009

warrenbaptist.org

Aug–Nov 2009

Using Apps to Live Life Skillfully

WISEGUY

3-D

GUIDE ME

DOLLARS & SENSE

EKG

SAFE SEX

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Webcast and podcast messages FREE! Details Inside

FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS Apps

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Apps is a series by David H. McKinley based on select passages from the book of Proverbs, a book filled with ancient wisdom that is practical and applicable for us today. There are 31 chapters dealing with such things as caution, judgment, forethought, discretion and the conduct of life. Wisdom, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, empowers you to make right decisions—decisions that lead to living a life of righteousness.

FEATURES

3 WISEGUY Proverbs 1:1-7

Many of life's failures, injuries and negative consequences are a result of living life apart from God and the foundational truths found in Scripture. Pastor McKinley begins this series in Proverbs by focusing on the most fundamental element for obtaining godly wisdom—the fear of the Lord.

5 3-D Proverbs 2:10-11

Sometimes there is more to life than “meets the eye.” While there are no magic glasses to see through people, problems and perplexing circumstances that cross your path, there is an App to help you stay on course each day. In this message, the following question is addressed: How do you develop an ability to recognize and avoid words, actions and attitudes that result in injury and undesirable consequences?

7 GUIDE ME Proverbs 3:5-6

In a fluctuating economy and an uncertain job market, transitions make us less concerned about resumés and more in need of a life map. You may have questions today... questions not just about what you are doing, but where you are going. “Guide Me” is a much needed App that helps pave a way for you through the uncertainties of life.

10 DOLLARS & SENSE Proverbs 3:9-10

Wealth can have the potential to distract and move us from the very source we need for joy, satisfaction and fulfillment in life. In turn, poverty can have the potential of deflating us to the point where we try to better our situation apart from God. This App points you to the One who can supply your every need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

12 EKG Proverbs 4:23

Nothing is a truer reflection of the wellbeing of your life than the condition of your heart—both physically and spiritually. What is the condition of your heart today? What is dominating your actions? Is it your emotions or your reliance on God's Word? The EKG App shows you the importance of having a healthy heart that seeks God and blesses others.

14 SAFE SEX

Proverbs 5:15-18

The God who created you created marriage for your benefit. God knows what is best for you. Within the boundaries of marriage you can find sanctification, satisfaction and safety. God also has strong warnings against deviating from His standards through the foolish and deceitful ways of immorality. With this App, learn God's plan and standard for marriage according to Scripture.

17 ON THE CLOCK

Proverbs 14:23

What does *work* and *worship* have in common? They both can give glory to God! According to the Bible, everything you do should be an activity that is transformed into an act of worship—giving praise, glory and pleasure to God. Do you use your employment as a platform to demonstrate "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27 ESV)?

20 TONGUES

Proverbs 15:1-4

The tongue can be a healing force or a damaging weapon. Have you ever said something and wished you could take it back? Most of us have been there. Reckless words can hurt, and a "slip of the tongue" can injure someone for a lifetime. *Tongues* is a comprehensive and functional App that specifically addresses issues related to the use and misuse of the tongue.

22 PIETY

Proverbs 15:8

What is your definition of the words, *piety* or *pious*? What images come to mind when you think of a pious person? For those in a genuine relationship with Christ, the public display of piety and the private devotion to Christ should be in balance because "we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22 NKJV). The Piety App focuses on the spiritual discipline of prayer in the life of a truly pious, devoted believer in Jesus Christ.

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25 HUMBLE PIE

Proverbs 16:18-19

Throughout Scripture, you are admonished to humble yourself before God. This is a trait that pleases God, but what does the biblical virtue of humility look like and how can you humble yourself? The book of Proverbs has much to say about humility and its counterpart, pride. This App outlines the attributes of true humility—those qualities that bring God's grace near to your life.

28 FRIENDS

Proverbs 17:17

It has been said that "a true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down." —Arnold Glasow
Do you have friends who influence, challenge and encourage you? Was it a friend who first told you about Christ?

In 1 Timothy 4:12, young Timothy is admonished to "set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." The Friends App describes the influence you can have in the lives of other people and the positive difference you can make through friendship.

31 THANKS

Proverbs 30:7-9

The Bible teaches us how to pray, both through instruction and example. The prayers of Jesus, Moses, David and Mary are often quoted, memorized and studied. But are you aware of a prayer found in Proverbs 30? Even though this passage is sometimes overlooked, this is an App that provides a specific prayer for you to learn and follow through example.



Safe Sex
Proverbs 5:15-18



On the Clock
Proverbs 14:23



Tongues
Proverbs 15:1-4



Piety
Proverbs 15:8



Humble Pie
Proverbs 16:18-19



Friends
Proverbs 17:17



Thanks!
Proverbs 30:7-9

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

WISEGUY

As revolutionary as the impact of the personal desktop computer was 25 years ago, PDAs (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.

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. —Warren Wiersbe

Wisdom is *the ability to live life skillfully*.

“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.” —Dr. Roy Zuck

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.

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know **wisdom** and **instruction**, to **understand** words of insight, to receive instruction in **wise dealing**, in **righteousness**, **justice**, and **equity**; to **give prudence** to the simple, **knowl-**

edge and **discretion** to the youth—Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands **obtain guidance**, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. 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!

>>>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.” —Author Unknown

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



WiseGuy

Proverbs 1:1-7

WiseGuy

Apps Series, Introduction

David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org

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!

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

WISEGUY >>> CONTINUED

"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).

>>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).

"My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you... For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 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).

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

"Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it... 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).

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

>>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 of the LORD*. Take God seriously!

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

3-D: Discretion, Discernment, Discrimination

Sometimes there is more to life than “meets the eye.” While there are no magic glasses to see through people, problems and perplexing circumstances that cross your path in life, there is an “App” to help you stay on course each day.

The idea is “seeing” in more than one dimension.

In the world of real estate, there is a motto that says, “Location. Location. Location.” In the way of wisdom, the motto is, “Discretion. Discretion. Discretion.”

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; **for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.** . . . So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous (Proverbs 2:1-11, 20 ESV).

There it is . . . discretion! We live in a world of massive indiscretion! And many spend their lives chasing and pursuing “fools gold,” and do not understand the meaning of *discretion*.

>>How do you define the word *discretion*?

According to the *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Noah Webster, 1828—“Discretion is prudence, foresight or knowledge that enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution, judgment, primarily regarding one’s own conduct.”

In the world of wisdom, it all comes down to 3-D: Discretion, Discernment and Discrimination.

Discretion. *Discretion* is the power to perceive or the ability to make responsible decisions. A lack of discretion brings injury, pain and severe consequence.

“Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman without discretion” (Proverbs 11:22 ESV).

Many beautiful people bear the pain of great indiscretions in life.

“Notable talents are not necessarily connected with discretion.” —Junius

Solomon, the principal writer of Proverbs, knew the essential need for discretion in life. If you turn back to the book of 1 Kings, you gain insight and background to the entire book of Proverbs.

READ 1 Kings 3:3, 5-10.

God answered Solomon’s prayer for discernment, a “cousin” to discretion.

Discernment. *Discernment* is the power to see what is not evident to the average mind.

READ 1 Kings 3:16-28.

Discrimination. *Discrimination* is the power to distinguish and select what is true or appropriate or excellent.

In the social context, discrimination is evil when you discriminate against race, culture or gender.

READ James 2:1-8.

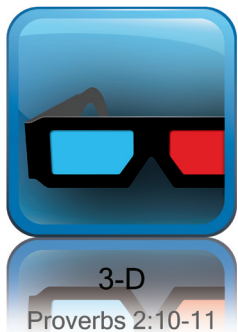
However, in the world of moral and social responsibility, discrimination is vital. Discrimination in this context is the ability to distinguish and separate what is good from evil, what is right from wrong and what is essential from what is excess.

Thomas Jefferson: “I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it [liberty] from them, but to inform their discretion.”

We live in an age of willful indiscretion. Is it no wonder then, we have such grave injury and consequence in the name of human liberty?

Discretion. Discernment. Discrimination. These are not only lacking, but are completely overlooked in the lives of most people in our day.

Discretion looks further down the road to see the consequences. Discernment looks beneath the surface to see deeper issues. Discrimination chooses a course of action based on the outcome of these two.



3-D

Apps Series, Part Two

David H. McKinley, Pastor
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Scripture: Proverbs 2:10-11



Discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you



To forsake the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness



WARREN
a way of life!

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

3-D >>> CONTINUED

Look again to the Word of God:

"My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet" (Proverbs 3:21-23 ESV).

>>How do you develop discretion?

How do you develop an ability to recognize and avoid words, actions and attitudes that result in undesirable injury and consequence? Can you develop discretion? Yes!

Ask and Seek. Look again at Proverbs 2:4-6.

It is natural to the *natural man* to live by impulse. However, the *spiritual man or woman* does not live by instincts; he or she lives by divine impartation.

Discretion is a daily thing in the lives of men and women who care about spiritual reality and spiritual influence in life.

God is the One who gives wisdom.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5 ESV).

READ 1 Corinthians 2:12-16.

Study and Know. Wisdom comes from God and God's primary tool to impart wisdom is His Word!

"The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple" (Psalm 119:130 ESV).

READ Psalm 119:97-100.

Listen and Learn. Many indiscretions come because of a failure to develop good listening skills.

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice" (Proverbs 12:15 ESV).

"Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence" (Proverbs 15:32 ESV).

Think, then Act. "The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless" (Proverbs 14:15-16 ESV).

In each of our lives, ambition quickly climbs over judgment, caution is laid aside in compulsiveness, reactions overtake planned responses, and discretion is "dumped" as we shift into drive. The result is worse than we ever imagined.

Impulsive behaviors and reactive tendencies often cause us great trouble. Have you ever said or done something that as soon as you "released" your thought, you wondered, "Why did I do that?"

"The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence" (Proverbs 14:16 NLT).

"A prudent person sees trouble coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered" (Proverbs 22:3 MSG).

Too many people live with the "domino effect" in life—one quick push and all the rest fall in rapid succession.

To build a life of skillful living and blessing, you must follow a simple adage I once heard from a wise missionary: "Don't just do something—stand there!" —Don Seymour

What about you today? Do you need discretion?

When you lack discretion, you cheat God, yourself and others.

Let's end where we started:

"...discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you..." (Proverbs 2:11 ESV).

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

GUIDE ME

Life can be complicated. We dream dreams. We make plans. We play by the rules. We pay our dues. We work hard. We believe the best. But then, the unexpected happens. Life is interrupted and we are left to make adjustments.

On September 11, 2001, most of us remember where we were, what we were doing, who we were with and how we heard about the unfolding devastation. Our world changed in a day. We lost control. Within moments, we moved into a season of uncertainty, much like the dramatic stories of the Old Testament when armies plundered a city and left devastation in their wake.

Another common event in the Old Testament was famine—a loss of resource and productivity. Fast-forward to this year and we see that unemployment and economic downturn have created our “famine.” Lifetime careers and benefits have been lost through mergers and the collapse of businesses. College graduates are without jobs. The unemployed are left without confidence or assurance as they look to the future. And the harshest of realities? Dreams have been interrupted and must now be adjusted.

In days of uncertainty, how do you most often respond? Do you seek security, reach for hope, or do nothing?

I want to introduce to you an App to help amid life’s interruptions, uncertainties and struggles. This App provides the promise of hope when dreams are dashed and the difficulties of life leave you paralyzed. Let’s explore the multifaceted application of the App, *Guide Me*. I was first introduced to it years ago, but I still use it every day:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

>>Guidance Begins With Reliance

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart...” (Proverbs 3:5a ESV).

In order to benefit from a directional device, you need to believe its accuracy and trustworthiness... true north!

Here is the unwritten message: “all your heart” = Full Dependence. Why? God can be trusted! He is the True North of life. Yet, if you do not know God, you will not trust God.

In all life’s experiences, the greatest pursuit is the pursuit of God. Every experience in life is an opportunity to learn about God.

READ Jeremiah 9:23-24.

The Bible is a book that provides evidence and reasons to trust God in all of life’s circumstances.

“And those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you” (Psalm 9:10 ESV).

The names of God reveal the nature of God. The more you pursue the knowledge of God the greater will be your confidence and peace in life.

God is more than your “Copilot”; He is your “Air Traffic Controller.” He sees. He knows. He cares about you. Your security in life has everything to do with who and what you rely or depend upon. Your life source is your life strength.

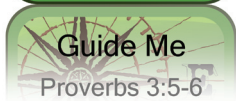
So great is God’s love and care for you that through Jesus Christ you have reason to believe. “Christianity is basing my whole life on the trustworthiness of the claims of Jesus Christ.”

God can be trusted! He can be trusted to forgive and cleanse, to save and secure, to lead and guide.

>>Guidance Requires Repentance “...do not lean on your own understanding...” (Proverbs 3:5b ESV).

Repent is a word often missing from the vocabulary of many today.

According to Bullinger’s Dictionary, *metanoeo* [repentance] means “...to perceive afterwards, hence, to change one’s mind and purpose. This change is always for the better and denotes a change of moral thought and reflection; not merely to repent



Guide Me

Apps Series, Part Three

David H. McKinley, Pastor
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Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6



Trust in the LORD with all your heart... In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



Do not lean on your own understanding.



WARREN
a way of life!

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

GUIDE ME >>> CONTINUED

of, nor to forsake sin, but to change one's mind and apprehensions regarding it. *Metanoeo* denotes to reform, to have a genuine change of heart and life from worse to better."

There is a part of life that must be released. You have to let it go and turn from the comfortable and habitual embrace of your understanding to totally trusting God.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (Proverb 14:12 ESV).

"I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23 ESV).

In Proverbs 3:5, the word *lean* is a term that can only be associated with *trust*. However, not all things that you lean on can be trusted to stand. Who are you leaning on today?

READ Proverbs 3:7-8.

God often allows and uses struggles and insecurities to remind you of your total dependence upon Him.

Is God against all human reason and understanding? No. He is, however, against self-centered delusions. Why? Your understanding is limited. Don't help yourself; let God help!

"To be a disciple means I resign from the right to own myself, I surrender my personal sovereignty to Jesus Christ. From then on, He is the Commander and I am under His orders." —W. Glyn Evans

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:6 ESV).

>>Guidance Rotates Your Reference

What do you think of when you hear the word *reference*? As a student, I remember going to the library and using books I couldn't check out—big *reference* books. A *reference* is defined in this way: "...the use of a source of information in order to ascertain something."

The *Guide Me* App requires that you gain a new point of reference in life—"In all your ways acknowledge Him..."

Acknowledge God. He should become the point of reference in your schedule, your struggles, your strategy *and* your security. This acknowledgement is seeing God in the details of life. I love the introduction to Proverbs written by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*:

Many people think that what's written in the Bible has mostly to do with getting people into heaven—getting right with God, saving their eternal souls. It does have to do with that, of course, but not *mostly*. It is equally concerned with living on this earth—living well, living in robust sanity. In our Scriptures, heaven is not the primary concern, to which earth is a tag-along afterthought. "On earth as it is in heaven" is Jesus' prayer. "Wisdom" is the biblical term for this on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven everyday living. Wisdom is the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves... Threaded through all these items is the insistence that the way we think of and respond to God is the most practical thing we do. In matters of everyday practicality, nothing, absolutely nothing, takes precedence over God.

How do you walk with God? One step at a time!

>>Guidance Includes Reassurance

"...and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:6b ESV).

You are not alone in life. God is working on your behalf and you can trust Him. This is both a principle *and* a promise. Divine guidance is the outcome of faith.

Throughout Scripture, you find that God has led, God will lead and God is leading.

You may be thinking, "Well, it sure seems like all the doors are closed. I don't think God is leading." No. Closed doors are often part of God's leading. We don't like them, but God consistently uses them. While we wait and wonder, God works.

Comedian Jonathan Winters used to say, "If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to meet it."

Swim toward God and He will make a way for you.

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

GUIDE ME >>> CONTINUED

Reflect on these words by hymn writer William Williams:

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

Lord, I trust Thy mighty power,
Wondrous are Thy works of old;
Thou deliver'st Thine from thralldom,
Who for naught themselves had sold:
Thou didst conquer, Thou didst conquer,
Sin, and Satan and the grave; Sin, and Satan and the
grave.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

DOLLARS & SENSE

God has much to say about your money in both the Old and New Testaments because money has so much to say about you. In fact, Jesus Christ said more about money than about heaven or hell.

Solomon, the principle writer of Proverbs, was not only the wisest man who ever lived; he was the wealthiest man who ever lived. You can open Proverbs and find an App to use every time you reach in your pocket or log onto your accounts.

“Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV).

This App combines *precept*, *principle* and *promise*. God is the first point of reference when it comes to money.

>>The Principle of Achievement

Before we discuss what to do with what you have, we must talk about how to get what you need.

As far back as creation, work was a part of God’s plan for His people.

READ Genesis 2:15, Exodus 20:9, Psalm 128:2 and Proverbs 14:23.

I like the way Proverbs 28:19 is paraphrased in *The Message*: “Work your garden—you’ll end up with plenty of food; play and party—you’ll end up with an empty plate.”

There is nothing wrong with working to earn a good living. The Bible has a strong work ethic and encourages honest profit. In fact, there is a “Theology of Work” mentioned in Scripture: “...if anyone is not willing to work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10 ESV).

You should work hard and seek profit for your labor, but you should be careful how you earn your profits. There are strong warnings provided in Scripture.

By Dishonesty. Proverbs 16:11; Proverbs 20:27

By Defrauding. Leviticus 19:13; Proverbs 16:8

By Defaulting. Psalm 37: 21

By Depending on Others. Proverbs 13:4

You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it. You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the

wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, then the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for. That, my dear friends, is about the end of this or any other nation. —Adrian Rogers

By Dreaming. “He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty” (Proverbs 28:19 NIV).

I believe gambling is just another means of taxing the poor in our society by seeking to entice their investment in a dream.

>>The Principle of Management

READ Proverbs 21:5 and Proverbs 27:23.

In this passage, *flocks* represented assets. Beware, ignorance is not bliss when it comes to money; it can be brutal! Have you ever said, “I don’t know where all my money goes?”

