



PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

The image features a serene forest scene with a dirt path leading through tall trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a warm, golden glow. The text 'PROVERBS' is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the path. Below it, a thin white horizontal line separates the word 'PROVERBS' from the phrase 'LIVING WISDOM', which is also in white, sans-serif capital letters but smaller in size. The overall composition is peaceful and evokes a sense of wisdom and natural beauty.

Proverbs 2:1-22

My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
² making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
³ yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
⁴ if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
⁵ **then** you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.

- ⁶ **For** the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
- ⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
- ⁸ guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.
- ⁹ **Then** you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path
- ¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

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- 11 discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,
- 12 delivering you from the way of evil,
from *men of perverted speech*,
- 13 who forsake the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,
- 14 who rejoice in doing evil
and delight in the perverseness of evil,
- 15 men whose paths are crooked,
and who are devious in their ways.

16 So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words,
17 who forsakes the companion of her youth
and forgets the covenant of her God;
18 for her house sinks down to death,
and her paths to the departed;
19 none who go to her come back,
nor do they regain the paths of life.

PROVERBS
LIVING WISDOM

²⁰ So you will walk in the way of the good
and keep to the paths of the righteous.

²¹ For the upright will inhabit the land,
and those with integrity will remain in it,

²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

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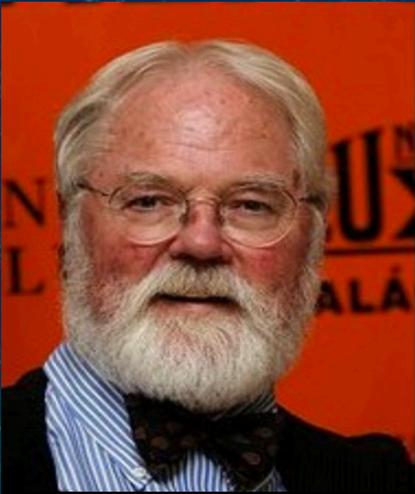
Today: “Words Part 1: Words We Hear”

The Power of Words

Proverbs 2:1-22

My son, if you receive my **words** and treasure up my **commandments** with you...
⁵ **then** you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

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Yelling at living things does tend to kill the spirit in them. Sticks and stones may break our bones, but words will break our hearts.

(Robert Fulghum)

*"All I Really Need to Know
I Learned in Kindergarten"*

(Taylor Swift in CNN article, 5/11/18)

"A couple of years ago, someone called me a snake on social media, and it caught on...Then, a lot of people were calling me a lot of things on social media. And I went through some really low times for awhile because of it. I went through some times when I didn't know if I was going to get to do this anymore."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

(known as the “Shema” and has always been THE centerpiece Jewish prayer)

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Words

Belief

Behavior

LIVING WISDOM

Life-Taking Words

¹² delivering you from the way of evil,
from *men of perverted speech*

“perverted” =
Habitually disobedient;
adversary.

“You are in charge. Use others
to make yourself happy no
matter the cost.”

Life-Taking Words

¹² delivering you from the way of evil,
from *men of perverted speech*

“perverted” =
Habitually disobedient;
adversary.

“You are in charge. Use others
to make yourself happy no
matter the cost.”

¹⁶ So you will be delivered from the
forbidden woman, from the
adulteress with her smooth words,

“smooth” =
two-faced; deceitful.

“God won’t see or care...but
so what if he does. Just do
what makes you feel good.”

From the Outside

God is...

- ◆ Mean
- ◆ Angry at you
- ◆ Going to ruin you
 - ◆ Fiction

From the Inside

You are...

- ◆ Just fine and don't need God
- ◆ The center of it all
 -or....
 - ◆ Unlovable
- ◆ Never going to be ok
- ◆ A disappointment

Others are...

- ◆ Better than me
- ◆ Worse than me
 - ◆ Useful
 - ◆ Irrelevant
 - ◆ Disposable

Life-Giving Words

- ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
- ⁹ **Then** you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path
- ¹⁰ for wisdom **will come into your heart**,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Genesis 1:3

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Matthew 4:4

But (Jesus) answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but **by every word** that comes from the mouth of God.’”

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

John 6

⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life,** ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the **Holy One of God.**”

"Gospel" literally means "Good News" or "Good Words"
Jesus literally is THE WORD made flesh

God is...

- ◆ "One", therefore Infinitely Loving.
- ◆ Infinitely Powerful
 - ◆ Infinitely Just

You are...

- ◆ More in Need than you dare face
- ◆ More Loved than you dare dream
 - ◆ More Instrumental than you dare imagine.

Others are...

- ◆ Children of God
 - ◆ Valuable
 - ◆ Made in God's Image

Application

Be Captured by The Gospel

Hosea 2:16 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her (you), and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

Pursue The Gospel

³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,
⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,
⁵ **then** you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Develop Your Words-Filter

² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;