

Praying Down the Path of Your Life with Prayers from Proverbs

Chap 1

To be wise we need to think like God thinks. The Bible tells us what He thinks about many things.
Cause me to see things the way You see them and to understand Your purposes and Your ways. 2

God uses His word, our parents and other believers to instruct and teach us.

Give me the grace to recognize and receive wise instruction. Build in me a sense of justice, common sense and fairness. 3

God wants to teach us so much through our parents and our pastors and Bible study leaders.

Keep me listening to and learning from You and those You send to me. Bring me in contact with wise counselors. 5

God is the only source of truth. He picked our parents to help us know the truth.

Cause me to understand Your word, the Bible. Make sure I have a proper fear and respect for You since these come before understanding. Do not let me ever become a fool who despises wisdom and instruction. Teach me the value of listening to my father and mother. 6-8

Others will try to lure you into sin, but you must resist.

Build in me the ability and desire to resist when others try to lure me into sin. 10

** Marcia writes: We have three sons who are now (1992) 13, 11, and 9. Last year as the frightening truth dawned on me that they were entering their teens (or as one of my friends so adeptly says "the hormone group") I realized my influence on them would be decreasing. My thought was, "how can our sons keep morally pure?" As I talked this over with the Lord one day, I distinctly heard these words - "get the Word into them." My mind then went to Psalm 119:9 & 11: "How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed to Thy word, Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Since then, we have tried to memorize scripture together, are reading as much of the Bible through this year as we can. We read the Proverbs to the boys at breakfast, and continue to pray as Proverbs 1:5 says in prayer form - "Keep our children listening to and learning from You and those You send to them. Bring them in contact with wise counselors." His word will keep their way pure. **

Greedy people waste their lives trying to get stuff that doesn't satisfy.

Convince me that greed can cost me my life. 19

God corrects us as gently as possible. If we won't listen, He turns up the pressure. His Holy Spirit in us teaches us God's word.

Cause me to respond quickly to correction. Pour out Your Spirit within me and make me know Your word. 23

Those who rebel and turn their back on God quickly get in trouble. Then they call out to God, but He may not listen.

Show me the terrible things that happen to those who hate knowledge, have disrespect for You, and refuse Your counsel and reproof. 29-30

Listening to God and obeying His word brings tremendous protection and safety.

Keep me listening to You and obeying You, so I will dwell in safety and be kept from the fear of evil. 33

**** Remember, you are laying up a lifetime of treasure through these prayers so expect it to take some time and effort. ****

Chap 2

God expects us to seek Him, read His Word and listen to His instruction. We are to read the Bible like we are searching for treasure. If we do these things, He will really cause us to know Him and will fill us with His priceless knowledge and understanding.

Cause me to receive Your words and retain them. See that I listen to wise instruction and seek to know what You are saying to me. Cause me to diligently seek to experience your working in my life and to seek to know Your purposes and Your ways. 1-5

God reserves His wisdom for His kids. He protects us as we do what is right.

Lord, be my wisdom and my protector. Protect me in all my ways. 7-8

Do you want to be able to pick the best path? You can when wisdom fills your heart.

Cause me to delight in knowing You, Jesus, for You are wisdom. You always know the best path. Make sure I pick the right path each time. 9-10

The Lord wants to give you His understanding in everything.

Fill me with common sense so I always know what to do. 11

The devil tries to mess up our lives with impure thoughts and sexual sins. He puts a lot of impure stuff on TV. We need to be very careful what we watch.

So work in my heart that I do not yield to sexual temptations. 16

God takes care of the righteous, but the wicked are cut off.

Ensure that I walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. 20-23

Chap 3

It is so important that we read and know God's Word.

Do not let me forget Your Word and Your commands. As I obey Your Word, give me an abundant and fruitful life in Your kingdom. 1-2

If we hold tightly to mercy and truth, God will give us favor and good understanding before God and man.

Cause me to walk in mercy and truth all the days of my life. Give me favor with You and with men. 3-4

It is so important to depend on God and His wisdom and not on our own brains and abilities.

Cause me to trust You with all my heart. Keep me from leaning on my own understanding. 5

When the Lord sees that we are listening to Him and obeying Him, He directs us in everything we do.

Teach me to acknowledge You in everything I do so You can direct my path. 6

People who think they know it all are headed for trouble. Only God can lead us into the good things He has planned for us.

Keep me from thinking I know it all. Cause me instead to fear You and avoid evil. As I do this, fill me with Your divine health. 7-8

**** The first few months of each new Air Force assignment were filled with tasks that I had never done before. When I would faithfully start the day by acknowledging God and asking Him to direct my path, things would go well. When I felt I was smart enough to handle it on my own, then there was trouble. Proverbs 3:5-7 tell us not to lean on our own understanding or be wise in our own eyes. Instead, in all our ways we are to acknowledge God and He will direct our path. ****

Everything we are or have belongs to God. As we take care of what He has given, He gives us everything we need.

Make me know that everything I have belongs to You and cause me to be a good steward of it. As I give to You, cause me to have every thing I need. 9-10

Nobody really likes discipline. God disciplines us - often through our parents - because He loves us and wants the best. If we resist His discipline, we slow His work in our lives.

Keep me from resisting and hating Your discipline and correction. 11-12

Every day of our lives we need to be reading, studying and obeying God's Word.

Do not let me ever neglect Your word. Cause Your word to lead me in safe paths and keep me from stumbling. 21,23

If we stay close to God, we don't have to be afraid.

Keep me from being fearful when You destroy the wicked around me. Make me know that You are protecting me. 25-26

The Lord wants us to do good to others and not plan anything to hurt them.

Make sure I do good to others whenever You give me the opportunity. Keep me from thinking up plans to harm others. 29-30

We are tempted to be jealous of all the money some evil people have. God tells us not to even think about being like them. **The Lord promises to share His secrets with the righteous.**

Do not let me envy or imitate evil people. 32

God sends trouble to the wicked, but He blesses the just. He turns His back to scorners, but He gives grace to the humble. Get all the grace God will give you. Grace is the power to do what God wants.

Keep me humble before You so You can give me an abundance of grace. 34

Chap 4

God is very serious about us listening to and obeying the instructions of our parents. The only time we would ever disobey is if they tell us to do something that God says is wrong.

Cause me to heed the instruction of my parents. 1

God is teaching you lots of truth. He wants to use you to teach others.

Show me how to transfer the things You have taught me to others. 4

This word tells us it is very important to get wisdom. Remember, the only place to get wisdom is from God and from His Word, the Bible.

Fill me with wisdom and understanding. Lead me in the way of wisdom and down the right paths. 7,11

We must not do the things wicked people do. Many people around us are doing wicked things and trying to get us to join them.

