

- **Note:** This has profound implications! Christ Himself cares for us by "nourishing" us through His word, and "cherishes" us by providing for our needs, physically and spiritually.

#### The Insidiousness of Pride:

- **Pharoah: Ex 15:9** The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.'
- **Pr 26:12** Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.
- **Is 5:21** *Woe to those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!
- **Ro 11:25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
- **Deacon: 1 Ti 3:6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.
- **Devil: Is 14:12** "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **13** For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' **15** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
- **Devil: Eze 28:12** "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **13** You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. **14** "You

*were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. **15** You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. **16** "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. **17** "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. **18** "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. **19** All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And *shall be* no more forever." ' "

- **Pr 16:18** Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.
- **2 Co 11:3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

#### A Check List for Diagnosing Pride

(Excerpt from Neil T. Anderson, Discipleship Counseling, p 301)

- Having a stronger desire to do my will than God's will
- Leaning too much on my own understanding and experience rather than seeking God's guidance through prayer and His Word
- Relying on my own strengths and abilities instead of depending on the power of the Holy Spirit
- Being more concerned about controlling others than developing self-control
- Being too busy doing important things to take time to do little things for others
- Having a tendency to think I have no needs
- Finding it hard to admit when I am wrong
- Being more concerned about pleasing people than pleasing God
- Being concerned about getting the credit I feel I deserve
- Thinking I am more humble, spiritual, religious or devoted than others
- Being driven to obtain recognition by obtaining degrees, titles or positions

- Often feeling that my needs are more important than another person's needs
- Considering myself better than others because of my academic, artistic or athletic abilities and accomplishments
- Other ways I have thought more highly of myself than I should

**Question:** In what tangible/practical ways can you put off pride and put on humility?

**Php 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

#### V. Financial (Proverbs 3:9-10): Priority and Generosity

**Pr 3:9** Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Key Words:

- **Honor:** distinguish, show significance and priority, glorify
- **Possessions:** material wealth
- **Firstfruits:** that which comes first and is best
- **Increase:** harvest, what was produced
- **New Wine:** grape juice, beginning to ferment, not significantly alcoholic
  - **Ho 4:11** "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.
  - **Ac 2:13** Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."
  - **Note:** Not a "strong, intoxicating drink"

**Proverbial Principle "Money Talks":** God's request for a portion of your possessions is a protection against greed and covetousness as well as to cultivate gratitude and generosity. It should result in a proper stewardship with the capacity to share and help others.

- OT Example:
  - Initial Principles:

- **Nu 18:21** "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.
- **Dt 14:22** "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. **23** And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. **24** But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, **25** then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. **26** And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. **27** You shall not forsake the Levite who *is* within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you. **28** "At the end of *every* third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store *it* up within your gates. **29** And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who *are* within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.
- **Mal 3:8** "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it. **11** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; **12** And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.
  - **Note:** The old Testament tithe was obligatory under the mosaic law.

- NT insights:
  - Giving Principles
    - **Regular Interval: 1 Co 16:2** On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.
    - **Needful: 1 Jn 3:17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
    - **Responsible: 1 Ti 5:8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
    - **Confidential: Mt 6:3** But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.
    - **Sacrificial: 2 Co 8:2** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.
    - **Proportional: 2 Co 8:3** For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing,
    - **Worshipful/Theological: 2 Co 8:5** And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.
    - **Gospel: Philippians 4:15–19 15** You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; **16** for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift*

more than once for my needs. **17** Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. **18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. **19** And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- **1 Co 9:14** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.
  - **1 Ti 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. **18** For the Scripture says, "*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*" and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."
- **Rewardable: 2 Co 9:6** But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
  - **Purposeful & Cheerful: 2 Co 9:7** *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
    - **Note:** This list is not intended to be exhaustive

#### Warnings:

- **Pr 11:24** There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, But it *leads* to poverty. **25** The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.
- **Pr 23:5** Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.
- **Ec 5:10** He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity. **11** When goods increase, They

increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see *them* with their eyes?

- **1 Ti 6:6** Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Implication:

- Generosity flows from our love for God and love for others and keeps us from loving this world and its wares. Additionally, generosity flows from a proper stewardship of time, talents, and treasures.

