

E X P R E S S I O N S O F G R O W T H



BIBLE STUDY NOTES ON PROVERBS 1

Living Proverbs 1: How the Fear of the Lord, Wisdom, and Vigilance Shape My Walk with God.

L I S G O W . C O M

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1

WHAT DOES “THE FEAR OF THE LORD” MEAN
TO YOU PERSONALLY?

2

WHICH VERSE IN THIS CHAPTER
CHALLENGED YOU THE MOST—AND WHY?

3

HOW DOES WISDOM ‘CALL OUT’ TO YOU IN
YOUR CURRENT SEASON?

4

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO APPLY
PROVERBS 1 IN YOUR DAILY LIFE AND
RELATIONSHIPS?



1 QUESTION

WHAT DOES “THE
FEAR OF THE LORD”
MEAN TO YOU
PERSONALLY?

WWW.LISGOW.COM

WHAT DOES “THE FEAR OF THE LORD” MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY?

When I was younger, I thought that the fear of the Lord meant being afraid of God—like a terrified fear in the natural sense, where you feel anxious, full of dread, and unsafe. That’s what I believed “fear of the Lord” meant.

Truthfully, that’s how I was introduced to it. When people spoke about the fear of the Lord, it often meant: “You’re afraid that God will get you,” or “You’re afraid to go to hell.” That created this idea in my mind that I needed to be terrified of Him—that if I stepped out of line, He would destroy me, and I needed to live under the shadow of impending doom.

Unfortunately, that’s how many people are introduced to the fear of the Lord. However, if someone learns the fear of the Lord in that way, they are more likely to turn away from God and be swayed by the world because humans are drawn to comfort, not terror.

As I’ve grown, I’ve sought to look more deeply into what the fear of the Lord truly means. I’ve discovered a side that is beautiful: awe, reverence, and love. To me, the fear of the Lord means having an awe-inspiring reverence for God—being so in love with Him, so inspired by Him, so humbled before Him, that I honor Him in everything I do.

It’s like the relationship between a father and a son. It’s not about being terrified of punishment, but about loving and respecting the father so deeply that you want to live in a way that honors him. You know he will correct you when needed, but also that he protects and fights for you.

So, the fear of the Lord is not terror or dread—it’s love, awe, reverence, and honor. It’s living in alignment with His will, reflecting His heart, and bringing Him glory.

“

**The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts
have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal
praise.**

-
Psalm 111:10

R E A L L Y G R E A T S I T E . C O M



2

QUESTION

WHICH VERSE IN THIS
CHAPTER
CHALLENGED YOU
THE MOST—AND
WHY?

WWW.LISGOW.COM

WHICH VERSE IN THIS CHAPTER CHALLENGED YOU THE MOST—AND WHY?

Verses 32–33 say:

“For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

Two words stand out: “simple” and “fools.”

To be simple-minded means to be easily swayed, manipulated, or misled. This convicted me because I believe too many Christians fall into this category. Out of fear of questioning God or spiritual matters, we sometimes allow ourselves to be misled.

That’s why it’s so important to understand the true meaning of the fear of the Lord. When we approach God in reverence rather than terror, we can bring Him our questions and concerns—and that keeps us rooted in wisdom.

The second word is fools. In the Bible, a fool isn’t someone

stupid but someone who lacks wisdom and understanding, relying on their own strength and self-righteousness. Their complacency destroys them. Complacency carries a sense of smugness—believing everything is fine, no need to push further. But this is dangerous.

Personally, this verse challenges me because I’ve struggled with complacency. Even with blessings like our business, my book, and my blog, I’ve dragged my feet at times. This verse reminds me to remain vigilant—always going back to God daily, without compromise.

Complacency creeps in slowly. The Bible warns us: “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a thief in the night.” (Proverbs 6:10–11). That’s why I must stay grounded in His Word and will.

A close-up photograph of an aloe vera plant with its characteristic thick, green, pointed leaves and serrated edges. The plant is set against a plain, light-colored wall. A white, rounded rectangular box is superimposed over the upper half of the image, containing text and a quote icon.