There are four things I suggest you know about your finances: (1) what you owe, (2) what you own, (3) what you earn and (4) where it goes.

If you’re not good at this, get help. I have an incredibly bright and smart wife who helps in our finances.

Financial freedom is not determined by how much money you make; it is determined by how you spend what you make.

READ Proverbs 21:20.

I once heard a creative idea for impulse buying. Put your credit cards in a bowl of water, and place the bowl in the freezer. When you see something you want, wait to thaw your credit cards and see if you truly want the item or if it was just an impulse.

Plan your spending. Tell your money where you want it to go. Here is the simplest strategy I have heard: Give 10%, Save 10%, Live on 80%.

READ Proverbs 6:6-11.

An ant stores up little by little in summer so when winter comes, he is prepared.



Dollars & Sense
Proverbs 3:9-10

Dollars & Sense

Apps Series, Part Four

David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 3:9-10



Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.



Riches do not last forever.



WARREN
a way of life!

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

DOLLARS & SENSE >>> CONTINUED

Spending vs. Saving. Debts are a destroyer of what you have and what you enjoy. Debts keep you from saving what you make and enjoying what you have.

>>The Principle of Contentment

A fact of life is that your *yearnings* will always exceed your *earnings*. It has nothing to do with *amounts*; it has everything to do with *attitudes*. Cultivate contentment.

We live in a culture of discontentment. We assume that more is better. So without asking the real priority questions, the first question in our minds is “More?”

It is amazing how much we are bombarded by commercials, especially kids. There is hardly a day when kids do not ask for something seen on TV.

I once heard about a family posing to have their portrait taken. The photographer said to the son, “Why don’t you put your hand on your dad’s shoulder?” The father responded, “It would be more natural if he put it in my pocket!”

Today, we see an endless pursuit of having more and more and more. However, it is *not true* that *more is better!* Wealth does not guarantee security or happiness. If it did, wealthy people would be the happiest of all. Look around you. Sometimes the meanest drivers are the ones with the most expensive cars. Sometimes the families with the nicest homes are the most miserable.

I once lived near Palm Beach. It is estimated that nearly six percent of the entire world’s wealth lives or owns property on Palm Beach. They’ve got it! However, many of the residents of Palm Beach are not only known for their wealth, but for shame, scam and scandal.

It is not the content of your home that matters, but the contentment of your heart!

READ Proverbs 23:4-5.

Contentment and *complacency* are not the same. You will not find one verse in the Bible that encourages complacency, laziness or slothfulness.

READ Proverbs 30:8-9.

Wealth can distract and move you from the very source of happiness, satisfaction and fulfillment in life. Poverty can so deflate you that you choose to try to better your lot apart from God.

Contentment is not freedom from all desire, but the development of a discipline of appreciation.

“... for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content” (Philippians 4:11 ESV).

>>The Principle of Enlightenment

God’s Word is true, sensible, powerful and transformational.

READ Proverbs 3:9-10. It is the precept, principle and promise driving this important App. Begin with God! This is the distinction in *Dollars & Sense* beyond all others.

God doesn’t want your leftovers; He wants the best! It’s the difference in presenting a table after a meal rather than a table with a great meal on it.

When giving to God, we are just taking our hands off what belongs to Him. Are you tithing? God loves to bless those who honor Him through faith and obedience.

READ Proverbs 19:17, 22:9 and 28:8.

Everyone gets uptight about money. Possibly the most sensitive nerve in the human body is from the hand to the pocket. But one of the greatest sources of blessing in the life of a believer is seeing what God does when he/she honors Him and puts Him first.

Again, the Bible has so much to say about your money because money has so much to say about you.

When you put God first, you are expressing gratitude for what He has given you and faith for what He will provide.

Solomon was wise in the area of money, but there is One wiser than Solomon. Jesus Christ said, “...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33 ESV).

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

EKG

The human heart is an amazing and fascinating piece of machinery. It is divided into two halves and four chambers, and a series of valves and vessels partake in its every function. The average human heart beats between 60 and 100 times per minute at rest.

You can measure heartbeats by placing fingers on the pulse at your wrist or neck. However, a more precise method of determining pulse involves the use of an electrocardiograph or EKG.

Nothing is a truer reflection of the true wellbeing of your life than the condition of your heart.

What is true physically is also true spiritually. Just as the heart is at the core of all life function, so it is with your spiritual life and walk with God. Nothing is more practical and functional than the issues of the heart.

What's the condition of your heart? Are you filled with bitterness and anger or by deceitfulness and sin? Are you full of joy and gratitude?

The EKG App helps investigate, examine and analyze the condition of your heart. Why is this examination important?

When God sees you, He sees your heart.

In the Bible, there are more than 700 references to the *heart* and nearly 80 references in the book of Proverbs alone.

>>The Condition of the Heart is Important

In Proverbs, the heart is described as a place of:

Emotion. We are emotional beings. We use the term *heart* in association with emotions. For example, we often hear and use the phrase, "I love you from the bottom of my heart."

READ Proverbs 12:25.

The picture here is of one who is heavy, burdened and weighed down.

READ Proverbs 15:13.

Emotions can dominate your life and enhance or destroy your relationships. Feelings can be faulty and fickle. Therefore, you must guard your heart from emotional dominance.

1. *Feelings must be controlled by thoughts.* Faulty feelings come from faulty thinking.

2. *Feelings are not a good judge of whether life is good or fair.*

"Emotional experience in the western world has become the primary motivation of values, actions and spiritual beliefs." —James Dobson

3. *Feelings have a great impact on the condition of the body* (i.e., pulse, digestion, sleep, etc.).

READ Proverbs 14:30.

In contrast, we need to pursue emotional health.

READ Proverbs 17:22.

The opposite of corrosive emotions are good and healthy emotions that strengthen, balance and bless our lives and the lives of others. Pray for and pursue emotional health!

Reflection. READ Proverbs 20:5.

The Bible associates thinking with the heart, not just the brain. This association is not because the brain is "skewed" in facts on human anatomy and psychology, but because the heart is the deep core of man.

READ Proverbs 23:7a.

Who you are, where you go, what you do and what you become all have to do with your thoughts, motivations and decisions.

Sow a thought, reap an act.

Sow an act, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

Sow a character, reap a destiny.

Direction. READ Proverbs 4:23.

What begins deep within your heart is what flows out of your life. You've heard the phrase, "What's in the well comes up in the bucket!" Nothing just happens; it all starts in the heart. That is why you have to pay attention to your heart.

READ Proverbs 27:19.

The direction of life begins with the direction of the heart. For this reason, Solomon, in his wisdom, reminds us of the importance of heart health: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23 ESV).

Every part of life—feeling, thinking, choosing—is affected by the condition of the heart.



EKG

Apps Series, Part Five

David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 4:23

+ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

D The heart of the wicked is of little worth.



WARREN
a way of life!

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

EKG >>> CONTINUED

>>The Condition of the Heart is Individual

Being around people whose heart is healthy is not a substitute for the attention and care needed for your own heart.

I have always been amazed to see the vast differences in people with heart disease. Genetics, lifestyles and stresses impact each heart differently. You can't see and know the condition of the heart from the outside.

There are different heart conditions described in the Bible, but none are readily apparent to the untrained eye.

Scripture mentions:

"a heart that devises wicked plans" Proverbs 6:14

"deceit is in the heart" Proverbs 12:20

"anxious heart" Proverbs 12:25

"backsliding heart" Proverbs 14:14

"tranquil heart" Proverbs 14:30

"broken heart" Proverbs 15:13

"arrogant heart" Proverbs 16:5

"crooked heart" Proverbs 17:20

"joyful heart" Proverbs 17:22

"intelligent heart" Proverbs 18:15

"pure in heart" Proverbs 22:11

"heavy heart" Proverbs 25:20

"evil heart" Proverbs 26:23

"glad heart" Proverbs 27:9

"hard heart" Proverbs 28:14

Scripture also warns about:

"double heart" Psalm 12:2

"unclean heart" Psalm 51:10

"cold heart" Matthew 24:12

"unbelieving heart" Hebrews 3:12

There are many conditions listed because there are many conditions prevalent in the lives of people.

>>The Condition of the Heart is Intentional

Based on Proverbs 4:23, there is an implied admonition for *you* to "keep your heart with all vigilance...." There is a need for *you* to pay attention here.

Vigilance means *paying attention*. This is similar to the way a dog reacts when a stranger nears the house or threatens the owner.

God wants you to pay attention to the issues of the heart. Why? The heart is what God sees. The heart

involves who you are, how you live and where you are headed.

You can't hide from God's sight. God sees both the motivation and the action.

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5 ESV).

You won't escape God's loving eyes. In pain and brokenness, the Lord sees, He knows and He cares. "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18 ESV).

You don't need to fear God's quality of vision. God sees the desire of your heart, even if you never see the work of your hands. "But the Lord said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart'" (1 Kings 8:18 ESV).

God is looking for people with hearts for Him. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9a ESV).

On Sept. 24, 2009, I will mark 35 years since my call to ministry. I was 15 years old at the time and a sophomore in high school. Today, I know I am not going to live long enough or have enough time, money and energy to do all that I would hope or dream to do in life for Christ. But this I know, God knows my heart. He knows your heart too and of your desire to serve and live for Him.

