

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

(#46) The Proverbs of Solomon 11: 23- Determining Determination

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 11:23:

The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

The thought is that the purpose of heart determines one's purpose in life. It is repeated in **verse 27** using "seeks" for "desire" of the righteous, and "seeks" for "expectation" of the wicked. What we go for is what we'll get; our goal determines our aim; we will be whatever we "dream" about becoming. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ said:

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (**Matthew 7:7-8**)

Good purpose will receive good result. In the Old Testament:

- Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel (**Ezra 7:10**)
- Daniel "purposed in his heart" not to be defiled with his surroundings (**Daniel 1:8**).

So in the New Testament, Christians were "encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord" (**Acts 11:23**). It is this inner desire that keeps one's feet moving toward the goal. Obtaining our heavenly reward requires this very thing. Jesus Christ said:

Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (**Luke 13:24**)



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Other proverbs state this truth:

- **Proverbs 12:5-6:** "The thoughts of the righteous *are* right, But the counsels of the wicked *are* deceitful. 6 The words of the wicked *are*, 'Lie in wait for blood,' But the mouth of the upright will deliver them;"
- **Proverbs 12:20:** "Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy;"
- **Proverbs 14:22:** "Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good;"
- **Proverbs 21:10:** "The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes."

If ever a truth about humans is taught, here it is: no one rises above his/ her goal.

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