

Heart to Heart with Dad

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Proverbs 3:1-12

- ¹My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
²for they will add length to your days,
years and peace to your life.
³Never let loving devotion or faithfulness leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴Then you will find favor and high regard
in the sight of God and man.
⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make your paths straight.
⁷Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
⁸This will bring healing to your body
and refreshment to your bones.
⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your harvest;
¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will overflow with new wine.
¹¹My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD,
and do not loathe His rebuke;
¹²for the LORD disciplines the one He loves,
as does a father the son in whom he delights.

I. Solomon gives fatherly advice that have positive benefits attached to them.

A. **Obey** godly instruction, your life will greatly benefit. V. 1-2

B. Character brings **favor** and a good **reputation**. V. 3-4

C. Letting God be your guide in all your **decisions** will keep you from going astray. V. 5 Yahweh is the starting point for all things. Make Him the foundation of your belief system. Anything else in your own “understanding” will lead you to faulty paths. “The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands” — Martin Luther

- D. A teachable spirit and humility have benefits that even affect your **physical** well-being. V. 7-8 “wise in our own eyes” fear the Lord and shun evil!
- E. Give to God your best and there are physical rewards to making Him the **center** of your life. V. 9-10
- F. **Attitude** makes such a big difference in times of hardship. V. 11-12

II. Here are some important applications to these truths.

- A. Listen for **godly instruction** from our parents and obey it.
- B. Be consistent in your **behavior** even when no one is looking.
- C. Memorize His word so that you know what His **expectations** are. Listen to the Holy Spirit to **apply** His word in our life.
- D. Don’t seek the blessing, seek **the One** who blesses.
- E. A cure for being “wise in our own eyes” is godly **accountability**. God’s Word and Godly people who are submitted to it themselves.
- F. Generosity lowers stress and **increases** our faith.
- G. See hardships as **opportunities** instead of **punishment**.