"Who can say I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin?" (Proverbs 20:9 ESV). Do you need the surgical hand of the living God to work in your heart today? Alone, you can't make your heart right before God, but God can give you a new heart and direct your heart toward Him by grace.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24 ESV).

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

SAFE SEX

READ Proverbs 5.

As you read these words, you will find relevant, frank and vivid warnings *with instruction* concerning the care and condition of human sexuality. My goal is not to sensationalize or to shock—you get plenty of that “on the street.” Instead, I want to be honest and straightforward.

In a world where words like *sanctity* and *honor* are completely disassociated with sex, and only crass gestures, nasty innuendos and shameless displays remain, we have an App for wisdom in this important arena of life.

From the beginning, God created the world and distinguished humanity into two great categories. “...male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27 ESV). The creative purpose was intentional, functional and relational.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wanted to be sure his son understood the beauty and blessing of the act of marriage and to be aware of the severe consequences and injuries that are inevitable and unavoidable for those who ignore God’s intended purpose and plan.

It doesn’t matter who you are, what age you are, what you know or what you have. You can be a political figure, sports icon, musician, teacher, pastor, actor, CEO, mechanic, technician, doctor, nurse, philanthropist, inventor, scientist, Web designer, graphic artist, landscaper, builder, painter... you get the idea. The bottom line is this: No one escapes the negative and damaging consequences relative to casual sex or “hooking up,” as it is often spoken of today. Secrets are revealed, diseases spread, pregnancy occurs, often followed by abortion; guilt binds you, relationships are shattered, families are dishonored, and so much more!

This is why the Scripture passage today comes with directions for “prescribed use” as well as a “warning label.”

There’s no such thing as safe sex outside of the covenant relationship of marriage.

Human sexuality—although designed by God Himself and provided for procreation, communication,

recreation and satisfaction—is unsafe and destructive apart from the sanctity and security of the marriage relationship. Why? Because God said so! This is not my opinion, the church’s position or anything less than fact. The Creator God who developed and distinguished all of humanity in a physical, sexual category tells us what is right and what is wrong!

Yet, we live in a society that perpetuates the idea that there is safe sex apart from marriage. It has to do with contraception and practice, not moral boundaries and marriage relationship. But God is clear and His word is true from generation to generation. What God prohibits by command, He protects by design.

The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the physical) from all other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean there is anything wrong with sexual pleasure anymore than about the pleasure of eating. It means that you must not isolate the pleasure and try to get it by itself anymore than you ought to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and spitting them out again. —C.S. Lewis

All of God’s plans and commands are intended for our protection and maximum fulfillment. God can be trusted in this matter. Do you believe it?

In this message, I want to establish a biblical basis for safe sex with a list of safeguards God has provided for you through His Word.

>>Be Attentive

If God has a standard—and He does!—and you believe it is His standard—and it is!—then make up your mind to heed God’s standard in your life. Be attentive!

READ Proverbs 5:1-2.

You have to guard the moral standards of your life.

Three Statements to Remember:

1. Every believer is a target for moral destruction. Jesus had much to say about moral purity and marital fidelity. He spoke about fornication, lust, immorality and adultery. Behind each statement, there is a greater reality.



Safe Sex

Proverbs 5:15-18

Safe Sex

Apps Series, Part Six

David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 5



Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.



Keep your way far from her [a forbidden women], and do not go near the door of her house.



WARREN
a way of life!

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

SAFE SEX >>> CONTINUED

READ John 10:10.

2. Every believer is susceptible to moral destruction.

READ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.

3. Every believer is personally responsible for making right moral choices.

READ 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7; and Hebrews 13:4.

The Bible is clear. This is a “high voltage” issue and God says, “Read my lips. No sex outside of marriage.”

>>Be Aware

READ Proverbs 5:3-6, 8-12.

No one escapes the negative and injurious consequences of immorality. The problem is that most people, through the subtle drift of temptation, minimize the magnitude of consequences. Wisdom does the opposite. What you indulge in a moment *can* and *will* destroy what you have become throughout a lifetime.

All temptation follows the same pattern and every good salesman knows it: AAA.

Attention. Get someone to pause and consider (Mind)

Attraction. Give reason to increase desire (Emotion)

Action. Don't miss this opportunity (Will)

You wouldn't think of getting in a car, driving to the interstate and accelerating on a ramp clearly marked, *Wrong Way* or *Do Not Enter*. Why? Because it is foolish and invites a dangerous outcome!

However, many people do this with their mates, families and bodies. Do you throw aside the restraint of God's Word, minimize the consequence of action and try to hide deceitful and destructive behavior?

You can't minimize the consequences. You must recognize the impact of bad choices and private indulgences in your life.

Some people believe they will “get by,” but no one ever does. And if they seem to escape consequences, they have dissected their own soul!

Never minimize in life what God has maximized in His Word.

“Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? (Proverbs 6:27 ESV).

The message to our students and single adults is not *safe sex*, but *saved sex* for marriage. Why? The alternative consequences are too great!

>>Be Aggressive

READ Proverbs 5:12.

Even though this verse is written in the negative, you can apply some positive steps to strengthen your resolve and commitment to God. Develop a plan for offensive action: order your eyes, manage your thoughts and watch your steps.

For Men: Eye Gate. Visual—what men see and ponder. Jesus was so clear and confrontational about this point.

READ Matthew 5:27-30.

Sight feeds thought.

“You can't always avoid the birds flying overhead, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.” —Martin Luther

For Women: Ear Gate. Verbal—what women hear and feel. When women encounter heightened awareness and sensitivity, watch out!

I'm not implying women don't have good eyes and men don't have... well we all know men don't listen!

>>Be Absorbed

READ Proverbs 5:15-19.

Scattered and dissipated people equal distracted people. Today, there is a need for attentiveness to marriage, absorption in the home and affection.

Do you know the leading cause of automotive accidents in America? Distraction. There is a failure to focus or be absorbed while driving because people are distracted by what is less than important.

Marriage is quickly and often undermined not by problems, but by distractions. Invest in your marriage. Someone once said, “Grass is not greener on the other side of the fence; it is greener where you water it!” Don't be deceived. Is your marriage parched and in need of water?

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

SAFE SEX >>> CONTINUED

Do you know the saying, "Drink from your own rain barrel, draw water from your own spring-fed well"? It's true. Otherwise, you may one day come home and find your barrel empty and your well polluted. Your spring water is for you and you only, not to be passed around among strangers. Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man! Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose—don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted! Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills with a whore? for dalliance with a promiscuous stranger? (Proverbs 5:15-20 MSG).

More courting in marriage equals fewer marriages in court!

Most affairs occur because people believe they can receive from another person what they are not receiving from their mate.

Adultery = misplaced attention and affection rightfully due to your mate.

The idea here is one of indulgence with each other.

>>Be Absolute

READ Proverbs 5:21-23.

Don't underestimate how serious God is in this matter. In a world of absolute uncertainty, be absolute in your confidence that God cares about this subject. Yes, God is interested in sex.

READ Proverbs 5:21-23.

"Worldliness is what any particular culture does to make sin look normal and righteousness look strange." —David Wells

While enticing, sexual sin is ultimately disappointing. While alluring, sexual sin is often enslaving. While exciting, sexual sin is unfulfilling and brings regret.

God's reason for all of this is not to create a frustrating restraint but maximum blessing. God is glorified in glorious sex. God is glorified in positive purity. God is glorified in human compliance with His creative plan.

Satan wants to take God's promise of blessing in marriage and weave into it a web of entanglement.

The only thing in life that is truly safe is what is in God's hands. The only safe life is the life given to God. The opposite of being *led astray* is being *held close*.

Jesus Christ is God's Son, our Savior. Jesus came to draw us close to God and to deliver us from sin, self and slavery.

Jesus provides:

Forgiveness. READ John 8:3-11.

Freedom. READ John 8:36.

Future. READ John 10:28-29.

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

ON THE CLOCK

Time. Every click of the second hand reminds us that we are all engaged in a race called *Life*. You don't have to wear shorts and Nike shoes to be in a race. Life is a race, and the pace can be exhausting.

Life is also a series of trade-offs between energy and time. Every day we hear, "I don't have time. I'll have to find time. I need more time. Where does my time go?" We all know the agitation and frustration of time limitations; they apply to all of us. No one has more than 24 hours a day—and we don't all live like Jack Bauer!

God is interested in your time and how you fill your time. Time shapes the whole of your life.

One of the major "vendors" of time is work.

Avg. American Worker	48 hrs. per wk.
Annual Avg. at Work	2,496 hrs.
Sleep Time (6.5 hrs.)	2,366 hrs.
Total 24/7 Time	8,736 hrs.

If you sleep 6.5 hours at night, you quickly realize that you spend over half your life each year simply working and sleeping. Everything else fits into the remaining time. How you fill your work space and live in your work place has much to do with the wellbeing of your life.

The book of Proverbs has much to say about your work life, business ethics, management, employer/employee relations, ambitions, attitudes, motives, practices and profits.

"In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty" (Proverbs 14:23 ESV). This text places values on the investment of your time and effort in work and yet, it warns against wasting time and losing ground in life.