Keep me from entering the path of the wicked or following their evil ways. 14

There is so much more that God wants to show us about Himself.
Give me more light and revelation every day of my life. 18

It is healthy to fill our lives with God's Word. When we are full of God's Word, we won't be full of fear, doubt, guilt, and other things that make us sick.
Release divine health within me as I obey Your words. 20-22

We need to guard our hearts and not let them get full of bad words, dirty pictures and bad thoughts.
Father, work in me as I guard my heart very carefully. Keep my heart always in love with You and Your kingdom. 23

Ever know someone with a wicked mouth? God wants our words to be clean and pure.
Father, wash my mouth and cleanse me from words that do not please You. 24

We sometimes look around and want to do what lost people are doing. The Lord tells us to stay on the straight and narrow path.
Keep me on the straight and narrow path. Do not let deception lead me into the path of evil. 27

** Marcia's friend was really struggling with the symptoms of multiple sclerosis back in 1973-1975. She read Proverbs 4:20-22 and set her heart on giving attention to God's word and keeping it in the midst of her heart. She trusted her Father to perform verse 22 in her life. It says, "For they (God's words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Although she has struggled with the symptoms for almost 20 years, she is now married with five children and her Father is performing His word in her life. **

Chap 5

Sin can be fun and exciting for a time. One sin leads to another until it controls our lives and destroys us.
Though sin may seem appealing, cause me to know it leads to pain and death. 3-5

It doesn't do any good to know God's Word if we don't obey it.
Keep me from ever forsaking the things You have taught me. 7

Sexual sins lead to all kinds of sexual diseases that injure and may kill our bodies. God's plan is one man and one woman together for life.
Make me very aware of the dangers of sexual sins and cause me to avoid them. Cause me to keep myself pure and have sexual relations only with the spouse You give me. 11,15

The Lord wants us to love and stay faithful to the person we marry.
Give me a Christ-centered love relationship with my spouse when I get married. Keep me faithful to my spouse. 18-19

Remember, the Lord knows everything we are doing. We can't fool Him.
Make me aware that You see and hear everything I do, say or think. 21

Chap 6

Ever watch ants? They work hard all summer so they have plenty to eat in the winter.
Teach me to work hard. Do not let me waste my life sleeping, loafing or doing useless things. Show me Biblical examples and give me current examples of godly workers from whom to learn. 6-11



God really hates pride, lying, hands that hurt people, hearts that think up wicked plans, feet that hurry to cause trouble, false witnesses and people that cause problems with others.

Do not let me get filled with pride. Cause me to be truthful and honest. Stop me from shedding innocent blood. Keep me from embracing wicked thoughts. Do not let me run around causing trouble. Keep me from lying about others and spreading trouble. 17-19

The things our parents teach us about God are so important that we must never forget them. They protect us wherever we go and guard us when we sleep.

Prompt me to think about Your word night and day. 20-22

Some people think it is okay to do wrong things if they don't get caught. God always knows when we do wrong and has to correct us because He loves us.

Do not let me think I can play with sin and get away with it. 27-28

Someone who has sex with another person's husband or wife always gets in trouble with God.

Make me know there is absolutely no way I can get away with adultery. Cause me to know You will certainly punish me. 29,32

Chap 7

Repeatedly, the Lord reminds us how important it is to obey His Word.

Cause me to keep my relationship with You as the most important thing in my life. 2-3

Having sex before we get married always leads to hurt and problems.

Keep me from being led into immoral relationships. Stop me from having sex before I am married. 12-27

Chap 8

Earthly treasure without God's wisdom won't last long and often causes us to be deeply hurt. If we have God's wisdom, we will do well with the treasure we have.

Cause me to know that Your wisdom and instruction are more valuable than earthly treasures. 10-11

If we respect God, we will hate evil, pride, love of self, evil ways and a wicked mouth.

Father, so work in me that I hate evil, pride, love of self, evil ways and a wicked mouth. 13

To know wisdom is to know Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals Himself to us as we read His Word.

Prompt me to start a regular time of Bible study and prayer and to keep it up all my life. 17

These are tremendous promises for those who seek and find wisdom: they get enduring riches that are better than silver and gold, God causes them to inherit real riches, and He fills their treasuries.

Father, work in me and fill me with wisdom. Give me that which is better than silver and gold. Cause me to inherit riches and fill my treasury. 18-21

Chap 9

Foolish ways lead to physical and eternal death.

Ensure I forsake my foolish ways and live. 6

Fear of the Lord leads to wisdom and understanding. To fear the Lord means we have tremendous respect and admiration for Him and that we obey Him.

Cause me to have the fear of You that leads to wisdom. Give me a knowledge of Your holiness. 10

When we steal something, we can never really enjoy it because we know we are guilty. God allows us to experience trouble if we steal.

Make me know that stealing may lead to temporary riches but always brings big trouble. 17-18

** It is never too soon to start praying for the right future mate. **

Chap 10

Wise children bring pleasure to their parents and to God. Foolish children bring God and their parents grief.

Turn me into a wise person who brings my parents great joy. Cause me to walk with You in righteousness so You can meet my needs. 1-3

Whatever task God gives us, we should do it carefully and diligently. Those who are willing to work will have all they need.

Keep me from working in a careless, sloppy way. Teach me to be a diligent worker so I always have an abundance. Prompt me to take advantage of opportunities You give. Do not let me be a person who procrastinates and never gets my work done. 4-5

We need to be very careful with our words. They can hurt or help others.

Cause me to say only things that edify others. 11

To walk in the abundant life God has for us, we have to obey Him. We also must not resist when God corrects us through others.

So work in me that I obey You and walk in the abundant life You have for me. Keep me from resisting correction. 17

The more we talk, the more likely we are to sin with our words. We need to think carefully before we speak.

Keep me from always "running" my mouth. Make me know when to keep quiet. 19

If we collect lots of stuff, it tends to own us. If we allow God to give us what we need, then our possessions will not bring us sorrow.

Fill me with just and righteous words that bring life to many. Lead me in ways that You can bless. Keep the abundance You give from ever bringing me sorrow. 21-22

God tells us not to fear. What the wicked fear eventually happens to them. God wants to put His desires in our hearts and fulfill them.

Cleanse me of wicked desires. Write Your desires on my hearts and fulfill them. 24

Which would you choose, long life, gladness, strength and protection or short life, hopelessness, ruin and being cut off from life? God promises the first list of good things to those who know Him.

Keep me in a right relationship with You. Then give me fruitful life, gladness, strength, and security. 27-30

Chap 11

God doesn't like cheating of any kind.

Keep me from becoming involved in any business that cheats others. 1

Pride leads to shame because God resists the proud.

Protect me from pride and keep me walking with You in humility. Cause me to be known for my integrity. 2-3

Riches might help here on earth, but riches cannot buy our way into heaven.

