

“Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World”
A Study in Proverbs
Lesson #1 – Reverence for God

Introduction: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge.” The attitude a person has towards the word of God is reflective in their obedience. Some consider the commandments of God as a burden, some pick and choose, some ignore them all together, and some see them as an imposition to their lifestyle. Only fools are void of reverence, respect, and fear the presence of God. The term “fear” is not used in a sense of dreading God’s word or His authority. It should not be used as a “negative” term, but deep seeded as part of the awesome respect we have for God – the rightful ruler of the universe, the Creator of all things.

Our Lesson for today we will consider:

- Our Reverence for God
- Our Trusting in God

Reverence. The word appears in the Old Testament 10 times. The word “wisdom appears in the OT 154 times and the word specifically appears in Proverbs 47 times. The word “fear” appears in the OT 229 times and 18 times in Proverbs.

No less than four types of fools can be discerned in Proverbs:

- (1) Simple fool who is still teachable (1:4, 22; 7:7-8; 21:11);
- (2) Hardened fool (1:7; 10:23; 12:23; 17:10; 20:3; 27:22) who is obstinate;
- (3) Arrogant fool, the scoffer who rejects all attempts at enlightenment (3:34; 21:24; 22:10; 29:8);
- (4) Brutish (savage, lacking intelligence) fool (17:21; 26:3; 30:22; Ps_14:1).

Scriptures (please summarize what wisdom will do):

Prov 3:17

Prov 6:22-23

Prov 8:35

Prov 28:14

Trusting in God. Trusting in God is vital to our spiritual lives. Yet at times, our faith can be weak. If we only knew the amazing way that the Lord would open up to us if we would just open up to Him in belief. And the Lord has done an interesting thing...the more we trust in Him...the more He rewards us and reveals Himself to us. This is the key: Belief and trust...and keep on trusting regardless of what is going on around you, even if things seem hopeless. But God is real and is very aware of what is going on with you, and He knows that most of the time you doubt Him. But He does desire that you take that one leap of faith to trust Him with your life. Jesus asks us to have faith as a little child. But as adults, our past disappointments have corrupted us. We need to go

back to that place where we have unquestioning faith and believe as a child. And what does that mean? It means you have to: Relinquish your mind's control over all situations. Take your hands off the things of the world, let go of your fear and unbelief. Stop trying to figure things out.

TRUST GOD.

Scriptures (please summarize what trust in God will do):

Prov 3:5-6

Prov 11:28

Prov 28:25

Questions for Discussion

1. Noah was a man of great faith, but principle "moved him to build an ark to saved his house (Heb 11:7)
2. Explain how sanctifying our hearts (with meekness and fear) is the basis of our hope in God (1 Pet 3:15)?
3. How is our trust affected by the riches of this world and how do we keep our sights focused on the riches of heaven to be revealed at Christ's appearing (1 Tim 6:17)?
4. What is the general principal in Prov 3:5-6 as to our self-estimation?
5. Individually and as a congregation, how ca we improve our worship to God?
6. How would be describe the difference between "fear" and submissive reverence to God?