Today, you may thinking, *"I work hard and put in more hours, but I am making less profit. It's hard to know if I am making progress or just losing time."* You are not alone. Many people are struggling to advance in their work. This is especially true for those who are stretched for time, limited in money,

out of their skills set or poorly trained. Are you trading your life for your job?

It is vital to gain a right perspective on your work and your job, especially in light of the time you devote to your job. There must be balance.

>> Don't Trade Your Life for Your Job

In Scripture, God made it clear His eyes are on the marketplace. "A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bar are his work" (Proverbs 16:11 ESV).

The marketplace in America has been tarnished over the past decade, and many have become disillusioned in their work. Myths have been passed along from one generation to another, and much of the disillusionment you experience may come from lies you believe and pursue. For example:

Myth #1—The secret to a satisfied life is

a successful career. In reality, some people

have "made it" by all external measures, but they are grossly empty inwardly. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, not only wrote the wisdom of Proverbs but the reality of Ecclesiastes. "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:11 ESV).

Lessons from Recession 101: "Self-worth is more important than net worth." You are more than what you do. The bottom line is this: **Your career is never a substitute for a relationship with God. Only God can give satisfaction and significance.**

Myth #2—Success can be measured by the sum total of two numbers: promotions + earnings.


In reality, the more you achieve in promotions and income, the more vulnerable and expendable your family becomes.


"Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it" (Proverbs 15:16-17 ESV). Relationships, not riches, make life complete.

**On the Clock****Apps Series, Part Seven**

David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 14:23

 In all toil there is profit.

 Mere talk tends only to poverty.

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

ON THE CLOCK >>> CONTINUED

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 ESV).

Achievements without relationships produce an empty and unsatisfied life.

Myth #3—Security is found in what you possess.

"The rich think their wealth protects them; they imagine themselves safe behind it" (Proverbs 18:11 MSG).

"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf" (Proverbs 11:28 ESV).

"Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:4-5 ESV).

Myth #4—Success leads to significance.

Success may make you "important" in the eyes of others, but it does not make you significant. Success only provides a trap when you look to it to provide significance.

"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV).

Service, not *success*, makes you significant. Have you done something for someone recently who could never pay you back?

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped" (Proverbs 11:24-25 MSG).

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

God does not necessarily align with the American game plan for life. Through His word, God shows us that work is necessary for profit, but don't assume that profits make a full and meaningful life.

Your life is more than what you do; it's knowing

who you are and what you were made to be for the glory of God.

>> Don't Waste Your Life in Your Job!

"In *all* labor there is profit..." (Proverbs 14:23 ESV).

You should do your job to the best of your ability and live your life for the glory of God. Your job is not a place to occupy time in monotony; it is a place to do ministry for God's glory.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV).

Many people have a "split-level" perspective of their job and God: God is Sunday and the job is Monday–Friday. There are also those who hope to live for God on their job, but they fail to see their job as a place where they can serve God. God doesn't want your "leftover" time on Sunday; He wants your time Sunday–Saturday to matter for His glory.

In order to increase your job satisfaction and performance, use your work to be a platform of ministry to the glory of God.

>>Live for the G-L-O-R-Y of God!

Get the right picture. Work and worship are not enemies, they are friends.

"Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:22-24 ESV).

I know what people mean when they refer to church positions as "serving God full time." However, every believer is a "full time" Christian. You are not "part time." In the Old Testament, worship included ceremonial diets, special days and specified sacrifices performed by designated priests. The New Testament stresses every day, every place and every thing is a part of worship.

Worship is not part of your life; it is your life! Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory and pleasure

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ON THE CLOCK >>> CONTINUED

of God. Your job is not about profits; it's about pleasing God. God is glorified when ordinary people do ordinary things in ordinary days for His glory. There are no divisions of labor in God's kingdom; there is just the "faithful" and "unfaithful."

Let your light shine. Your job is your platform to preach God's truth and show His love. It is a place where worship is expressed in witness.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV).

"How do you convince a world that God is alive? By His aliveness in your life, by His work in producing reality in your experience. People are won to your religious beliefs less by description and more by demonstration." —Howard Hendricks

"In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty" (Proverbs 14:23 ESV).

"Preach all the time, and every once in while, if necessary, use words." —St. Francis of Assisi

Offer each task as a service to God. Service doesn't have to be liturgical to be spiritual. "...unto the Lord..." (Colossians 3:22-23 ESV).

"It's not what a man does that determines whether His work is sacred or secular, but why He does it." —A.W. Tozer

Return God's portion to His work and His kingdom. "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered" (Proverbs 11:24-25 ESV).

Distributing your earnings is a way of expressing your faith.

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Malachi 3:10 ESV).

Labor increases profit when you give according to God's plan.

What do the following people have in common?

William Colgate—Colgate/Palmolive

Henry Kroll—Quaker Oats

William Proctor—Procter & Gamble

R.G. Laterno—Laterno Corporation

Wallace Johnson—Holiday Inn

Robert Welch—Welch's Grape Juice

J.D. Rockefeller, Sr.—Standard Oil

J.C. Penney—Retail

All these men have published testimonies as to how they established the principle of the *tithe* in their business practices.

A number of years ago, there was young man in Chicago who failed at attempts to have a successful business. He decided he had ignored God long enough. He determined that if God wanted to run the cheese business, he would work for God and share the profits. The man's name was J.L. Kraft. Looking back on his success, J.L. Kraft said, "The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord."

Yield to God's purpose. Contentment comes when you recognize God's control in your life.

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps" (Proverbs 16:9 ESV).

Remember...

Don't lose your life in your job.

Don't waste your life in your job.

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

TONGUES

American Journalist Will Norris composed a little rhyme that carries a powerful message: "If your lips would keep from slips, five things you must observe with care: to whom you speak, of whom you speak and how... and when... and where."

Have you ever said something and wished you could take it back?

"I have often regretted my speech, but never my silence." —Publius

God's Word provides a comprehensive and functional App to help you deal with difficulties that surface from the misuse of the tongue. I could title this message, *The Sermon on the Mouth*. There's a reason God created us with two ears, one tongue and a cage of teeth with which to block the tongue.

Choosing your words and using speech rightly can be a challenge. Consider these tongue twisters:

Keeping customers content creates kingly profits.

Success seeds success.

Bigger business isn't better business,

but better business brings bigger rewards.

Wanting won't win; winning ways are active ways.

Seventeen sales slips slithered slowly southwards.

Don't go deep into debt.

Ensuring excellence isn't easy.

Time takes a terrible toll on intentions.

READ Proverbs 15:1-4.

The phrase, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," is far from the truth. We *are* hurt by what people say.

Let me share four e-words you can use as a gauge to measure your words before speaking.



Tongues

Apps Series, Part Eight

David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1-4



The tongue of the wise
commends knowledge.



Mouths of fools pour out
folly.



WARREN
a way of life!

>>Evaluation. When you talk with others, do you scrutinize what to say before you say it? Take time and plan your response. Gather your thoughts so you don't scatter your words.

READ Proverbs 15:2, 7, 28.

Speech is connected to the "thoughts" of the heart. The difference between wise and foolish speech has to do with what is going on "back stage" in your life. People often speak without thinking.

Here's a simple plan to help you **T-H-I-N-K** before you speak:

Is it **True?** "The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body (Proverbs 18:8 NKJV).

People are often content to indulge, listen and perpetrate lies. Why do you think tabloids are so popular and profitable? In "trash talk," there's no truth or foundation, just fabrication and repeat communication.

In the Middle Ages, a young man went to a monk and confessed, "I have sinned; I said something slanderous. What should I do?" The monk said, "Go and put a feather on every doorstep in town." Once the young man completed the task, he went back to the monk. The monk then instructed the man to go back and pick up all the feathers. The young man responded, "That's impossible! The feathers have scattered with the wind." The wise monk replied, "So it is with slander."

Is it **Honest?** Dishonesty destroys relationships. Sometimes you can tell "half truths"—just enough to get by so people believe what you want them to believe. Have you manipulated others with the truth? The truth, used in this way, *is* dishonest.

Is it **Important?** If you're not careful, you'll learn to be content with trivial conversation. Do you say things that really don't need to be said?

"A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul" (Proverbs 18:7 ESV).

The "obsession of the unimportant" in our speech often leads to the "injury of the unintended."

"When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent" (Proverbs 10:19 ESV).

Is it **Necessary?** Sometimes we talk, talk, talk, but what we say is unnecessary. Unlike 24/7 news broadcasts, you don't have to express opinions and comment on every topic discussed.

"A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating" (Proverbs 18:6 ESV).

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TONGUES >>> CONTINUED

Is it **K**ind? Nowhere does the “Golden Rule” have greater application than in your speech. “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12 ESV).

>>Expression. Are you known for your “straight talk”? Do you mean what you say and say what you mean? Check your approach. If your speech lacks a good tonal quality, you may get yourself in trouble. You can say the *right* thing in the *wrong* way and cause injury.

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1 ESV).

So often issues are lost in attitudes and responses. Instead of addressing a problem in a wise manner, you can become the problem by how you approach a subject or express yourself. Harsh words and fiery attitudes will only increase the destructive power in a conversation. When you confront, challenge and correct, *how* you talk is as important as *what* you say. Tack and tone have everything to do with the effectiveness of your communication.

“Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue” (Proverbs 28:23 ESV).

“A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit” (Proverbs 15:4 ESV).

“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense” (Proverbs 10:20-21 ESV).

>>Encouragement. It is amazing how an encouraging word can make a world of difference to someone.

“To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!” (Proverbs 15:23 ESV).

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver” (Proverbs 25:11 ESV).

“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad” (Proverbs 12:25 ESV).

“Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body” (Proverbs 16:24 ESV).

“The lips of the righteous feed many...” (Proverbs 10:21 ESV).

>>Eternity. A judge can speak words and sentence a prisoner to life or place him on death row. A gossip can ruin a good reputation and stir an entire group toward distrust and division. A professor can speak words of cynicism and destroy the faith of a student.

It has been noted that for every word in Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*, 125 people died in WWII. Is it any wonder, the tongue is described as a *fire*, a *beast* and a *poison* in the book of James?

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” (Proverbs 18:21 ESV).

One of the Ten Commandments specifically relates to the tongue: “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain...” (Exodus 20:7 ESV). This is more than cursing; it has to do with surrendering to Almighty God.

“... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved” (Romans 10:9-10 ESV).

Salvation is the recognition and submission to the rule of Christ in your life. It is a surrendered heart, evidenced by a redirected tongue.

What about the use of your tongue as a believer? Do you give witness that Jesus Christ is Lord?

“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so...” (Psalm 107:2 ESV).

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer” (Psalm 19:14 ESV).

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

PIETY

When most people hear the word *fasting* they think of hunger.

Patients associate fasting with pre-surgery preparation, *NPO*—which is the abbreviation for the Latin term, *Nil Per Os* (nothing by mouth).

Fasting is important in the area of medicine, but it is also important in your spiritual life. Fasting is one spiritual discipline often combined with another, prayer. And yes, disciplines are a part of the personal development of spiritual growth. Disciplines are practices or exercises intended to cultivate godly character and personal piety.

“...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come” (1 Timothy 4:7b-8 NAS).

I like the way this passage is paraphrased in *The Message*:

Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. You can count on this. Take it to heart. This is why we’ve thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We’re banking on the living God, Savior of all men and women, especially believers (1 Timothy 4:7-8 MSG).

What are some of the spiritual disciplines?

Celebration, confession, fasting, fellowship, humility, frugality, meditation, prayer, reflection, stewardship, service, simplicity, solitude, study and worship.

Today, the words *piety* or *pious* are often used in a derogatory fashion. To speak of someone being pious is to speak of someone who is insincere or pretentious.

I found it interesting that an online dictionary defined *pious* as “...making a hypocritical display of virtue.”

In the 1828 edition of the Noah Webster dictionary, *pious* is defined as “Godly; reverencing and honoring the Supreme Being in heart and in the practice of duties He has enjoined; having due veneration and affection for the character of God and habitually obeying His commands; religious, devoted to the service of God.”

What a difference a few decades can make in linguistic transitions! However, public piety without private devotion is *hypocrisy*.

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him” (Proverbs 15:8 ESV).

God is not interested in public displays of religion; He wants private authenticity from within.

Today, I want to focus on an App for daily living—the spiritual discipline of *prayer*. Prayer is the mark of true piety. It is not an ornamental practice for opening, closing and transitioning church gatherings, but rather the daily devotion and discipline of those who pursue a genuine relationship with God.

“The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous” (Proverbs 15:28 ESV).

God sees. He hears. He answers when we pray!

Daily prayer is a strange practice for some people and yet, it is the most natural of all responses to call to God when in crisis, trouble and need. Prayer may seem unnatural to some because it is the opposite of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Is prayer your only hope or your least concern?

Prayer is a discipline that engages us with God and brings pleasure to Him.

P-R-A-Y-E-R

Prayer begins with the character and nature of God revealed in Scripture. “If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination” (Proverbs 28:9 ESV).

Prayer begins with an approach based on who God is and what He is like, not where we are and what we need.

What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... Worship is pure or base as the worshipper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at any given time may say or do, but what he, deep in his heart, conceives God to be like. —A.W. Tozer

We cannot shape the God of our prayer after our own design or imagination. God is revealed in His



Piety

Proverbs 15:8

Piety

Apps Series, Part Nine

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Scripture: Proverbs 15:8



The prayer of the upright is acceptable to the LORD.



The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD.



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PIETY >>> CONTINUED

Word. He is holy, righteous, all-powerful, eternal, all-knowing, just, faithful and true.

Prayer begins with God, not with us. Thus, the first step and our approach to God through prayer is not telling Him about us, but telling Him about Him: “You are God and I am not. I come to honor You, to hear from You, to follow You!”

An inadequate view of God leads to an inadequate view of prayer.

Repentance is the response of the heart, turning from empty formality to sincere faith.

Look at this verse again: “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him” (Proverbs 15:8 ESV).

The contrast between *sacrifice* and *prayer* is very interesting. Proverbs does not give itself to broad discussions of religious practice, but where mentioned, the reference is clear, sharp and penetrating.

“To bring a sacrifice to God empty of essential reverence mocked the meaning of the sacrificial system. God desired a worshipful heart or no worship at all. Sacrifice had meaning when worshippers understood the significance of the sacrificial ritual in the worship of God. Empty ritual performed by the wicked induced God’s wrath.” —House and Durham

You should not attend public worship to be seen, to develop a network, to make contacts or to find a mate. All those things can happen through genuine fellowship, but if your motive in public performance is anything less than God himself, you must repent!

Worship is not a place to harbor hate while singing of love, to hoard in greed while giving small tokens. God despises religious motions where no thought is given to Him in worship.

Prayer is a place of silence before God, a place where we listen to His evaluation of our practice rather than where we command His performance.

Asking in faith is pleasing to God. Prayer is a place of asking and petitioning God. God wants us to ask—an acknowledgement of our dependence upon Him. Jesus taught us to ask God to meet our

daily needs, “Give us this day our daily bread...” (Matthew 6:11 ESV). God loves genuine, sincere and disciplined prayer.

“...the prayer of the upright pleases him” (Proverbs 15:8 NIV).

“... the prayer of the upright is His delight” (Proverbs 15:8 NAS).

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6 ESV).

Yielding to God is the end of all true and sincere praying. Prayer that brings surrender brings joy to the heart of God. Prayer brings change—a change that is reshaped according to God’s path rather than your own pursuits apart from His will.

“Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from a boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God.”

—E. Stanley Jones, missionary to India

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10 ESV).

Expressions of gratitude bring joy to the heart of God. Prayer is as much about *thanking* as it is about *telling*.

“...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV).

“... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV).

I think it is important to point out that you will not always *feel* thankful. There is a difference in feeling thankful and expressing thanks. God is honored when a faith-filled heart expresses thanks, even though life

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PIETY >>> CONTINUED

is not what you hoped for or desired. God knows! He is blessed when you give thanks to Him in all circumstances.

When your heart contemplates the Giver, not just the gifts, then you can rejoice in His faithfulness and grace.

Relationship with God through Jesus Christ is what makes conversation through prayer acceptable. How can you be righteous and gain God's acceptance? You can't through your own merit. It is only through Jesus Christ, and then you can come before a holy God in prayer. You owe a debt you cannot pay; Jesus paid a debt He did not owe. You can receive a deposit of grace only through Jesus Christ, making you righteous before God.

"For our sake he [God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV).

To pray in the name of Jesus Christ means to pray in

the awareness that our prayers have no worthiness or efficacy apart from His atoning sacrifice and redemptive mediation. It means to appeal to the blood of Christ as the source of power for the life of prayer. It means to acknowledge our complete helplessness apart from His mediation and intercession. To pray in His name means that we recognize that our prayers cannot penetrate the tribunal of God unless they are presented to the Father by the Son, our one Savior and Redeemer. —Donald Bloesch

Have you tried to come to God through your own merit, or have you come to God through His Son and your Savior, Jesus Christ? If you have tried to come to God by any way other than through His Son, the most important prayer you can ever pray is this:

Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ and Him alone! I am a sinner. I have fallen short of Your standards and have disregarded Your authority in my life. I need forgiveness through Your grace. Here's my life; I open my heart. I give myself to You. Help me to live every day for You and for Your glory.

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APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

HUMBLE PIE

How would you define the word *humility*? It is not an easy word to define, but *humility* is one of the key virtues and life values found in the book of Proverbs.

So how do we utilize this important App?

Let's look at some key components.

>>Humility is the Opposite of Pride

Pride is a frequent predictor of failure and shame.

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud" (Proverbs 16:18-19 ESV).

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2 ESV).

"One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor" (Proverbs 29:23 ESV).

You can't read through Proverbs and avoid the "thorn" of pride. It is one of the most afflicting of all human diseases.

The Bible addresses the matter of human pride on many levels. "...Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'" (1 Peter 5:5b ESV).

The atmosphere we breathe is hostile to humility... Humility is not a popular human trait in the modern world. It is not touted in the talk shows or celebrated in valedictory speeches or commended in diversity seminars or listed with corporate core values. And if you go to the massive self-help section of your sprawling mall bookstore, you won't find many titles celebrating humility.

