

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise brings healing. **Proverbs 12:18**

Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down,
But a good word makes it glad. **Proverbs 12:25**

He who walks with wise men will be wise,
But the companion of fools will suffer harm. **Proverbs 13:20**

He who is slow to anger has great understanding,
But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.
A tranquil heart is life to the body,
But passion is rotteness to the bones. **Proverbs 14:29-30**

Without consultation, plans are frustrated,
But with many counselors they succeed. **Proverbs 15:22**

The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom,
And before honor *comes* humility.
Proverbs 15:33

The mind of man plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.
A divine decision is in the lips of the king;
His mouth should not err in judgment. **Proverbs 16:9-10**

The Psalms provide us with marvelous insights for worship and the heart attitude we need for successful spiritual life. The Proverbs give us perspectives for daily living that will make us wise “beyond our years.”

There are several words that have similar meanings, but these practical definitions will help you to read the Proverbs with more clarity:

Wisdom	Knowing what to do, to say or to think in various situations.
Discernment	Perceiving what is really going on, and who or what is causing it.
Understanding	Getting it; seeing how life truly works.
Knowledge	Facts and truths about things.
Instruction	Words or actions that urge people toward what is right and true; and, warn them away from what is false
Reproof	Correcting and challenging what is wrong in order to make it right; giving “proof” that something is wrong

Although many of the Proverbs make natural sense to almost everyone, they are not just a collection of nice, obvious sayings. They are spiritual truths that sometimes go against our natural tendencies or perspectives. Their insights are keen, and it sometimes takes awhile before we get the truth behind them.

Let’s look at a few verses from five different chapters:

He is *on* the path of life who heeds instruction,
But he who forsakes reproof goes astray. **Proverbs 10:17**

The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the upright,
But ruin to the workers of iniquity. **Proverbs 10:29**

There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more,
And there is one who withholds what is justly due, but *it results* only in want.
The generous man will be prosperous,
And he who waters will himself be watered. **Proverbs 11:24-25**