

Living Wisely

Seeking God in Good and Bad Times

How we live in hard times matters.

7:1-6

- Godly character and conduct are more important than fleeting fame and fortune.
- Wise reflection rather than frivolous pleasure brings beneficial understanding.
- Seek God through wise counsel rather than the unwise, self-indulgent words of others.

Warning! Dangerous thoughts and actions can interfere with wise living in good times.

7:7-12

- In prosperous times, wisely choose generosity, patience, humility, and self-control rather than greed, impatience, pride, and anger.
- Living wisely means seeking God in the present, not wishing for the past.
- Prosperity can be beneficial when it is alongside wisdom.

A wise person leans into God's sovereign control in all times.

7:13-14

- No one can change God's course or understand the mind of God, nor can we know all the good that comes from the hard times.
- In good times and bad, thank God and consider who He is. God is great and good!

Trusting God in Confusing and Discouraging Times

A wise person recognizes wisdom is good, but our grasp of it is limited.

7:15-22

- Living wisely means trusting God's plans even when life seems unfair.
- Rather than self-righteous works or turning to foolishness, follow the Lord with love, adoration, and obedience.
- Wisdom is good, but it cannot save the sinner. Trusting Jesus is the only answer for our sin.

Wisdom is elusive, and many foolish things can distract us from trusting God.

7:23-29

- Trusting in God and following Him is the only escape from folly's tight trap.
- God made us to thrive in a close relationship with Him.
- Some of our misfortune comes from our own foolish desires and selfish choices.

Seek God in good and bad times by _____ His Word and talking to Him.

**Remind yourself to _____ God's plan, even when it's hard,
instead of your own way.**

Proverbs 9:10a

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...

Psalm 33:11

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

Isaiah 40:13 (NIV)

Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counselor?

Psalm 145

You can find many attributes and characteristics of God throughout this psalm.

Job 42:2-3

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

Romans 3:23-24

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

Romans 3:22

...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Proverbs 9:13

The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing.