

The Call of Wisdom

Proverbs 1: 7



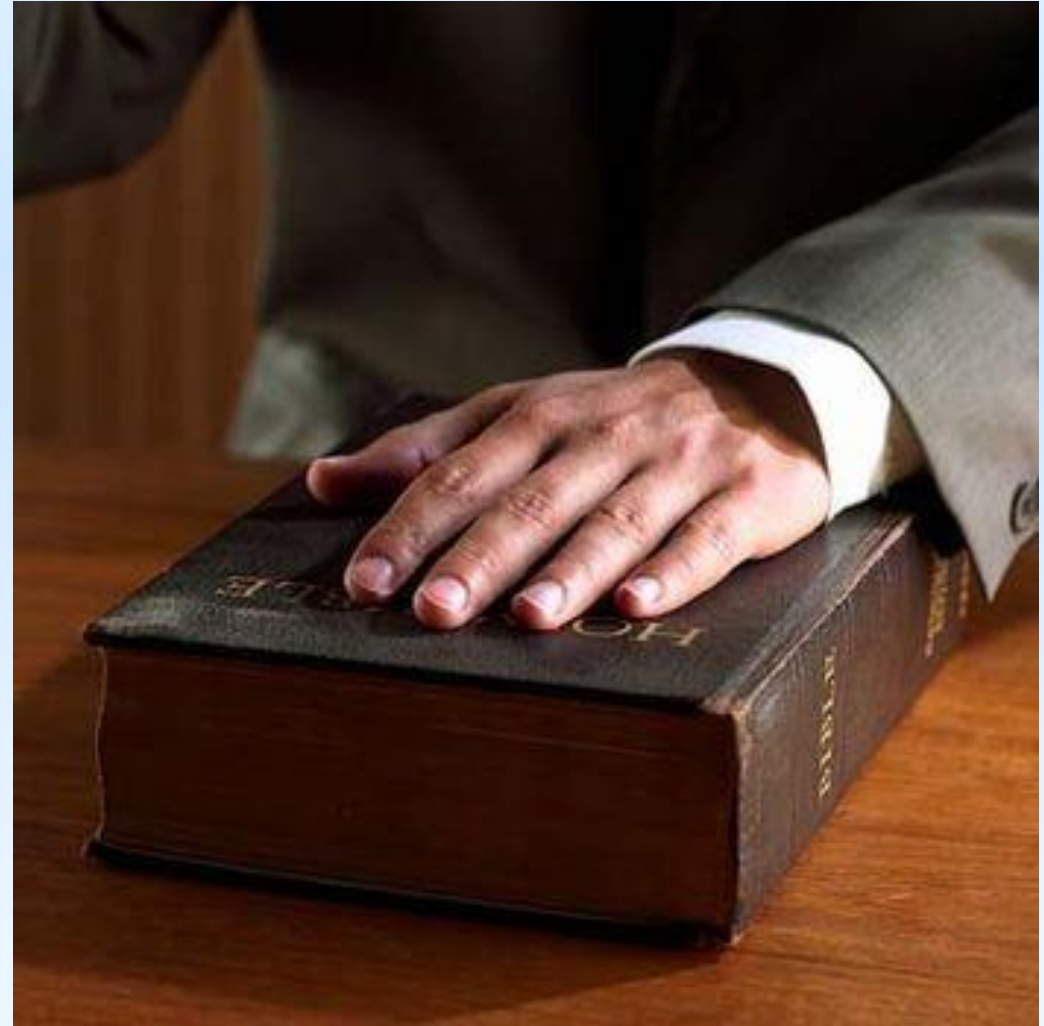
“The fear of the LORD is
the beginning of
knowledge, but fools
despise wisdom and
instruction.”
Proverbs 1: 7. NKJV



I. Opinions of some well-known experts



“Honesty is the first chapter
in the book of wisdom.”
Thomas Jefferson



“The beginning of
wisdom is to call things
by their proper name.”
Confucius



“To conquer fear is
the beginning of
wisdom.”

Bertrand Russell



"A simple realization
that there are other
points of view is the
beginning of wisdom."
Grenville Kleiser



"The beginning
of wisdom is to
desire it."
Solomon
Ibn Gabriol



"The beginning of wisdom is found in doubting; by doubting we come to the question, and by seeking we may come upon the truth."