Teach me to never trust riches but instead to trust You. 4

Those who are dishonest all eventually get caught.

Ensure I do the right things and do not try to achieve my goals by dishonest means. 6

A hypocrite says one thing and does another. They pretend to be one kind of person, but are really someone much worse.

Cause me to obey You so You can deliver me out of all my trouble. Keep me from being a hypocrite. 8-9

Godly people are a blessing to their neighborhood, their school and their city.

Make me a blessing to the city in which I live. Teach me to live in harmony with my neighbors. 11-12

Wise friends, who give good counsel, are priceless.

Provide good, wise counsel for me when I need it. 14

The Bible tells us to never agree to pay off a loan if someone else doesn't pay.

Teach me the danger of co-signing for others. 15

The Lord wants to make us gracious, strong and merciful. He never wants us to be cruel.

Cause me be gracious and strong. Prompt me to be merciful like You are. 16-17

The Lord hates wicked and crooked deeds. He rewards those who are righteous and upright.

Make me understand that a godly life brings reward and that a wicked life leads to death. Make me understand how delighted You are when I walk in Your ways. 18-20

Discretion is knowing how to respond in any circumstance. A beautiful but godless woman is as ugly to God as a pig.

Cause me to have discretion. 22

Our country was made great by those who were willing to help others and share. It is now being destroyed by greedy people who only live for themselves.

Teach me to be one who shares and gives to others. See that I spend my energy doing good and not mischief. Keep me from trusting in riches. 24-28

Chap 12

Those who would be wise love instruction. Those who hate correction are dumber than animals.

Teach me to joyfully receive instructions and keep me from hating correction. 1

The Lord wants us to be pure and full of virtue. We can't be pure if we are full of bad thoughts.

Ensure that I am full of virtue. Guard my thought life. 4-5

God's plan for getting ahead is to work hard and save. The world tries to get rich quick and consistently fails.

Teach me to work hard at my jobs and keep me from getting involved with some get-rich-quick scheme.

Our words are very important. We need to be careful what we say. Nobody except God is right always. We need to check out our ideas and plans with godly counselors.

Prompt me to say and do the right things at the right time. Keep me from always assuming I am right. Cause me to discuss my ideas with wise counselors. 14-15

The truth spoken in love always helps. Lies always hurt us and others.

Cause me to speak the truth in love. Make me aware of how much You hate lying and love the truth. Show me that the devil is the source of lies and that You are truth. 18-19,22

God expects us to take good care of the things He gives us.

Keep me from being lazy. Teach me how to take good care of my possessions. 27

Chap 13

Wise children listen to their parents. God said this, not your parents.

Show me the wisdom of listening to my parents. 1

In the summer of 1986 we were making vacation plans. We thought we wanted to drive up to Glacier National Park. As we prayed about our ideas, the Lord seemed to be saying that He had a better plan. The impression came that a trip to Glacier would be OK but if we would ask and listen, the Lord would show us His plan. It would be full of His blessings. Proverbs 10:22 seemed to sum up what the Lord wanted to do. We ended up going to a Christian camp in Oregon. During the drive we began to sing, "It is the blessing of the Lord that makes us rich, rich, rich and He adds no sorrow to it." The camp had many homemade slides, swings and rides that the kids loved. The boys had their own classes and nature walks while Marcia and I were in classes of our own. As a result, we grew spiritually while having a very enjoyable vacation. During one group session, each family had to sing, tell an experience or perform in some way. We told the story of how we ended at the camp and sang Proverbs 10:22 to them. The Lord performed His word and made us rich spiritually and gave us a vacation with no sorrow.

Guard your mouth and work hard and tell the truth and God will bless you.

Cause me to always choose my words carefully. Motivate me to be diligent in all I do. Give me Your hatred for lying. 3-5

Some people have lots of money, but no real friends or joy. Others have little money, but lead rich, wonderful lives.

Teach me that I can be rich in the world's eyes and have nothing. Also, show me I can be considered poor by the world and yet have the great riches of good health, friends, wisdom and most of all, eternal life. 7

If we get money or things through dishonesty, we will regret it. Things obtained through hard work can bring joy.

Show me that wealth or position obtained by fraud or deception will not be blessed and will soon be gone. Teach me that You will bless honest work and truthfulness and cause me to prosper. 11

We don't break God's Word. It breaks us.

Keep me from despising or ignoring Your word. Cause me to honor and cherish Your word and be blessed. Give me good understanding and favor with everyone to whom I relate. 13,15

Those with godly friends usually become godly people. Those who walk with wicked, godless people usually become like them.

Cause me to be a trustworthy messenger and a faithful representative of those for whom I work. Give me wise, godly friends. 17,20

Wicked people are storing up money for the righteous to use. Let's pray that lots of this money will be placed in the hands of those who will use it for God's kingdom.

Cause my parents to leave an inheritance of prayer and righteousness for me. Transfer the wealth of the wicked into my hands for use in Your kingdom. 22

Children who are not disciplined are being robbed. Real love disciplines.

Ensure that my parents discipline me appropriately whenever I need it. 24

Chap 14

It takes much love, patience and hard work to build a home and a marriage. Foolish words and actions can quickly tear a home and marriage apart.

For the young ladies: **Cause me to become a wise woman who will hold her home together. Do not let me grow up to be a foolish woman who will tear her home apart.**

For the young men: **Cause me to become a godly man who will build up my future wife and children. 1**

Lost people primarily see God through other believers.

Show me that my actions reflect directly on You. 2

We do best to avoid foolish people.

Cause me to avoid foolish people. 7

The lost brag about their sin and are trapped in their sin. Believers admit their sins and allow God to change their thoughts and actions.

Make me understand the tremendous consequences of every sin. Keep me from doing things that seem right to the world but that you know lead to death. 9,12

We could rewrite this verse to read like this: Foolish people believe everything they see on TV. The wise seldom watch it, but if they do, use great discernment and discretion in what they allow to come into their minds.

Do not let me believe everything I hear, read or see. Cause me to check things out carefully and pray about every decision. 15

On our own, we can get angry quickly. God enables us to stay calm and respond wisely.

So work in me that I am very slow to get angry. 17

Happiness doesn't come by getting stuff. It comes when we give and bless others. What can you do to bless someone soon?

Cause me to respect those around me and to show mercy to the poor. Fill my mind with good I can do for others. 21-22

Talk is cheap, but God rewards those who work. Those who know God can help others come to know Him.

Teach me to be more action than talk. Cause me to be a true and faithful witness to You, Jesus. 23,25

Many Proverbs chapters tell of blessings that come when we fear the Lord.

Ensure that I respect You and put my confidence in You. Be my refuge and my life. 27

This is the second time in this chapter that God tells us to be slow to get angry. We also need to think about decisions and talk to others about them.

