
PROVERBS

A STRONG MAN IS WISE

A 30-DAY
DEVOTIONAL

VINCE MILLER

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DAVID  COOK®

transforming lives together

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NEVER STOP

“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.”

Proverbs 1:8–9

Most of Proverbs was written by King Solomon, son of King David, to whom God granted wisdom far beyond his years. The book of Proverbs is a collection of some of his wise sayings given as a father to a son.

I was drawn to the words quoted above because they assume something of high importance is happening in the home. They assume a father and mother are instructing and teaching. And they assume that this is happening in the home by parents who invest their time in their most important students—their children.

However, this is not so much the case anymore, is it? To a great degree, we have handed the instruction and teaching of our children over to “professional educators,” who are now informing and leading our kids. This has been happening for decades. But now, I think we are seeing the consequences of this error in our judgment.

Our kids are getting educated not only by teachers who don’t share our values, but also by social media, YouTube, and coaches, who spend

more time with them than we do. No longer are our children learning about sex, identity, and history from us. Now they're learning about these things apart from us, away from the home, and apart from the biblical perspective. Just hoping that our kids will have a Christian teacher, coach, or friend is not a plan—because hope alone is not a plan.

But beyond parents willing to instruct, something else is needed: a son or daughter who will *listen* and *not reject* their teaching. Both are important: parents who intentionally teach, and children who intentionally listen.

—— It's never too late to teach, and it's never too late to listen. ———

Brother, this is hard work. The hardest of all work. You know how I know? Because I have been both the belligerent son and the lazy father. And I bet you have too. The only way to make it right is to never stop listening and never stop teaching.

So if you are a father, teach your children (or grandchildren) something today. Don't overcomplicate this. Just text them your favorite Bible verse and explain why you like it. And then, if you are a son whose parents are still living, listen more carefully to your parents today. Ask them a question about how they would handle a present situation in your life, and then just listen for the wisdom.

Remember, it's never too late to teach, and it's never too late to listen. Let's redeem the wisdom of Solomon here and bring education, leadership, willingness, honor, and God back to our homes.

ASK THIS

What do you need to teach as a father? How do you need to listen better as a son?

DO THIS

Teach, listen, and don't quit.

PRAY THIS

God, give me the willingness to listen. Then give me the wisdom to teach.

TALK IT OUT WITH A WISE MAN

“So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes
the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of
her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her
paths to the departed; none who go to her come back,
nor do they regain the paths of life.”

Proverbs 2:16–19

In this passage, Solomon gives his son wisdom about sexual sin. But these words can apply to anything we want. Solomon suggests that wise men can actually see the future. They can see what is forbidden before it traps them. They can see seduction before they are seduced. They can see inconsistencies before integrity is lost. And they can learn from the bad decisions of others before they make their own bad decisions.

While this is encouraging, it assumes a few things about his son. First, it assumes that his son knows right from wrong. Second, it assumes that his son is willing to take time to discern right from wrong. Third, it assumes that his son is ready to choose right over wrong.

—— Solomon suggests that wise men
can actually see the future. ——

However, because we are all imperfect at this, Solomon presents his son with an intriguing discipleship process in four simple steps:

1. Do you see the consequences of this decision?
2. Do you see the seduction of this decision?
3. Do you see the inconsistencies of this decision?
4. Do you see what happened to others who made this decision?

This is precisely why we need wise men in our lives: They see things we don't. They have questions—and answers to questions—we haven't even thought about. So today, if you need good advice on the next big decision in your life or if you are about to make a decision that you really want to make—stop. Don't make that decision. Put it off for a bit. Instead, take these four questions to a godly man and talk it out.

Don't be seduced by what you want or what others want for you. Do what God wants you to do. Act right and be righteous by doing the hard work to get wisdom.

ASK THIS

What big decision are you about to make? Or what decision do you want to make that you're not sure you should make?

DO THIS

Talk it out with a wise and godly man.

PRAY THIS

God, stop me from making decisions that honor my will.
Let me make decisions that honor your will.

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