

## Proverbs Week #158 (14:25-27)

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*A truthful witness saves lives, but he who utters lies is treacherous. In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death. (Proverbs 14.25–27 NAS95)*

*I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.*

*I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.*

*O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing. **Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.***

*The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned. (Psalms 34.1–22 NAS95)*

The revelation we have received from God in the Bible comes as knowledge, wisdom, and instruction. God's revelation teaches us and reveals to us truth about Him. Our response to what God has revealed also reveals something about who we are and what is in our hearts. Will we trust in the Lord and receive His instruction or will be like the fool who despises God's wisdom? This question needs to be understood in the light of God's revelation.

God told Israel about a day that would come when a people would have hearts that would receive God's instruction. Unlike the fools whose stony heart despises wisdom and instruction God's people will have hearts of flesh. They will be a people who do what God wants.

*“And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.” Ezek 11:19-20.*

I think about this verse often and am reminded that I depend upon God and His gifts to live the life He requires of me. There are many other scriptures that will remind us to trust in God and rely upon Him and to trust Him to make us wise and not to allow us to live as fools. Here is part of a song.

*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; **the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.** Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. Psa 147:11-13*