The basic reason for this is not hard to find: Humility can only survive in the presence of God. When God goes, humility goes. In fact, you might say that humility follows God like a shadow. We can expect to find humility applauded in our society about as often as we find God applauded. —John Piper, *Battling Unbelief*

The prophet, Jeremiah, identified the basis for boasting: "Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches...'" (Jeremiah 9:23 ESV).

What are common sources of pride? What are the big tripping points that lead many to an agnostic practice or atheistic approach to life? Knowledge. Strength. Riches. These take us from God in the spirit of **autonomy**.

Our confidence is not found in who we are or what we have, but in who God is and the knowledge of God.

"...but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:24 ESV).

Then there is **attention**. This is a little more subtle, but many need to have the acknowledgement, awareness and applause of others.

"The pleasure of pride is like the pleasure of scratching. If there is an itch, one does want to scratch... as long as we have the itch of self regard, we will want the pleasure of self approval."

—C.S. Lewis

In other words, the *itch* of self-regard craves the *scratch* of self-approval. Do you look to others to provide relief for you?

If some people do not get the approval they think they deserve, they will boast about their accomplishments to let others know of their success. Do you proclaim your worth through your achievements?

There is also the use of pity. It is a more subtle way of getting the attention of others. Pity says, "I have been overlooked and mistreated. I deserve recognition and affirmation because I have given and sacrificed much."

"The desire of self pity is not for others to see us as helpless, but as heroes." —John Piper

There is a difference between *unworthy* and *unrecognized worth*. There are some who also crave pity in ministry, but in the end, it is all the same game played out in the arena of pride.

Now let's look at the **application**.



Humble Pie

Proverbs 16:18-19

Humble Pie

Apps Series, Part Ten

David H. McKinley, Pastor

warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18-19



With the humble is wisdom.



Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.



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a way of life!

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HUMBLE PIE >>> CONTINUED

>>Humility Shapes an Outlook on Life

How does humility change the way you live and view life? Here are some “Action Items” in order to live a humble life.

Gratitude, Not Greed. When you are truly humble, you are overwhelmed with gratitude. Instead of having a “what I don’t have” outlook, you are overwhelmed with what you have received from God through grace. Greed says, “Life is not fair if others have something and I don’t.” Gratitude says, “God has been good to me.”

Involvement, Not Isolation. Pride creates an attitude of *exclusivity* instead of *community*. Pride prevents you from experiencing the love of God and sharing His love with others.

Simplicity, Not Excess. It is so easy to let excess drive your existence, especially in the world in which we live. When you embrace humility, you choose to live on less so that your life may be more than what you possess.

In the book, *Celebrate Discipline*, Richard Foster writes about this idea of *excess*:

- >Buy things that are useful, not for status.
- >Enjoy things without owning them.
- >Look for pockets of clutter and attack!
- >Give things away!
- >Refuse “buy now, pay later” schemes.
- >Deepen your appreciation for creation.
- >“Kingdom First!”

Honesty, Not Hypocrisy. When you are humble, you are willing to own up to your short comings and failures. You take responsibility for your mistakes and misjudgments. Pride is always afraid of being exposed, so when it makes a mistake it digs in and trenches in resolve to defend its stand.

Serving, Not Demanding. When you are humble, you enjoy serving because it is a pleasure to be of service to others. Jesus is the ultimate example of humble service. “... even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 ESV).

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of

God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8 ESV).

>>Humility is an Opportunity for Grace

You may resist humility, but God embraces it.

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble’” (James 4:6 ESV).

Humility is a quality that brings God’s grace near to your life. God restores and repairs the humble!

I must realize that God’s ways are not my ways, and that is especially true in dealing with ruined things. My first inclination, when confronted with ruin, is to say, ‘It’s finished, it’s done, that’s all there is to it.’ But God never gives up on a ruin; in fact, He begins with ruins and works on them until He transforms them into things of beauty, ‘beauty for ashes’ (Isaiah 61:3 KJV). Ruined things are my defeat, but to God they are opportunity.

When the earth was ‘without form, and void’ (Genesis 1:2 KJV), God sent His Spirit and His light to bring order out of chaos and beauty out of blackness. What He did physically for the original earth He does spiritually for people. It is a truth—there are no ruined people in God’s category, only opportunities for God to display His creative power. There are no hopeless aspects of my personality, only aspects that are waiting to be touched by the power-driven fingers of God. —W. Glyn Evans, *Daily With the King*

As you read this, you may be thinking, “This pastor has a real grasp on this subject. He has overcome the issue of pride.” Let me assure you, pride is often a tripping point for me. I agree with J.M. Barrie who said, “Life is a long lesson in humility.”

When I was in graduate school, I had a paper route. It was an easy way to earn extra money with little impact to my daytime class schedule. In *The Search for Satisfaction*, I included the following story about an issue with pride under the chapter titled, “Pride and Precipice.”

One morning while I was waiting for the delivery truck to make a ‘drop’ with my papers, I noticed the headlights of a familiar car heading my way. I looked up to see my dad’s face behind the steering wheel. My first thought was that something was wrong, but

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HUMBLE PIE >>> CONTINUED

he quickly assured me he had come to lend me a hand. He told me I might need a backup on occasion. If he learned the route, he could help me whenever needed.

My dad was an insurance agent. He had a full-time job and a busy schedule. I quickly (and sharply) reminded him that I was grown, married and capable of doing it by myself. But my protest did not deter him.

Morning after morning, I remember seeing those headlights appear in that dark, cold parking lot during those years. Each time, I remember feeling my pride trapped in the headlights of his love and care. The only thing (apart from lack of sleep) that added to the stress of those days was my own attitude of aggravation fueled by my pride in the face of my father's love.

I can still hear him say, 'I enjoy this. It makes my day go better.' I'd think, *Yeah, right! Sleep deprivation is anything but the way to add value to your day.* But my dad determined to help me, despite the wounds his efforts brought to my own pride.

Today, I wouldn't trade anything for a father who was willing to wound my pride to show his love. Today, I can think of only two words that I failed to repeat with frequency in those days: 'Thanks, Dad!'

So often, we just don't want anyone else to help us; we don't want to admit our need. My dad loved me; he was willing to help and understood the joy of serving.

There is nothing that makes us more like Jesus Christ than we serve others for the glory of God.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2:5 NKJV).

Jesus did not have an attitude of pride. He was willing to go to the cross and to die that He might provide salvation for us. Jesus Christ served you and me by giving Himself on the cross that we might know salvation in Him.

"...taking the form of a servant... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:7-8 ESV).

"...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28 ESV).

The cross is the shadow of God's love cast across your heart, life, dreams and plans.

"Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; and do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; but you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more" (Isaiah 54:4 NASB).

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FRIENDS

What is a friend worth? Can you place a dollar amount on friendship? No.

Never underestimate the power and the impact of friendship.

"Five years from now you will be pretty much the same as you are today except for two things: the books you read and the people you get close to."

—Charles Jones

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Proverbs 17:17 ESV).

Note the words "all times." True friendship is not seasonal; it is not "fair weather." Friends stick. Friends last. Friends support. Friends endure. Friends remain. The value of true friendship is always seen and known in life's hardest spaces.

Proverbs has an App on friendship and provides important insights concerning people issues and people skills.

>>Friendship is Essential

You live in a world that applauds and recognizes "self-made" people, but none of us are truly self-made. You need others, and you reflect the influence others have had on your life.

As much as we admire solo achievement, the truth is that no lone individual has done anything of value. The belief that one person can do something great is a myth... Even the Lone Ranger wasn't really a loner. Everywhere he went, he rode with Tonto! —John Maxwell

Long before the business world used terms like *synergy*, *collaboration*, *partnership* and *teamwork*, God's Word spoke of the strategic need we have for association with others and assistance.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 esv).

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, extolled the worth, value and virtue of friendship. If you heed his instruction, you will improve your relationships and deepen your enjoyment of life.

Friendship can be defined in the following ways:

"A friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you just the same."

"A true friend will go on liking you, no matter how successful either of you becomes."

"A friend is one who strengthens you with prayer, blesses you with love, and encourages you with hope."

"A friend is someone who doesn't go on a diet when you're fat."

"A friend is someone who believes in you when you cease to believe in yourself."

"A real friend is someone who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

We all need true and good friends!

>>Friendship is Confidential

There is a trust built between friends that seeks and encourages the best.

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24 ESV).

Life can easily come "unglued." You need a friend to stick close to you.

"A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends" (Proverbs 16:28 ESV).

"Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends" (Proverbs 17:9 ESV).

>>Friendship is Instrumental

The value of friendships is far greater than just association; it is assistance in making you better because of their association in your life. Herein is the great distinction between the world's viewpoint of friendship and that of Scripture. The world focuses on sharing, but God's Word points to shaping. Friends shape you!

"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy" (Proverbs 27:5-6 ESV).

This verse clearly refers to falsehood. A true friend will never cover up something destructive, corrupt



Friends
Proverbs 17:17

Friends**Apps Series, Part Eleven**

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Scripture: Proverbs 17:17



A friend loves at all times.



A brother is born for adversity.



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a way of life!

