

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#8) The Wise Trust God And Improve Their Lives 3:1-12

Following God's Wisdom brings out the best qualities in us, as we learn to have total confidence in God's guidance. Heeding Wisdom will give one:

Verses 1-2: Longer Life. "My son" is an expression used some 15 times in the first 7 chapters of Proverbs, for it is written as if Solomon is instructing his son. The way to "not forget" law is to "let your heart keep" the commands. This is explained in [James 1:21-25](#) and applied to Christian obedience. Obedience comes from the "heart," as do all our words ([Matthew 12:35-37](#)), sins ([Mark 7:21-23](#)), jobs ([Ephesians 6:5-8](#)). Blessings promised include "length of days" as in good health, "long life" as in living to old age, and "peace" as assistance to abundance or prosperity. Statistics show that those who regularly go to church live longer.

Verses 3-4: Better Relations. If "mercy" (feelings for the plight of our fellowmen) and "truth" (factual and accurate knowledge of our, and others', actions) are written on our heart, we will wear them like jewelry. Men and God appreciate these two qualities of character ("favor and high esteem"). All deep friendships are based upon understanding the friend, and honesty.

Verses 5-6: Higher Direction. Total trust in God in all our ways is possible because He made us ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)), greatly loved us ([Ephesians 2:4-7](#)), gave His Son for us ([Ephesians 5:1-2](#)). Why should we not believe He wants to help us make the best decisions in our lives? Trust "with all our heart" means we give up our "own understanding" and defer to His direction. It reduces tension to know what to do.

Verses 7-8: Better Health. To be "wise in your own eyes" is another way of describing "loftiness and arrogance and pride" ([Jeremiah 48:29-31](#)), but it takes "fear" (respect, awe) of the LORD, and the desire to "depart from evil" (or leave sinful practices, also known as repentance). By listening to God, we may keep our physical bodies from the dissipation and disease of sins, and live healthier and stronger lives, just as God promised His Israelites ([Deuteronomy 15:26](#)). Humility is the way of recognizing realistically our place in this vast world, without hypocrisy.

Verses 9-10: Better Prosperity. Thank God first with whatever we prosper, and He will think of us when we prosper. "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a*

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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cheerful giver" ([2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)). God always has required that giving to Him come before any other consideration, and be freewill ([Leviticus 23:37-38](#)).

Verses 11-12: Better Attitude. A person who wants to be a spiritual "child of God" will accept some things that happen in life as God's "chastening" (teaching) or "correction" (sometimes hurtful reminders not to stray from the path of good). No parent loves his/her child who will not "correct" (discipline) the child, when needed. These two verses are used to show Christians not to become discouraged at God's correction, for it proves that God is dealing with them as a child whom He loves ([Hebrews 12:3-11](#)).

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