Do not let me get angry quickly or make hasty, "snap" decisions that bring trouble. 29

Being jealous of others causes unhealthy things to happen in our bodies. Walking in a close relationship with God helps keep us healthy.

Do not let me envy others for any reason. 30

Those who make fun of poor people or oppress them in any way get in trouble with God. We please our Father when we help and defend the poor.

Keep me from ever knowingly or unknowingly ridiculing or oppressing the poor. Cause me to honor and show mercy to them. 31

When we are wise, people notice it. They also can see a foolish heart. We need the Lord to make us wise. He can also keep us from friendships with foolish people.

Keep foolish people from surrounding me. Use Your Word and Your discipline to drive foolishness from my heart. Cause the righteousness of our nation to increase because of me. 33-34

** One of my greatest encouragements to keep faithfully praying is the knowledge that my prayers please my Father. Proverbs 15:8 tells us that "the prayer of the upright is His delight." He took the initiative to make us upright when Jesus paid for all our sins and gave us His righteousness. We further know from Revelation 5:8 that our prayers will one day become incense that God uses during worship times in heaven. We get the day-to-day blessings and provision that come in response to prayer. Even more, we get the privilege of delighting our Father and laying up fragrance for heaven that will last throughout eternity. **

Chap 15

When we answer softly and gently, we can stop arguments and fights before they start.

Teach me to give soft answers that stop arguments. Don't let me speak harsh words that stir up anger in me or others. 1

Wise people wait until the right time and place to give out their information. Foolish people tell everything they know to everyone.

Show me how and when to use information I have. Do not let me pour out all I know to those who will misuse my knowledge or use it against me. 2

We can never hide our sin from God. He makes our sins known to others so we have to deal with them. God watches our words because words can help or hurt others.

Cause me to know that You are very much aware of everything I do, say or think. Fill me with wholesome words. Take unwholesome words out of my vocabulary. 3-4

If you find someone who doesn't listen to or obey his parents, you have found a fool. Wise children listen to and obey their parents.

Convince me that ignoring my parent's instruction is foolish. Cause me to respond properly when my parents correct me. 5

Do you want to bring delight to God? Then, talk to Him a lot in prayer. He really likes it when we tell Him about everything we are doing and ask for His direction and guidance.

Cause me to delight You with prayers from an upright heart. Make me know that You gave me an upright heart when I trusted in Jesus. 8

God really hates wicked actions. He corrects Christians almost immediately. He also pressures lost people to change but if they don't change, it can eventually cost them their lives.

Keep me from the way of the wicked which You hate. Cause me to follow closely after You. Lord, ensure I remember that You will correct me as strongly as necessary when I stray into sin. 9-10

Lost people try to pretend there is no God, no heaven, and no hell. Hell is what they worry about the most. God uses us to help them realize that hell is real and that they need to give their lives to Jesus.

Work through me to convince the world that hell and destruction are real and that everyone will face You as judge. Cause me to seek and find wisdom and truth. 11-14

Poor people who know God will get to enjoy heaven forever. A rich person who does not give his life to Jesus will have nothing in eternity and will be separated from God forever in hell.

Convince me that a poor person who is in fellowship with You is far better off than the lost rich person who will never know real love or peace. 16-17

Some kids like to start fights with their brother or sister. God wants us to be those who are slow to get angry and help prevent fights. Life is hard for lazy people but God makes the path easier for those who work hard.

Do not let me be one who stirs up trouble. Cause peace and calmness to be in my life. Convince me that lazy people have many problems. Make Your paths clear before me. 18-19

** Our friend, Susie, shares:

As a brand new Christian, I heard a Bible study on the various parts of prayer. That night I decided to follow the model (I was not in the habit of praying). Remembering how the teacher stressed thanksgiving, I decided to begin there but nothing came to mind. As I thought and searched for something in my messed-up life to thank God for, it occurred to me that I had never thanked God for my 3 1/2 year old son. He had Down's syndrome and, although I put on a very convincing act, deep down I struggled with the grief and fear of raising a retarded child. The only prayers I remembered offering in relation to Smith were of the "God, please do not do this to me" and "Help me, I cannot do this" variety. This would be my first thank You. It was a weak: "Lord, he's a sweet little thing." The most amazing transformation began, however, as God responded to my faint little halfhearted prayer. I began to marvel at Smith's every achievement and rushed back to God daily with more thanks. The more I thanked God for Smith, the more He opened my eyes to this wonderful little kid. The more I saw, the more I thanked. God changed me! Smith truly was my joy. It was not an act! Today at nine, Smith still holds a permanent place on my endless list of reasons to thank God. I continually thank God for choosing me to be Smith's mom! God is so good!" **

Sin may seem like fun for a time, but it quickly leads to problems and pain.

Keep me from trying to find joy and happiness in sin. 21

Because we never know all the answers, God gives us wise counselors to help us. When I say God, I am talking about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Cause me to check out my plans with wise counselors. Most of all, teach me to always check with You. 22

Spiritual pride is the most dangerous sin of all. God hates it and always resists those who are proud.

Make sure I avoid pride, because You resist the proud. 25

What does God see when He looks at your thoughts? He always knows what you are thinking and He hates evil thoughts. God usually helps us gain wealth slowly and doesn't want us to focus on being rich. He knows if we get a lot of money at once we will waste it or get into trouble.

Convince me that You hate wicked thoughts just as much as wicked actions. Cause me to know that get-rich-quick schemes always bring trouble. Cause me to recognize a scam and avoid it. 26-27

Foolish people speak without thinking. The wise think and ask the Lord how to respond.

Lord, ensure that I think carefully before I speak. Give me Your answers to those who question me. 28

We really hurt ourselves when we don't listen to the instructions that God sends.

Convince me that no one is wise who does not listen to and obey You. 31-32

Reverence, instruction and humility come before honor and wisdom.

Build in me the reverence and humility that allow You to give me wisdom and honor. 33

Chap 16

God always knows the right answer if we will ask Him and listen. Very often, He answers through our parents.

Cause me to gather all the facts and then allow You to show me the right decision to make. 1

We can easily convince ourselves that we are right. God always checks our motives. To do the right thing for the wrong reason can still cause problems. We need to always be open to allowing God to change our plans.

Show me how easy it is to fool myself and to rationalize what I am doing. Teach me to allow You to direct me in every decision and to interrupt my plans whenever You need. 2-3

On the surface, it looks like proud people have it made, but God always punishes pride.

Convince me that pride is not just a little sin but that You absolutely and totally hate it and will always punish it. 5

The Lord didn't choose us because we were so good. We did not deserve eternal life, but God offered it to us as a gift and helped us to take it. Because He is so good to us, we choose to turn from sin and evil.

Extend mercy to me. Reveal truth to me. Build in me such a fear of and a reverence for You that I turn from every form of evil. 6

If we do what God wants, He takes care of our enemies. Usually, He gives them bigger things about which to worry.

Make sure my ways please You so You can make my enemies be at peace with me. 7

Would you rather be rich and lost or poor and close to God?

Convince me that a saved poor man is far better off than someone who is rich, famous and lost. 8

Though we have to make plans for the future, we always seek God's guidance. We allow God to change our plans whenever it is necessary. Only God has the perfect plan for our lives.

Cause me to plan my ways but to always trust You to guide me. 9

** Keep going back to those prayers that were most meaningful and keep praying them until you feel prompted by the Holy Spirit to move on. **

We live in a crooked world, but God expects us to be fair and honest. Though lost people cheat, they expect Christians to be honest.

Teach me the importance of always being fair and honest. Teach me how to live in peace with the authorities You have placed over me. 11-14

Wisdom and understanding last forever. Money and possessions only last for a little while.

Cause me to chose wisdom and understanding over material things. 16

Have you noticed how often the Lord warns us about the danger of pride?

Turn me from pride that leads to destruction and the haughty spirit that leads to a fall. 18

We should choose our friends from among the humble.

Cause me to choose to associate with the humble and lowly rather than the proud and arrogant. 19

The lost world tries to convince itself that sin is OK but God says it leads to death.

Keep me off the ways that seem right but lead to death. 25

We don't like it when others spread stories about us. The Lord tells us not to spread stories about others.

Keep me from digging up evil and spreading gossip. 27-28

Getting angry quickly is a sign of spiritual immaturity. We need to give Jesus control of our emotions. We also give Him the final word in all our decisions.

Cause me to be slow to get angry and quick to get over anger. Keep my emotions under control. Cause me to know that You have the final word in every decision. 32-33

Chap 17

The Lord listens to our words but primarily He looks at our hearts.

Test my heart and mind. Cleanse me of everything that is not of You. 3

When we make fun of poor people, we are making fun of God. God has to punish us if we are happy when bad things happen to others.

Keep me from ridiculing those who are poor. Do not let me rejoice over or take advantage of those who are experiencing calamities such as illness, divorce, bankruptcy or some natural disaster. 5

A real friend doesn't tell everyone about our mistakes. We should not "blab" the secrets shared by a friend. However, if they are doing something wrong or dangerous, we should tell our parents so we can protect our friend.

Teach me how and when to cover up mistakes my friends have made. Keep me from gossiping about things told me in confidence. 9

Smart people welcome correction. Fools hate it.

Cause me to welcome and quickly respond to Your corrections. 10

If we return evil for good, trouble comes to live at our house. The best time to end an argument is at the very beginning. We do this by refusing to argue and by speaking gently to the other person.

Keep me from ever returning evil for good. Prompt me to break off an argument early before it gets out of control. 13-14

We are not to defend wicked people or condemn good people.

Do not let me ever justify the wicked or condemn the just. 15

A friend always helps a friend. Brothers and sisters always should love and protect each other.

Cause me to be constantly expressing Your love. Keep me ready to support my siblings and friends when trouble comes. 17

Those who like to fight will always be in trouble.

Keep me from ever enjoying a fight. 19

□ Those who lie always get into trouble.

Do not let me get myself in trouble with my mouth. 20

Foolish children bring hurt and grief to their parents.

Do not let me get involved in things that bring grief to my parents. 25

Smart people choose their words carefully and don't talk all the time. Even if we aren't too smart, people will think we are if we only speak up when we know what we are talking about.

Cause me to be slow to speak and quick to listen. 27-28

Chap 18

Foolish people jump into the middle of an argument that is none of their business.

Prevent me from starting or jumping into arguments. Show me how important it is to guard my words. 6-7

Dirty stories stick in our minds forever. Avoid them whenever possible. Being lazy is the same as being one who destroys.

Protect me from listening to the details of sin or evil. Do not let me be a lazy bum who wastes my life. 8-9

The Lord is our protector and defender.

Cause me to know You intimately and make sure I run to You for protection. 10

It is really "dumb" to answer before we hear the whole question.

Teach me that it is foolish to answer before I hear the question. 13

God has given each of us abilities that make us very important in His kingdom. Ask the Lord to identify the gift He has given you.

Cause the gifts You have given me to bring me into responsible positions. 16

One person's account of what happened always sounds right until we hear the other side.

Keep me from believing one side of a story until I have heard both sides. 17

We should be very careful not to offend others. If we do offend them, we need to ask the Lord to show us how to make it right.

Teach me how to avoid offending those around me. If an offense does occur, show me how to make it right. 19

A godly marriage partner and some godly friends are the best treasures here on earth. Jesus is always available to be our best friend.

Direct me to a godly mate. Give me a marriage You can bless and honor. Cause me to be a good friend to those You place around me. Jesus, be my best friend. 22-24

Chapter 19

Honesty always pays off in the end. Taking our time making decisions keeps us out of much sin. God is setting us free from man's sinful ways so we can do what is right.

Convince me that You would rather I be an honest poor person than a wealthy liar. Keep me from hasty decisions that lead to sin. Set me free from the foolish ways of the world. 1-3

God promises to capture and punish liars.

Show me that You always punish those who lie. 5,9

Gaining wisdom is more important than gaining money.

Convince me that seeing things the way You see them and understanding Your ways are extremely important. 8

It is best not to make decisions or talk to people when we are angry. Often when we are angry, we want to point out where others are wrong. We should avoid this.

Teach me to keep my anger under control. Do not let me go around pointing out everyone else's sin. 11

Marrying the wrong person can bring a lifetime of regret.

Give me a godly mate. Make me into the godly mate You want me to be. 13-14

Lazy people waste their lives and have to answer to God for the wasted time. Ignoring God's Word can cost us our life.

Keep me from being idle or lazy. Cause me to know and keep Your word. 15-16

Help poor people whenever you get a chance. This pleases the Lord and allows Him to give back to you.

Teach me that when I lend to the poor, I am lending to You. Cause me to recognize it when You repay me. 17

Pray for your parents to be wise in their discipline and counsel.

Use my parent's to discipline and disciple me properly before it is too late. Cause me to receive counsel and instruction. Make me very wise. 18-20

Only God has the plan for our lives. When we honor and obey God, we are protected from evil.