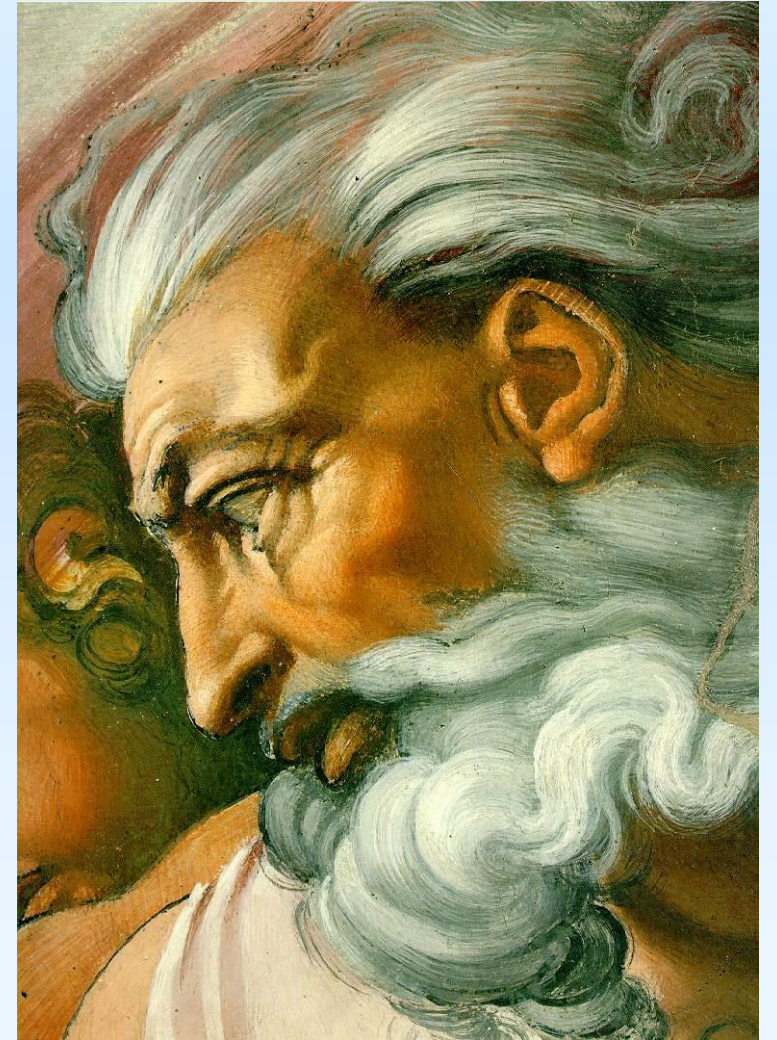
Pierre Abelard



"A man only becomes wise when he begins to calculate the approximate depth of his ignorance."
Gian Carlo Menotti



II. Biblical statement about the Fear of the Lord



1. The fear of the Lord is not about fear:

“Negative minds full of fear and doubt produce negative lives, which can ultimately destroy your life.”

Joyce Meyer



The fear in itself cannot be a religious or an educational goal. The fear is the product of human thoughts, creating lethargy and anxiety. It has nothing to do with the notion of wisdom. It is counterproductive and debilitating.



“Worldly love is, properly speaking, the love whereby a man trusts in the world as his end... Now fear is born of love, since man fears the loss of what he loves... Hence worldly fear is that which arises from worldly love as from an evil root, for which reason worldly fear is always evil.”