**Question:** What ways can you improve on your stewardship that will result in more generosity toward God and others?


**STRUCTURAL INSIGHTS: PROVERBS 3:11-20**


**Pr 3:11** My son,  
do not despise the chastening of the LORD,  
Nor detest His correction;

**12** For whom the LORD loves He corrects,  
Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

**13** Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom,  
And the man *who* gains understanding;

**14** For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver,  
And her gain than fine gold.

**15** She *is* more precious than rubies,  
And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

**16** Length of days *is* in her right hand,  
In her left hand riches and honor.

**17** Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,  
And all her paths *are* peace.

**18** She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her,  
And happy *are all* who retain her.

**19** The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;  
By understanding He established the heavens;

**20** By His knowledge the depths were broken up,  
And clouds drop down the dew.



## EXPLANATION

Two Primary Paths For Finding and Acquiring Wisdom (Proverbs 3:11-20)

I. Chastening (Proverbs 3:11-12): Painful Path

II. Chasing (Proverbs 3:13-20): Passionate Path

I. Chastening (Proverbs 3:11-12): Painful Path

**Pr 3:11** My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;  
**12** For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

**NOTE:** This kind of correction is primarily for sin. However, trials and unjust suffering is another means to grow you and give you wisdom.

- **1 Pe 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Key Words:

- **Despise:** refuse, reject, spurn, scorn, feelings of great displeasure (mind)
- **Chastening:** words of correction, reprimand, punishment
- **Detest:** fear, dread, feel disgust (feelings)
- **Correction (tokahat):** strong disapproval, reprimand, punishment
- **Corrects (yakah):** disciplines, punishes
- **Delights:** accepts, enjoys, loves

**Proverbial Principle "Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child":** God will discipline His children for sin. The range of meaning in the terms reveals that chastening can range from a tender correction to a terrible consequence. However, you must not miss the motive—love!

**NOTE:** The exact expression, "spare the rod, spoil the child," comes from a satirical poem in 1663 by Samuel Butler that corrupts the expression. However, before Butler, in the late 1300's William Langland conveyed the original idea. "Whoso spareth the spryng spilleth hise children" which he referenced from Proverbs 13:24.

- **Pr 13:24** He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
- **Pr 22:15** Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.
- **Pr 19:18** Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.
- **Three Stages of Parenting:** (Control, Correct, Counsel/Coach)

OT Example:

- **Wilderness: Dt 8:5** You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you.
- **Eliphaz: Job 5:17** "Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.
- **Solomon: Pr 13:24** He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
- **Solomon: 2 Sa 7:12** "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. **15** But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16** And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' "
- **David: Ps 103:10** He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- **Jeremiah: Je 10:24** O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

NT Insights:

- **Jesus: Jn 15:2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
- **Paul: Eph 6:4** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- **Heb 12:3** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. **5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;* **6** *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.*" **7** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. **11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- **Jesus: Re 3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

**Question:** Looking back, what would you change in your parenting approach?

**Question:** Do you believe suffering is purposeful and beneficial?

- **Ps 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
- **Ps 103:13** As a father pities *his* children, *So* the LORD pities those who fear Him.
- **Mal 3:17** "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."
- **Heb 5:8** though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

**Application:** Ways to Gain Wisdom

- Chastening
  - Chastening for Sin (Proverbs 3:11-12)
  - Admonitions of Others (Romans 15:14, Matthew 7:1-5, Hebrew 10:25, Matthew 18:15-20, 2 Timothy 4:2)
- Chasing
  - Word of God (Hebrews 4:11-13)
  - Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Romans 8:25-30)
  - Godly Disciplines (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 2 Timothy 2:3-5)
  - Unjust Suffering (Job 1-42)
  - Persecution for Obedience (2 Timothy 3:12)
- **Summary: Mt 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and **follow Me**. **25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. **26** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

**Principle: No Pain, No Gain**

Key Passage for Repentance:

**Ps 32:** A Psalm of David. A Contemplation. **1** Blessed *is he whose* transgression is forgiven, *Whose sin is covered*. **2** Blessed *is the man* to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit. **3** When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah **6** For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. **7** You *are* my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah **8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. **9** Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *Which* have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. **10** Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. **11** Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!