Make sure I line up my life with Your plans. Release Your kindness through my life. Give me the reverence for You that allows You to keep evil away. 21-23

** Proverbs 27:10 tells us not to forsake our own friend or our father's friend. My dad was one of the best cabinetmakers in Kentucky. He built and refinished furniture for many people in Bourbon County. I was his reluctant helper. I decided there was more to life than varnish remover, sandpaper and shellac so I enrolled in the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky. Since my part-time job would barely pay commuting and textbook expenses, I applied to a local college scholarship fund for tuition assistance. They required three recommendations and the obvious places to turn were my father's friends. I took my three recommendations and presented them to the three distinguished men on the panel that presided over the disbursements from the Garth Fund. They passed the recommendations around and then one said, "Have you read Mrs. Ardery's words?" He passed me her letter and I read it for the first time. She wrote things like, "If our great benefactor, Thomas Garth, who walked to Georgetown and back every day while teaching school to save and make possible this fund, was living today, I am confident he would want to help such a boy as Thomas Bishop." I was really impressed and somewhat embarrassed by the gracious words she wrote. They obviously impressed the panel also as they awarded me a higher amount than my peers.

We can truly leave our children a heritage of godly Christian friends. We need to impress on our kids that they can greatly benefit from the prayers, advice and support of our friends. They can also quickly squander this inheritance through selfish, godless conduct if they so choose. **

Don't even listen to those who try to lead you away from God. If it is a teacher who is telling you there is no God, listen respectfully but don't believe their words about God.

Do not let me listen to those who would lead me away from You. 27

Chap 20

If we never try alcohol or drugs, we will never become addicted. Wise people avoid them.

Keep me totally away from alcohol and drugs so those addictions can never get a foothold in my life. 1

The wicked like to keep an argument going. The lazy try to avoid work. Doing these things always bring pain and suffering in the end.

Teach me to mind my own business and to avoid arguments and fights. Motivate me to endure necessary hardships to accomplish the goals You set for me. 3-4

Adults have a lot of wisdom if we learn how to ask the right questions and listen when they talk to us.

Show me how to draw wise counsel out of others and how to find sources of help. 5

Be suspicious when you hear someone bragging on themselves. Look for faithful people who will keep their word and seek to be their friend.

Keep me from bragging about the great things I have done or plan to do. Instead, cause me to let You live Your life through me. Lead me in a life of integrity that is a blessing to my descendants. 6-7

Only God can give us victory over sin. We never conquer it by our own efforts. Adults can usually recognize honest young people. Make sure your parents can always trust you.

Keep me from foolishly thinking I can earn my own righteousness. Do not let me be comfortable with any form of dishonesty in my life or business. Cause me to be known in my youth by the purity of my words and deeds. 9-11

Don't sleep too much. Learn to get up when you wake up in the morning. Use your time wisely. Especially, use your spare time to read God's word. Remember, any advantage gained by stealing or lying will eventually be lost.

Keep me from being a lazy "sleepyhead." Ensure that I know that every advantage gained by deceit will eventually bring Your judgment. 13,17

Ask your parents and other Christian adults to help you make decisions.

Teach me how to get good counsel and advice from mature believers before I make big decisions. 18

Never curse your parents. God will always punish this. Too much money or privileges too soon cause us to get into trouble.

Do not let me be a talebearer or flatterer. Convince me of the tremendous danger of cursing or dishonoring my parents. Protect me from too much money or privileges before I can handle them. 19-21

Don't try to get even with those who wrong you. Forgive them and let God deal with them. Again, God tells us He hates dishonesty.

Keep me from trying to get even when wronged. Cause me to forgive and leave the other person in Your hands. Remind me repeatedly how much You hate dishonesty. 22-23

There are too many choices for us to ever pick the best plan for our lives. As we walk with God, He builds our character and leads us in the right path.

Ensure that I know that You have the plan for my life and that my job is to stay in a close intimate relationship with You. Make me know I will never figure out the best plan without You. Cause me to allow Your Holy Spirit to search and evaluate every part of my life. 24,27

Not my will, but Thine be done, from early morn to setting sun.
Give me peace and total contentment, fill me with love and remove resentment.
Fill my mind with praise and thanksgiving, make me humble and always forgiving.
When Your praises I have sung, place a prayer upon my tongue.
To ask that You will forgive all my sins as I daily live.
You stop the hurt and ease the pain when my heart is trouble-stained.
Cleanse me Lord through and through. Make me a living witness for You.

(My younger sister, Shelby, wrote this poem at a time when the Lord was working powerfully in her life. How about you? Is resentment toward someone hindering your walk with the Lord? Why not deal with it now?)

Chap 21

If those who are your authorities are making wrong decisions, pray. God can change their minds.
Make sure that I know that You can change the minds of authorities over me whenever You need. 1

Sometimes we do the right thing but with selfish motives. God is looking at our heart more than at the things we do.

Convict me when I am doing right things but with wrong motives. Convince me that being in fellowship with You and obeying You is much more important than doing a few things to try to appease You. 2-3

As we obey God daily, He meets all our needs. For our protection, He keeps us from getting into the place where we don't need Him.

Show me that day-by-day obedience is much more effective than a "crash effort" at the last moment. 5

A lie may bring a temporary advantage but leads to loss. People remember those who have lied to them and are reluctant to ever trust them again.

Teach me that getting ahead by lying quickly leads to loss. 6

Marriage is for a lifetime, so we want to be sure we marry the one God picks for us.

Remind me of the painful consequences of marrying the wrong person. Cause me to wait, pray for and recognize the right one. 9,19

If we will help the needy, God will help us when we have needs.

Cause me to respond to needs that You show me so You can answer my prayers when I need help. 13

Loving pleasure and riches leads to poverty. Loving God leads to real life.

Teach me that love of material things will lead to poverty. Convince me that following You leads to real life. 17,21

Don't let your tongue get you in trouble.

Show me that controlling the tongue is a key to keeping out of trouble. 23

The Lord wants us to be givers.

Teach me to be a giver. Keep me from only living to get and from always wanting what someone else has. 26

Only those who are hearing from God have anything worthwhile to say.

Make sure I know when I am hearing from You. 28

God knows our thoughts so we can never hide anything from Him.

Make me aware I will never outsmart You or hide anything from Your sight. 30

Chap 22

Even now, you are developing a reputation. Be known for being kind, honest, loving and faithful. Ask the Lord to give you favor with others.

Develop a good reputation for me and give me Your favor and the favor of others since these are much more important than riches. 1

These verses tell us to treat everyone fairly, avoid evil and walk humbly and reverently with God.

Cause me to treat the rich and poor alike. Ensure that I recognize danger and avoid it. Build in me the desire to walk humbly and reverently with You. 2-4

Pray that God will show you and your parents the way you should go so you can be properly trained.

Show me what You want for me and train me in the way I should go. 6

Give and God will give back to you.

Teach me to be generous in sharing with the needy. 9

Pure lives and godly speech bring us the right friends.

Build in me graceful speech. Create in me a pure heart. Ensure my speech and purity bring me many doors of opportunity. 11

We don't like to think we are foolish, but we all still have a lot to learn.