“

**“A little sleep, a little
slumber, a little folding of
the hands to rest, and
poverty will come upon you
like a thief in the night.”**

-
Proverbs 6:10-11

R E A L L Y G R E A T S I T E . C O M



3 QUESTION

HOW DOES WISDOM
'CALL OUT' TO YOU IN
YOUR CURRENT
SEASON?

WWW.LISGOW.COM

HOW DOES WISDOM ‘CALL OUT’ TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT SEASON?

Wisdom calls out to me in this season by showing me the areas of my life that were in my blind spot. As I’ve become more intentional in seeking God’s blueprint and paying attention to the signposts He’s placed before me, I’ve found myself becoming more centered, grounded, and present.

Complacency doesn’t happen all at once—it creeps in slowly: one broken promise to yourself, one commitment you didn’t follow through on, one boundary you loosened. Over time, those lapses pile up until the person you were becoming is “parked in a corner,” and you don’t even recognize who you’ve regressed into being.

So, wisdom is calling me to vigilance. It reminds me to stay connected to the Source—God Himself. If I’m not going back to Him regularly, then I’m running on the

residue of the last time I connected. That won’t be enough to sustain me.

As Proverbs 1:9 says: “They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.” God’s wisdom is meant to always be with us. Even when life is busy, it’s about keeping His Word on my heart—through prayer, quick Scripture reading on my phone, or simply keeping Him in mind throughout the day.

Wisdom is calling me to keep drawing from the well daily, so I remain replenished and grounded.

A close-up photograph of an aloe vera plant with its characteristic thick, green, serrated leaves. The plant is positioned in the foreground, with some leaves extending towards the center of the frame. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A large, white, rounded rectangular box is superimposed over the upper half of the image, containing text and a quote icon.

“

**“They are a garland to grace
your head and a chain to
adorn your neck.”**

-
Proverbs 1:9

R E A L L Y G R E A T S I T E . C O M



QUESTION

WHAT DOES IT LOOK
LIKE TO APPLY
PROVERBS 1 IN YOUR
DAILY LIFE AND
RELATIONSHIPS?

WWW.LISGOW.COM

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO APPLY PROVERBS 1 IN YOUR DAILY LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS?

For me, it looks like being intentional about connecting with God each day. That means waking up early to find quiet time before my kids wake up. Sometimes life happens, and I don't get that moment, but I make it up during the day—whether after school drop-off, during a work break, or before bed. Even five minutes of prayer or listening for God's voice makes a difference.

I've also started incorporating more worship music into my daily life—not just during church or morning devotion, but throughout the day. If a song speaks to me in a specific season, I'll even learn the lyrics and use it as a prayer. Worship has become a tool for me to stay connected to God's presence.

Beyond my personal devotion, applying Proverbs 1 also means valuing my relationships—nurturing my marriage, my children, my friendships. Relationships can become complacent if we

don't care for them, and they wither without intentional nourishment. Prayer over those relationships, and even over myself, is part of how I apply this chapter.

Finally, it's about constantly asking God for wisdom: "Lord, reveal to me what I need to know when I need to know it." I don't need all the answers at once, but I do need His guidance in the right moment. That ongoing connection to His wisdom is what grounds me—because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

“

**“Fix these words of mine in
your hearts and minds; tie
them as symbols on your
hands and bind them on your
foreheads”**

-
Deuteronomy 11:18

R E A L L Y G R E A T S I T E . C O M



CLOSING REFLECTION

Proverbs 1 reminds us that true wisdom begins with a reverent, loving fear of the Lord. It challenges us to avoid complacency, to stay vigilant against being easily misled, and to remain rooted in God's Word daily. Applying it means nurturing both our relationship with God and our relationships with others, always drawing from the source of wisdom and allowing His presence to guide every step.



THANKS FOR READING

I truly hope you were blessed by this reading and that these reflection notes have helped you to come into a deeper understanding of the chapter. If you have specific prayer request, please reach out by email or using the contact form on www.lisgow.com.

S U B S C R I B E A T

WWW.LISGOW.COM

Daily Devotional

Date: _____

BIBLE VERSE

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE IS SAYING:

HOW IT APPLIES TO ME:

PERSONAL PRAYER:

AREAS I WILL APPLY THIS TO:

I AM THANKFUL FOR:
