30 Sayings for Wisdom

Proverbs 22:22 – 24:22

#1 (22:22-23) *Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not take away the rights of the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.*

#2 (22:24-25) *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared*.

#3 (22:26-27) *Don’t agree to guarantee another person’s debt or put up security for someone else. If you can’t pay it, even your bed will be snatched from under you.*

#4 (22:28) *Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set*.

#5 (22:29) *Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank*.

#6 (23:1-3) *When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive*.

#7 (23:4-5) Don’t wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit. In the blink of an eye wealth disappears, for it will sprout wings and fly away like an eagle.

#8 (23:6-8) *Don’t eat with people who are stingy; don’t desire their delicacies. They are always thinking about how much it costs. “Eat and drink,” they say, but they don’t mean it. You will throw up what little you’ve eaten, and your compliments will be wasted*.

#9 (23:9) *Don’t waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice*.

#10 (23:10-11) *Don’t cheat your neighbor by moving the ancient boundary markers; don’t take the land of defenseless orphans. For their Redeemer is strong; he himself will bring their charges against you*.

#11 (23:12) *Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge.*

#12 (23:13-14) *Don’t fail to discipline your children. The rod of punishment won’t kill them. Physical discipline may well save them from death.*

#13 (23:15-16) *My child, if your heart is wise, my own heart will rejoice! Everything in me will celebrate when you speak what is right.*

#14 (23:17-18) *Don’t envy sinners, but always continue to fear the LORD. You will be rewarded for this; your hope will not be disappointed.*

#15 (23:19-21) *My child, listen and be wise: Keep your heart on the right course. Do not carouse with drunkards or feast with gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty, and too much sleep clothes them in rags.*

#16 (23:22-25) *Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don’t despise your mother when she is old. Get the truth and never sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment. The father of godly children has cause for joy. What a pleasure to have children who are wise. So give your father and mother joy! May she who gave you birth be happy.*

#17 (23:26-28) *O my son, give me your heart. May your eyes take delight in following my ways. A prostitute is a dangerous trap; a promiscuous woman is as dangerous as falling into a narrow well. 28 She hides and waits like a robber, eager to make more men unfaithful.*

#18 (23:29-35)*Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?  Those who linger long at the wine; those who go in search of mixed wine.  Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly;  At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.  Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: And you will say, “They hit me, but I didn’t feel it. I didn’t even know it when they beat me up. When will I wake up so I can look for another drink?”*

#19 (24:1-2) *Don’t envy evil people or desire their company. For their hearts plot violence, and their words always stir up trouble*.

#20 (24:3-4) *By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

#21 Proverbs (24:5) *A wise man has great power. A man who has knowledge increases his strength*.

#22 (24:7) *Wisdom is too lofty for fools. Among leaders at the city gate, they have nothing to say*. Or, as another translation offers: *Wise conversation is way over the head of fools; in a serious discussion they haven't a clue*.

#23 (24:8) *A person who plans evil will get a reputation as a troublemaker. The schemes of a fool are sinful; everyone detests a mocker.*

#24 (24:10) *If you give up when trouble comes, it shows that you are weak.*

#25 (24:11-12) *Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don’t excuse yourself by saying, “Look, we didn’t know.” For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.*

#26 (24:13-14) *My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the honeycomb is sweet to the taste. In the same way, wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short*.

#27 (24:15-16) *Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place. The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked*.

#28 (24:17-18) *Don’t rejoice when your enemies fall; don’t be happy when they stumble. 18 For the LORD will be displeased with you and will turn his anger away from them.*

#29 (24:19-20) Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; for the evildoer has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.

#30 (24:21-22) My children, respect the Lord and the king. Don't join those people who refuse to obey them; for disaster will hit them suddenly. Who knows what punishment will come from the LORD and the king?