

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

The Promise and  
Certainty of Wisdom

### Speaker:

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### Scriptures:

Proverbs 3:1-12

**Theme:** If you would walk in the path of peace, take wisdom to heart.

**Introduction:** Scripture regularly compares life to a pathway, or to a walk. Proverbs often does, and in this passage, it hearkens back to Deut 6:7 ("when you walk by the way"). A walk may seem mundane or unimportant; but it is a helpful metaphor for our lives. A walk gives us time to ponder and to savor life; and as we walk in faith we find that God give us his peace (*shalom*), a sense of wholeness and satisfaction as we follow him.

We can consider the path of peace in 3 points:

#### 1. How wisdom should be understood (1-4)

Here again we see the father, as the wisdom teacher, passing it on to his son, the wisdom student. The father points the son to the teaching and commandments. The law of God is wise and reveals God's wisdom. It also speaks to every area of life. So to call something a 'wisdom issue' does not mean it's a matter of preference; it means we need to study and consider how God's truth applies to a situation that Scripture may not directly address.

The promises of wisdom also direct us. Wisdom is not an optional extra, it is what we must walk in because it is a gift from God, for our good.

#### 2. Core admonitions of wisdom (5-10)

These verses contain 3 core admonitions: trust in the Lord, fear the Lord, and honor him with your wealth. Those 3 are contrasted with self-reliance.

Whenever we lean on ourselves, it is like a broken cane: unreliable and ultimately, destructive. Only in the Lord will we find blessing and refreshment.

#### 3. The certainty of our growth (11-12)

We may be discouraged at how we fall short; but we should take heart: the Lord is more committed to us than we are to him.

Verses 11-12 demonstrate the link between the Lord's discipline and his love. He is devoted to our sanctification and to making us into the image of his Son.

His discipline demonstrates that we genuinely belong to him, and it is designed to help us to grow in wisdom.

#### Questions:

1. Do you acknowledge the lord in all your ways, or are you relying on yourself?
2. Do you fear the Lord, or are you wise in your own eyes?
3. Do you honor the Lord with your wealth, or are you pursuing selfish gain?