Biblical wisdom from the book of Proverbs: By Erica Marie Jermanus

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Introduction

In this ebook, I talk about what wisdom is and how to get wisdom according to the Bible. I also talk about how to honor God with your wealth and how to receive discipline and correction from God. In addition, I talk about adultery, the adulterous woman or man, and the harlot in the book of Proverbs. Furthermore, I talk about laziness and slothfulness and how we can learn from the ant. Lastly, I talk about the qualities of a virtuous woman in Proverbs 31. Chapter 1: What is wisdom? What does the Bible say about it?

Wisdom is a gift from God and comes from the Holy Spirit. If we are lacking wisdom, we can ask God, and he will give it to us. When we ask in faith without doubting, we can believe that we will receive wisdom from God. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

James 3:27 says, "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" The wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit is not of this world; it is the wisdom that comes from above. 1 Corinthians 3:19 says, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." 1 Corinthians 1:27 says, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." To get wisdom is to fear the Lord. Fearing the Lord does not literally mean to be afraid or scared of him. Fearing the Lord is to honor, respect, or revere him. When we fear the Lord, we will not want to sin against him or break his heart. That does not mean we will not slip up from time to time. But we will not want to live habitually in sin. We will have a repentant heart. We will want to do what is right and pleasing in his eyes because we love him. We love God, so we will want to obey him and keep his commands.

Chapter 2: Honoring God with your wealth and accepting God's discipline

So many people in the world do not know how to honor God with their wealth. Many spend their money frivolously. People do not put money aside to sow into the kingdom of God. Many are storing up their treasures on earth but not in heaven. I believe there needs to be a balance of spending, giving, and saving. But we do not want to be stingy and not give at all. We want to be generous and good stewards of the wealth that God has given us.

The wealth that God has given us does not belong to us, but him. So if the Lord puts on your heart to sow into a ministry or to pay tithes at your church, then do it if you are sowing into good seed or ground. Some ministries or churches are not wise with what they do with the money they receive, and they spend it foolishly on themselves by buying big, fancy houses and cars and living in luxury. That is when we need to ask God for discernment on if we are sowing into good ground or a good soul because if not, then we may need to start giving some place else where the Holy Spirit is leading.

Proverbs 3:9-10 says, "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." I believe the first portion of our checks or money should go to God for the building up of his kingdom.

Next, I want to talk about receiving correction or discipline from the Lord. There will be times that the Lord will correct you and discipline you out of love for you. It is so you can partake in his holiness. His discipline can be painful at times. His discipline is not because God wants to punish us for what we did wrong, but because he loves us.

God wants to correct us because we are his children, and we belong to him. If we did not belong to him, we would not be disciplined or corrected. So when you are corrected by God, receive it and allow his correction and discipline to shape and mold you into the person he is creating you to be. Proverbs 3:11-12 says, "My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: for whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."

Chapter 3: Adultery and the immoral woman

"To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot *a man is reduced* to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So *is* he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent."

Proverbs 5:20 says, "For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?"

Proverbs 7:6-20 says, "For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: and, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed."

Adultery is real and is a sin that is taking many men and women to hell. There are actual men and women that are sleeping around with partners that are not their spouses. A man may be allured by a woman's beauty. That man may be led to have sex with her while she is married to another man. That goes the same for a man with a woman too. This is considered adultery and cheating. Women are cheating on their husbands with another man. There are consequences to our sins and actions of adultery if we do not confess and repent.

Looks are deceiving. Just because a woman appears to be beautiful on the outside does not mean that her heart is right with God. Men and women are being used by Satan to do his will and carry out his plan and purpose on earth. That is why it is important that we guard our hearts and minds from people that come into our lives sent from the enemy. We should be careful because men and women can deceive and be agents of Satan. We may not even know that unless we are led by the Holy Spirit and have the gift of discernment.

Chapter 4: Laziness and slothfulness and what we can learn from an ant.

It can be so easy to just sit around and do nothing productive, whether that is in general or for the kingdom of God. Many times we can become lazy and complacent in our walk with God and in our purpose. We may feel weak or tired and not feel like getting much of anything done. But I want to encourage you to keep going and keep doing the things that the Lord leads you to do. Keep being obedient to him. Take those small steps of faith. The ant is one of the wisest insects that God has created. The ant gathers food from summer for fall and winter.

Proverbs 6:6-8 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide,

overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

Chapter 6: The virtuous wife or the Proverbs 31 woman

The Proverbs 31 woman was a hard-working woman, and she worked with her hands and provided food for her family. She would rise while it was still night. She would buy a field and plant vineyards and gardens and start businesses. She gave to the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:28-31 says, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."