

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

(#49) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:27-29: A Solid Life Or Full Of Wind?

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 11:27:

He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, but trouble will come to him who seeks evil.

This speaks of genuineness of heart. There is no hypocrisy in love. Jesus condemned the

... scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (**Matthew 23:27-28**)

Giving only the appearance of genuine love and concern is the same as a lie. James teaches us that "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (**James 3:17**). Real love is never "taken back" (**1 Corinthians 13:8**). Love "finds favor," that is, seeks out the best (**1 Corinthians 13:6**).

Proverbs 11:28:

He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

Trusting in "riches" rather than in God is not only guaranteed to fail, but misses out on the real product of life: righteousness!

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

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storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
(1 Timothy 6:17-19)

There is a big difference between trusting in riches, and using riches with trust in God!

Proverbs 11:29:

He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

Anyone who causes a dark cloud throughout the house “will inherit the wind” (or will have nothing good to come from it). Later, in the Book of Ecclesiastes, *Solomon will show the emptiness of “grasping for the wind” nine times* (Ecclesiastes 1:14, 17; 2:11, 17, 26; 4:4, 6, 16; 6:9)! How empty and meaningless is the “house” (family) of anyone foul-tempered, stingy, or riddled with anxiety to stifle faith, hope, and love in all those around him!