Correct me appropriately through my parents so foolishness is driven from my life. Keep me from ever oppressing the poor. Teach me the foolishness of bribing the rich. 15-16

Ask your parents to point out wise adults from whom you can learn.

Cause me to take every opportunity to learn from those You have made wise. Lord, ensure I deeply trust in You. 17-19

God punishes those who cheat the poor.

Do not let me ever rip off the poor or afflicted. Make me realize I will be in trouble with You if I do. 22-23

Don't be close friends with angry people. Don't ever assume responsibility for the debts of others.

Keep me from developing friendships with angry, hot-tempered people. Prevent me from becoming responsible for the debts of others. 24-26

If you work hard and do your work right, God will make sure you are recognized and rewarded.

Cause me to be diligent in everything I do. See to it that key people see and reward my diligence. 29

** Your diligent praying allows the Lord to release diligence in your life. **

Chap 23

Work to please God, not to get rich.

Keep me from being greatly impressed by the affluence of the rich. Do not let bribes of any kind influence my decisions. Cause me to work heartily for You. Keep me from the vain pursuit of happiness through accumulation of material possessions. 1-5

Don't waste your time with people who won't listen.

Do not let me spend much time trying to talk to those who will not listen. Instead, teach me to concentrate on those who will listen and learn. 9

The Lord gives special protection to widows and orphans.

Keep me from ever cheating anyone, especially orphans and widows, so I will not get in trouble with You. 10-11

You may not enjoy discipline now, but you will be thankful for it later.

Lord, ensure my parents discipline me appropriately. 13-14

Do not envy movie stars or rock stars because they are rich and famous. Their lives are usually a big mess and full of hurts.

Do not let me envy sinners. Instead, cause me to have a deep love and respect for You. Keep my mind set on the things You have waiting on me. 17-18

As we grow up, we find out that our parents are a lot smarter than we thought.

Convince me to avoid drunks, drug users and gluttons. Do not let me ever think I am too smart to listen to my parents. 20-22

Children who obey the Lord are a joy to God and their parents.

Cause me to bring great joy to You and to my parents. Lord, ensure I see and know Your ways. 24-26

The world tries to make alcohol and drugs look attractive. They never show pictures of drunks and druggies lying in the gutter or dying from their addiction.

Do not let attractive advertisements for alcohol or the addictive highs of drugs deceive me. 29-35

Chap 24

Desire to be like godly people.

Do not let me make heroes of wicked people or desire to be like them. 1-2

Wisdom and knowledge are more powerful than big muscles or weapons.

Build in me wisdom and knowledge and make me strong in You and powerful in Your kingdom. 5

One day, we will have to stand before Jesus and answer for everything we say or do.

Don't let me forget that You are keeping track of everything I do or say. 8-12

When your enemy gets into trouble, help him and turn him into a friend.

Keep me from rejoicing when my enemies fall or get into trouble. 17

The wicked are on slippery ground and will eventually get in big trouble.

Do not let me be discouraged because the wicked seem to prosper. Cause me to watch and see that the wicked get in trouble soon enough. 19-20

We are all tempted to rebel against authorities. When we rebel against authorities, we rebel against God.

Give me a deep respect for You and the authorities You have placed over me. Do not let me join those who are rebels. 21-22

Don't call evil good or good evil. Speak up when things are wrong.

Keep me from ever praising the wicked. Instead, cause me to speak out against evil so You can send a good blessing to me. 24-25

Do the hard assignments first and then the easy ones. Spend time with God before you play. Get your work done first and then enjoy your free time.

Ensure that I learn to do first things first. Do not let me make up stories to get others in trouble. 27-28

God uses weeds, rust and bugs to eat the possessions of lazy people.

Show me how quickly lazy people lose everything they own. 29-35

Chap 25

Never rush to grab the best or first place. Let others go ahead of you. God will then be able to honor you whenever He wishes.

Teach me not to grab for the best place but to wait for those in charge to elevate me when appropriate. 6-7

Be very sure you are right before you accuse someone.

Prompt me to be sure of the facts before I accuse someone. 8

When you hear a rumor, check it out to be sure it is true before you tell it to anyone else.

Keep me from "griping" about a problem to everyone. Instead, send me directly to the source of the problem so I can resolve it. Give me words from You to fit situations in which You place me. 9-11

Don't brag on yourself. Wait for God to brag on you through others. Remember, patience and kind words win out in the end.

Convince me not to brag on myself. Teach me to be patient and calm in presenting my case. 14-15

It is possible to get too much of even good things. Make sure you don't stay at your friend's house too much.

Keep me from grabbing for too much of a good thing. Don't let me overstay my welcome at someone else's house. 16-17

If you see someone who lies, cheats or is untrustworthy with others, just assume they will do the same to you. God lets you know when your enemy is in trouble so you can help them and not so you can rejoice over their misfortune.

Teach me not to put confidence in untrustworthy people. Teach me how to do good to my enemies. 19,21

Telling people about Jesus is the best news we can give anyone. We have to learn to quickly obey what God is telling us to do.

Lord, cause me to hear and spread Your good news. Develop self control in me. 25,28

Chap 26

Jesus took our curse so now we do not deserve any curses that come our way.

Lord, You have taken on You every curse I deserve, so keep any curse from ever coming on me. 2

Don't let people tease you into saying or doing foolish things. Never trust anyone you see doing or saying foolish things.

Do not let me be goaded into saying foolish things. Teach me to never depend on a foolish person. 4,6

God tells us there is little hope for someone who thinks they know everything.

Do not let me ever think I know it all since there is little hope for such a person. 12

Several times, God has reminded us to mind our own business.

Cause me to understand how foolish it is to get involved in a quarrel that is none of my business. 17

People often say hurtful things and then pretend they were only joking. They weren't. We need to be very careful with our words.

Keep me from insulting or hurting others and then saying, "I was only joking." Don't let me stir up arguments. 19-20

The Lord makes sure harm planned against others eventually comes back to the one who planned it. In the same way, lies always come back to harm us.

Show me that harm planned against others always comes back against the planner. Show me examples of people who were ruined by their lying lips and flattering tongues. 27-28

Chap 27

Don't even think about leaving God out of future plans. When He is not in control, things quickly go wrong.

Keep me from bragging about the great things I am going to do or be since I do not know what tomorrow will bring. 1

Waiting for others to recognize and praise you and not praising yourself is a sign of spiritual maturity.

Teach me never to praise myself. Cause me to wait for You to praise me through others. 2

** There seems to be a general trend in my life that whenever I invite someone to a class that I am teaching and try to tell them how good it is, they never come. Yet others can give the same invitation and people often respond. I think this is Proverbs 27:2 in action. The Bible instructs us to "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth." We are very skeptical when someone praises themselves no matter how humbly they try to do it. When someone we trust praises someone else, we usually respond positively to the person or activity praised. "Lord, give us friends who are generous with their praise." **

Real friends gently help us see blind spots in our lives.