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FRIENDS >>> CONTINUED

and harmful. Sometimes people think being a friend means letting things “slide by.” But remember, “...[love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6 ESV).

“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17 NKJV).

I love you not for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you, not for only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for not closing your ears to the discord in me, but for adding to the music in me by worshipful listening. You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign. You have done it by just being yourself. Perhaps this is what being a friend means after all. —Roy Croft

>>Friendship is Influential

“A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray” (Proverbs 12:26 NIV).

While friendship is essential, be careful. You must choose your friends wisely. Time, energy, focus and activity won’t allow you to have many, many good friends. There are warnings in Proverbs about a gang mindset, bad influences and rebel hearts. How many people will stand in court this week and face potential sentencing because of wrong associations? Proverbs addresses such traits as defiance, immorality, greed, hate and drunkenness. These traits are not only addressed as behaviors, but also as associations.

“Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel” (Proverbs 27:9 ESV).

Did you become a Christian through the good counsel of a friend? Did you join a church because a friend first invited you?

>>Friendship is Sacrificial

True friendship is measured by what you are willing to give up for your friends.

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Proverbs 17:17 ESV).

Because of our great need and His great love, Jesus, the Son of God, came to do for us through sacrifice what we could not do through our most sincere effort.

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 ESV).

Jesus died for you. Why? By birth, we are all enemies of God. But Jesus, the Friend of Sinners, came that He might redeem us and reconcile us to God.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life (Romans 5:6-10 ESV).

My pastor and mentor, Adrian Rogers, once described the relational side of salvation as follows:

Grace. Grace means that God accepts you apart from anything you have done, but because of what Christ has done for you.

Faith. Faith means you accept God’s acceptance of you through His love and His grace. You can accept yourself and God’s grace at work in you.

Peace. You are at peace because you can accept yourself because of God’s acceptance of you. You have peace apart from the competition and frustration that so often drives life’s motivations. You have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Love. You accept and joyfully add value to others without the need to maneuver and manipulate others in order to overcome the insecurities of your life. You have peace with God *and* with others.

This is the practical essence of salvation: You are a friend with God and can befriend others for His glory.

Joseph M. Scriven knew the pain of tragedy during his lifetime. He was born in Ireland and spent his young life there, graduating from Trinity College in Dublin. He met and became engaged to a young

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FRIENDS >>> CONTINUED

woman, but tragically, his fiancée drowned the night before they were to be married. Guilt-stricken, he moved to Ontario, Canada, separating himself from Ireland and his painful past. While in Canada, he again met a young woman, fell in love and became engaged. Although unimaginable, the young woman fell ill of pneumonia and died shortly before their wedding.

The name, Joseph Scriven, may not be familiar, but the poem he wrote in 1855 to comfort his mother near the time of her death, continues to comfort us today as we sing, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.*

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THANKS

The Bible is a book of promises, precepts, principles, people, prophesy, and yes, proverbs! But the Bible is also a book of prayer. It not only teaches us to pray and calls us to prayer, but it provides examples of specific prayers for us to learn from and to follow.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is probably the best known prayer in the Bible, but there are also the prayers of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians and Colossians that provide us with examples of spiritual growth. Then there is the prayer of Jabez found in 1 Chronicles 4:10. Bruce Wilkinson topped the New York Times best-seller list with his book, *The Prayer of Jabez*. Nine million copies sold and, sadly, many people embraced this book, not for its spiritual quality, but in hopes of finding a path to material prosperity.

We can read and study the prayers of Jesus, Moses, David, Mary and many more, but have you read the prayer of Agur?

"Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God" (Proverbs 30:7-9 ESV).

What an interesting prayer!

It is personal; he uses the pronoun, I.

It is specific: "Two things...."

It is unusual: enough.

I would suggest that relatively few of us pray such a prayer. All Agur asked of God was for enough ("food that is needful"). For Agur, a life of thanks was based on knowing God provided just enough to meet his needs.

There are many who pray for more and less, but I would guess there are few who know the value of praying for enough. *Enough* is a perspective. How do you see life? Do you choose to see life with grace, gratitude and generosity because of the nature of our good and glorious God?

The word that captures the opening request of this prayer is...

>>Integrity

In order to be a person of integrity, deceit or falsehood have no place in your life. Nothing matters more in life than personal integrity. Are you who you say you are?

The opposite of integrity is hypocrisy.

"No man can for any considerable time wear one face to himself and another to the multitude without finally getting bewildered as to which is the true one." —Nathaniel Hawthorne

Definition of integrity: "1 : an unimpaired condition : SOUNDNESS 2 : firm adherence to a code of esp. moral or artistic values : INCORRUPTIBILITY 3 : the quality or state of being complete or undivided : COMPLETENESS, WHOLENESS." —Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

Integrity brings continuity to your life. "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them" (Proverbs 11:3 ESV).

Integrity builds trust in your relationships. Truth and trust are vital in all human relationships. Truth and trust are like pedals on a bike; they are both needed for relationships to run smoothly.

Integrity creates legacy. "The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!" (Proverbs 20:7 ESV).

Integrity reduces stress. Image is what people think you are; integrity is what you really are.

"People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall" (Proverbs 10:9 NLT).

"When I lay down the reins of this administration, I want to have one friend left. And that friend is inside myself." —Abraham Lincoln

The prayer of integrity is a vital, personal prayer. It should be prayed with the recognition of...



Thanks!

Proverbs 30:7-9

Thanks

Apps Series, Part Thirteen

David H. McKinley, Pastor

warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 30:7-9



Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me.



...lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.



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THANKS >>> CONTINUED

>>Vulnerability

Vulnerability in prayer means you confess to God your own awareness of your tendency toward error and injury.

Vulnerability is:

- > carrying a cell phone to a funeral service.
- > taking an active two-year-old to a shop filled with glass and valuables.
- > working at Dairy Queen when lactose intolerant.
- > visiting a bakery while on a low-carb diet.
- > cheering the Florida Gators if you live in Augusta, Georgia!

The prayer of vulnerability is one of protection from temptations that are inherent in poverty *and* prosperity.

You dishonor God when you have a fear of poverty. God is your Provider and He can be trusted to provide for you. Do you have a tendency to take matters into your own hands? There is a phrase in the hymn, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, that often comes to mind:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

—Robert Robinson, 1758

You could say in current vernacular, “Keep me out of the ditches!” There are ditches of poverty and riches, and Agur saw the danger of both sides.

Poverty causes many to dishonor God. You may think, “Agur is my kind of guy,” and follow his example in prayer: “Don’t let me be poor!” This is a request that is easy to pray for most people. However, most people don’t know real poverty.

There was one student at a school in Beverly Hills who was asked to write a composition on poverty. The little girl wrote, “Once upon a time there was a poor little girl. Her daddy was poor, her mommy was poor, her nanny was poor, her chauffeur was poor and her butler was poor!”

However, real poverty has become an increasing reality for some. Hunger and homelessness are becoming more and more widespread. Poverty can cause us to distrust and dishonor God.

Money is not the answer to poverty, though. The answer is Christ! Government may try to redistribute wealth as an answer to the problems in the lives of people. It is easier to redistribute what is taxed rather than what is earned. Is there a place, a need, a role for government in a civil society? Yes. But money is not the basis; morality is. In America, we have spurned morality and squandered money.

Prosperity causes many to disown God. How many have prayed, “God, don’t make me rich”? Life is more than what you have and own. In the New Testament, Jesus began the Parable of the Rich Fool with these words: “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15 esv).

Money can buy a bed, but not sleep...
Books but not brains; food but not appetite;
Finery but not beauty; a house but not a home;
Companions but not friends; medicine but not health;
Luxuries but not culture; amusements but not happiness;
Religion but not salvation; a crucifix, but not a Savior;
The good life; but not eternal life;
A passport to anywhere but heaven.
—Author Unknown

Don’t waste your life. Prosperity is a seductive sedative that inflates your sense of security and denies your need for God.

>>Dependency

Lord, give me just enough for today and wisdom to see Your hand in the good, the bad, the much and the little of my life tomorrow.

“Give us this day our daily bread...” (Matthew 6:11 esv).

Do you think of God as being like a Sam’s Club membership? Enough for today, tomorrow and a whole lot more? At Sam’s Club, we can get flats of supplies: 100 chicken breasts, 30 cans of beans,

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THANKS >>> CONTINUED

50 rolls of toilet paper! However, this is not God's way. He provides all you need for today. He provides the manna of the Old Testament. It is a daily dependency on Him.

Dependency is living with a God-centered focus in life. God is the God of enough! It is not about all the good for which we are thankful; it is seeing God's grace and goodness in every part of life. Would you rather have personal security or a personal testimony of God's gracious provision?

The driving issue for your heart this Thanksgiving should not be what makes your life most comfortable, but what brings you close to God. Don't some of God's richest blessings come out of life's deepest hurts?

God sometimes allows us to travel pathways we would never choose to experience blessings we could have never comprehended.

We thank Him for sun,
Do we thank Him for rain?
We thank Him for joy,
Do we thank Him for pain?
We thank Him for gains,
Do we thank Him for losses?
We thank Him for blessings,
Do we thank Him for crosses?

—Author Unknown

"... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV).

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