

AGEING AND WISDOM PROVERBS 3

Do you want to be spiritually fruitful? Even as you age? Our society emphasizes youth, vigor, sexual attraction, power. Yet what does God say?

- 1. In and of itself, youth is no better than age. Physically we may be able to do more, but to what end?**
- 2. Do not forget the teaching of those who reared you.** This is a general statement. But all of us have been influenced by family, teachers, mentors, etc. Such people can have a powerful influence on our lives and personal outcomes - both for good and for ill. (Det 6:7, Psm 78:1-4, Prv. 13:20)
 - a. “Bind love and faithfulness (“truth”) around your neck.” I.e., don’t forsake them. And don’t let them be theoretical concepts. Live them out. Go nowhere without them.
 - b. Commit them to memory (Psm 37:31, 119:9-16)
- 3. Remember, age alone makes no one wise. Observe! (1 Tim 3, 4, Heb 13:7)**
 - a. Psalm 71:17-19 - Wisdom comes from God. From His word, from godly people and through our own trial and error as we live and seek Him. 1 Cor 2:6
 - b. Trust in the LORD with all your heart (mind, will)
 - Do not lean on your own understanding (Prv 14:12, 16:25)
 - Acknowledge (“know”) God in all things and He will guide you. That is, seek to let what we know about God’s will, character to inform our decisions/action.
 - c. He will direct (“*make straight/plain*”) your paths. (Isa 8:19-20, Jer:6:16)
 - d. Don’t be wise in your own eyes...it doesn’t often end well (e.g., 1 King 12:1-17).
 - * Fear the LORD and shun evil. (Job 28:28)
 - * It will nourish you spiritually.
- 4. Put God 1st.** Here in Proverbs 3 it speaks of wealth but it applies to everything. Set your priorities and seek to make everything else serve them. There are benefits to self-discipline. And ...worship.
- 5. Accept God’s discipline - He loves us and cares about our present and future. He disciplines those He loves. (He is a generous parent but not harmfully indulgent).** (Rom 5:1-5, Jas 1:1-5, 1 Cor 11:32)

Blessed are those who find wisdom and gain understanding

Wisdom comes from life experience, wise counsel and discipline.

Look for advice from godly people who have life experience. Solomon sought counsel from peers who had the same basic life experience that he had. And he rejected the counsel of those who had a much better understanding of his people and their needs. It ended the united kingdom of Israel and Judah.

Seek the Lord in adversity. We learn by trial and error. If we seek God in that process we will grow.

Look for the wisdom of God. Yes it is ancient but it has stood the test of time and is relevant today.

The easy way is not often the best way.