Cause me to choose friends who will tell me the truth about myself. See that I recognize and avoid flatterers. 5-6

Learn to make and keep good friends. Maintain a friendship with your parent's friends when possible.

Teach me to be faithful to my friends and my parent's friends. Make sure I remember that a friend nearby is better than a brother who is far away. 10

Only the simple walk into danger after God has warned them to avoid it.

Cause me to heed Your warnings of danger. 12

Good friends help us shape up spiritually.

Lord, ensure I have friends that You can use to shape me like iron sharpens iron. 17

Help those God places over you when you can.

Teach me to pray for and bless those in authority over me. 18

Every time you receive praise it is a test. The Lord is watching to see if you get proud or if you humbly give Him the credit in your heart.

Cause me to know that when people praise me, I am being tested to see if I get proud. Make me realize that any praise I get actually belongs to You. 21

** Proverbs 27:21 tells us we are tested every time someone praises us. Our Father looks at our heart to see if we take credit for what He has done through us. How have your test scores been lately? **

Your faithful care of little things allows the Lord and your parents to trust you with bigger things.

Prompt me to watch carefully the things for which I am responsible. Teach me to take good care of my possessions. 23-24

Chap 28

The wicked are always ready to run but the righteous are very bold.

Cause me to be righteous and to boldly stand my ground. 1

Real understanding comes from the Lord as we get to know Him and His ways.

Teach me to know You so You can give me understanding. Show me that true wisdom is to know You, the only true God. 5,7

Things gained through dishonesty are quickly lost. If we refuse to obey God, we shouldn't expect Him to answer "yes" to our prayers.

Convince me that things gained unfairly are soon given to someone else. Cause me to know that I cannot ignore You and still expect to get a "yes" answer to my prayers. 8-9

We never want to cause others to sin.

Do not let me ever lead anyone astray. Make me know that You delight in blessing the upright. 10

God never forgets or covers sins until we confess them to Him.

Make me know that covering up my sins always costs but that confession brings mercy. Keep me from ever hardening my heart to You. 13-14

Life goes so much better when we are honest and pure.

Do not let me ever covet anything or obtain things through deceit. Prompt me to walk uprightly and save me. 16,18

God takes care of believers who work hard.

Give me an abundance as I diligently do the jobs You give. 19

The Lord wants us to have enough so we can share with others. When we get in a hurry to get rich, we are disobeying God.

Keep me faithful to the tasks You give me. Do not let me run ahead of Your plans, trying to get rich. 20

Not only do we disobey the Lord by trying to get rich quick, but it leads to poverty. Gambling and the lottery are examples of trying to get rich quick.

Show me that hurrying after wealth or possessions leads to poverty. 22

We need to be willing to correct our friends when they need it.

Teach me how to gently tell people the truth about themselves. Do not let me lie to others just to make them feel good. 23

It is really dumb to be proud and trust our own wisdom. It is wise to trust God and give to those we can help.

Keep me from being deceived into being proud. Cause me to always trust in You. Cause me to be generous to the poor. 22-27

Chap 29

The Lord corrects us as gently as possible. If we resist His gentle correction, He turns up the pressure as much as needed.

Teach me that continual resistance to Your correction leads to sudden destruction. 1

Flattery is lying to people by bragging on them in exaggerated ways.

Show me the falseness of speaking or believing flattery. 5

Several times, the Lord warns us that sin brings trouble.

Convince me that evil people get caught in their own traps. 6

God is concerned for the poor.

Do not let me overlook the needs of the poor. 7

Don't let your mouth run constantly. Ask the Lord to let you know what to say and when to say it.

Teach me to not tell everything I know. Make me know the right time to speak and ensure I say the right things. 11

Children who are raised without discipline are usually "messed up" for life.

Remind me that, if my parents fail to discipline me, I will regret it. Teach me that good discipline will bring me joy and rest. 15-17

Wise people obey God's word.

Teach me Your word and make sure I obey it. 18

Words can never be taken back so we must be careful what we say.

Cause me to know there is more hope for a fool than there is for someone who speaks without thinking. 20

Angry people cause trouble. The Lord can cleanse us of anger.

Keep me from being an angry, hot-tempered person. 22

The Lord always resists the proud and blesses the humble.

Show me how dangerous pride is and how advantageous humility is. 23

We are asking for trouble if we continue a friendship or relationship with a thief.

Teach me that teaming up with a thief guarantees trouble. 24

If we really respect God, our friends will never talk us into disobeying Him.

Do not let me fear or put my trust in man. Cause me to fear and trust You only. 25

Chap 30

God's word is very important. We need to know what it says. We must be careful not to add to God's word.
Cause me to treasure all of Your word. Make me pure and shield me as I trust in You. Do not let me ever add to Your word. 5-6

Being rich and famous usually tempts people to forget God.

Keep me away from vain and untruthful people. Do not let me fall into the bondage of material things or the slavery of poverty. 8-9

Many in your generation do not love or honor their parents.

Use me to help raise a generation that loves and honors their parents. 11

We are pure when God says we are pure, not when we think we are good enough.

Do not let me think I am pure when I have unconfessed sin. 12

We must be different from the greedy generation in which we live.

Keep me from living only for myself. Cause me to live for You and others. 14

Children who mock or show disrespect to their parents will have major problems in life.

Correct me quickly when I mock or do not respect my parents. 17

When we catch ourselves bragging on ourselves or thinking evil thoughts, we should quickly repent and ask God to cleanse us.

Keep me from praising myself. Cause me to repent quickly of evil thoughts. 32

Chap 31

We need to spend our lives on things that will count in heaven.

Do not let me waste my life on things that are not eternal. 3

Leaders are to protect the poor and needy.

Cause me to speak up for the poor and needy and those in trouble. 8-9

These verses describe what God wants to do in young women.

Prayer for young ladies: **Cause me to be like the godly, virtuous and successful woman of Proverbs 31: 9-31**

God expects us to be faithful to our future husband or wife.

Cause me and my future spouse to be faithful to each other. 11

We are to look for ways to be good to our future husband or wife. We can practice by doing good to our brothers, sisters and friends.

Cause me and my future mate to do good to each other. 12

If we cooperate with the Lord, He will make us into who He wants us to be.

Do not let the abilities and talents You have placed in me go unused. 13-22

We should pray for God to work in our future marriage partner. At the same time, we should pray for Him to work on us.

So work in me that I am the perfect helpmate for the spouse You give me. Work powerfully in the life of the one who will marry me so my spouse will be an excellent helpmate to me. 29-31