

Willing, Obedient, Available, and Diligent (Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Hello everyone!

I was reflecting on some Bible verses I have known for years. However, since God's word is pregnant with meaning, new insights came to the surface.

Proverbs 4:3-5. It really got me thinking about the relationship between a parent and child, and how that parallels our relationship with God.

It says, "When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me, and said to me, 'Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Get wisdom; get insight.'"

I love how it mentions the word **tender**. In Hebrew, "**tender**" (H7390) means **soft**—not weak, but more like being sensitive and responsive, kind of like how Jesus was.

It made me realize that to truly learn from God, we need to be willing, obedient, and available. **Isaiah 1:19** even says it: if we're willing and obedient, we'll eat the good of the land.

So, it's not just about hearing God's word but actually being open to receive it.

What really stood out is how important it is to hold onto what God teaches us.

Once He reveals something to us—whether it's through scripture, prayer, or even someone else—we need to cling to it and not let go.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 reminds us to hold fast to what is good. And honestly, reviewing what we've learned is key.

I mean, think about how Jewish children in Jesus' time would constantly review scripture. Jesus did the same growing up! It's such a great example for us to follow.

Another thing that hit me is how we're called to chase after wisdom and insight.

Proverbs 4:7 says wisdom is the principal thing, so we should get wisdom—and while we're at it, get understanding too.

And let's not forget the Holy Spirit! He's the one who reveals truth to us (**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**).

It's like God equips us with everything we need to live a purposeful life.

Oh, and **Psalms 119:4** reminds us to keep God's word diligently. That means not just reading it but running to it daily and living it out.

I also love how **Proverbs 24:3-4** talks about using God's wisdom to build—whether it's our lives, relationships, or anything else.

Anyway, I just wanted to share these thoughts with you. It's so encouraging to know that God is always teaching us if we're ready to listen. Let's keep seeking His wisdom and insight every day!

Perspective #2

The Importance of Wisdom and Insight in a Purposeful Life

In the journey of life, the pursuit of wisdom and insight holds paramount importance.

Proverbs 4:3-5

“When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me, and said to me, ‘Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Get wisdom; get insight.’”

Proverbs 4:3-5 (RSV) provides a profound narrative that highlights the value of being receptive to instruction and the transformative power of wisdom.

These verses reflect a relationship not only between a child and their earthly parents but also between humanity and God, our heavenly Father.

They serve as a reminder of the foundational principles needed to live a purposeful and fulfilling life.

The Role of Tenderness in Learning

The passage begins with the word "**tender**," which, in its Hebrew origin (H7390), means "**soft**."

This tenderness is not indicative of weakness but rather a posture of openness, responsiveness, and humility.

It represents a heart that is attuned to the Holy Spirit, embodying kindness and Christ-like qualities.

To be taught effectively, one must adopt this tender disposition—**willing, obedient, and available** to receive wisdom.

As **Isaiah 1:19** states, "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." A teachable spirit is essential for growth and transformation.

Holding Fast to God's Word

The instruction in **Proverbs 4:4** emphasizes the importance of retaining God's words and commandments. "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live."

This directive underscores the necessity of internalizing divine wisdom. It is not enough to simply hear or read God's word; we must actively hold it in our hearts and apply it to our lives.

Thessalonians 5:21 further supports this principle: "Test everything; hold fast what is good."

When we learn God's word in any area of life, it becomes **our responsibility** to safeguard it.

This requires diligence and intentionality. Reviewing and meditating on scripture prevents us from forgetting its truths, much like the Jewish children of Jesus' time who memorized and recited scripture regularly.

Their practice serves as an excellent example for us to follow, as even Jesus Himself participated in this tradition.

The Pursuit of Wisdom and Insight

Proverbs 4:5 urges us to "Get wisdom; get insight."

These **two qualities** are indispensable for living a purposeful life.

Wisdom is not merely intellectual knowledge but the practical application of divine truths.

Proverbs 4:7 reinforces this idea: "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

Insight, on the other hand, involves understanding deeper truths through discernment and revelation.

The pursuit of wisdom and insight requires effort and intentionality. It is not a passive endeavor but an active quest that involves seeking guidance from God's word and the Holy Spirit.

As **1 Corinthians 2:9-10** explains, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God."

The Holy Spirit is the **revealer**, providing us with divine insight that surpasses human understanding.

Diligence in Keeping God's Word

Psalms 119:4 reminds us, "You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently."

This verse highlights the importance of not turning away from God's word but instead running toward it with unwavering commitment.

Diligence in keeping God's word involves **consistent** study, meditation, and application.

It requires us to prioritize spiritual growth and align our actions with God's principles.

Moreover, speaking God's word is an essential aspect of this diligence.

When we internalize scripture, it becomes a natural part of our speech and interactions.

By sharing God's truths with others, we not only reinforce our own understanding but also encourage and edify those around us.

Building with God's Wisdom

Proverbs 24:3-4 states, "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

This metaphor illustrates the foundational role of wisdom in building a successful and meaningful life. Just as a house requires a solid foundation to stand firm, our lives require God's wisdom to thrive.

Building with wisdom involves making decisions that align with God's will and purpose for our lives.

It requires us to seek His guidance in every area, relationships, career, finances, and personal growth.

When we rely on God's wisdom rather than our own understanding, we create a life that is stable, fruitful, and pleasing to Him.

Conclusion

The principles outlined in **Proverbs 4:3-5** serve as timeless reminders of the importance of wisdom, insight, and diligence in our walk with God.

By adopting a tender heart that is receptive to instruction, holding fast to God's word, pursuing divine wisdom and insight, and diligently applying His truths, we can live a purposeful life that honors Him.

As we navigate life's complexities, let us remember that true wisdom comes from above (**James 3:17**).

It is through our relationship with God and reliance on His guidance that we gain the understanding needed to fulfill our purpose.

May we continually strive to grow in wisdom and insight, allowing them to shape our lives for His glory.

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