

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding

Personal relationship with God

Trust in Yahweh with all your heart

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge

Proverbs.

Proverbs 1:7; 3:5; 9:10

Proverbs: Grace In The Heart - Message

Proverbs describes the important heart work in saving, sovereign and sanctifying grace

When a well-parented child or a well-trained disciple sins, it points not to training flaws. It points to the need of grace in the heart.

I. The heart is vital because it drives everything else (Prov 4:23)

The heart directs the other parts of our being: body, will, affections, emotions, motives. Like a fountain, the heart even teaches the other parts of the inner man (16:23).



II. Saving grace comes through faith in God (Prov 3:5-6)

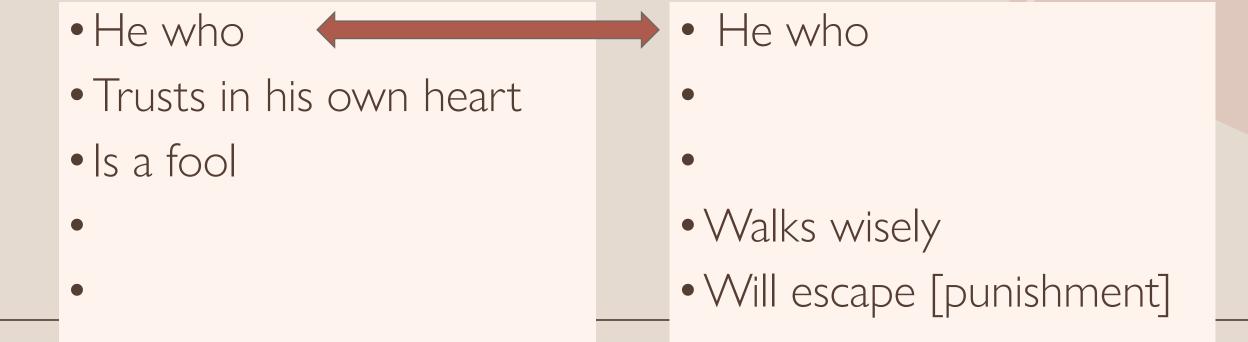
Faith is total trust where you rest peacefully in Yahweh's sovereign power, wisdom and care

Trust in Yahweh with all your heart... acknowledge [know] Him

Proverbs 28:26

- 1) He who trusts in his own heart is a fool
- 2) But he who walks wisely will escape

- Contrast
- Asymmetrical



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- Contrast
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- He who
- Trusts in his own heart
- Is a fool
- [Walks foolishly]
- [Will not escape punishment]

- He who
- [Trusts in Yahweh, 3:5]
- [Is a wise person]
- Walks wisely
- Will escape [punishment]

III. Sovereign grace keeps mankind within God's plan for history

Restraining grace (16:9) — To "plan" is to think, forming a strategy that results in some action

Redirecting grace (21:1) – Since God directs the most powerful of men, it follows that He directs the thinking and decisions of all men

IV. Sanctifying grace operates in the believer's heart

Revealing grace "Yahweh tests hearts" the way precious metals are tested for purity (17:3; 21:2; 20:24, 27; 24:12)

Bruce Waltke explains 20:27, "a person's speech associated with this breath serves as the Lord's flashlight to expose human thought, inclination, and will in the darkest recesses of a person's life" (*Proverbs*, II:158)

IV. Sanctifying grace operates in the believer's heart

Renewing and transforming grace — Applying yourself to learning God's wisdom transforms your affections and desires so that you find God's word pleasing (2:2b, 10; 23:26; 25:21)

You begin to act in new ways, doing things that previously didn't come natural (25:21; Rom 12:2, 20-21)

IV. Sanctifying grace operates in the believer's heart

Reforming grace (training, educating) — What you should do to your heart: (3:3; 7:3; 4:21; 6:21; 10:8; 23:12, 19)

Put your heart to work: (2:2; 3:1; 4:4; 22:17; 18:15; 15:7; 14:33; 15:14-15)

Heart work demands daily diligence (6:21)

2 Cor 4:4, 6

- 1) The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ/God
- 2) The light of the knowledge of the glory of God/Christ
 - The light
 - Of the gospel
 - Of the glory
 - Of Christ/God

- The light
- Of the knowledge
- Of the glory
- Of God/Christ

Why did Paul change "gospel" to "knowledge"?

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The knowledge of God IS the gospel! Proverbs is ultimately about the gospel!