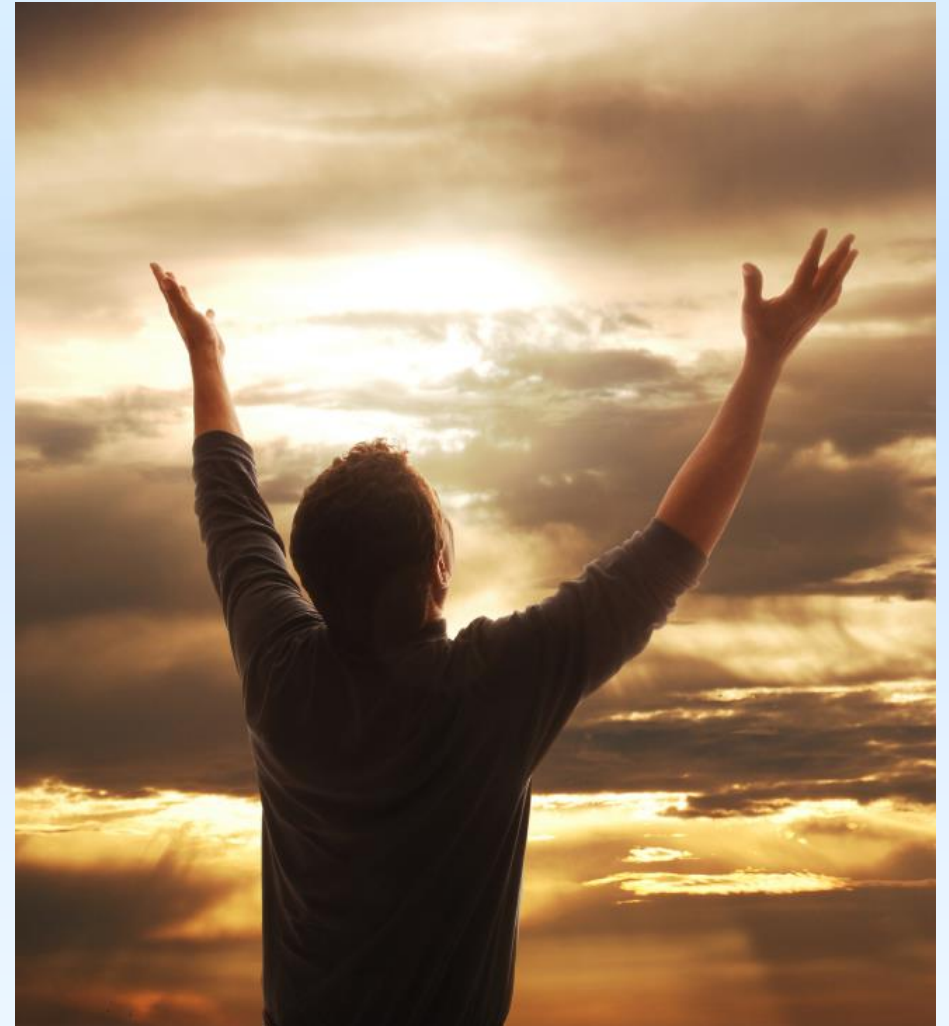
Thomas Aquinas
(S.T. II-II 19.4)



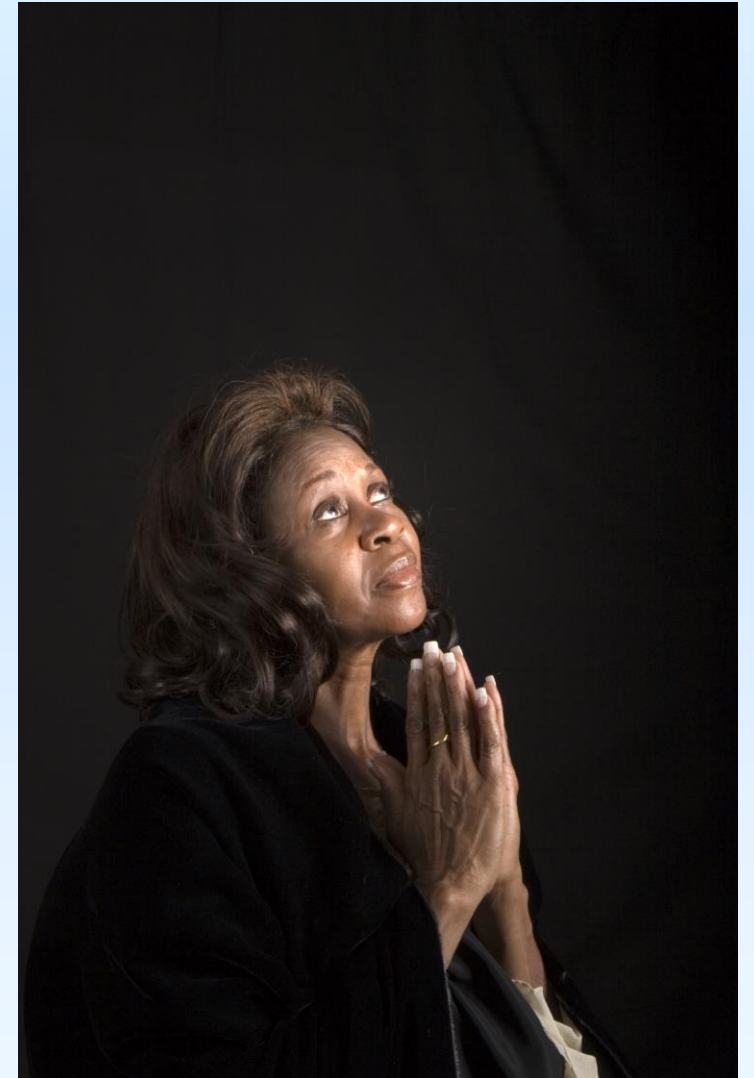
2. The fear of the Lord is about respect and reverence

“The Hebrew word ‘YIRAH’ includes the idea of wonder, amazement, mystery, astonishment, gratitude, admiration, and even worship (like the feeling you get when gazing from the edge of the Grand Canyon). The ‘fear of the Lord’ therefore includes an overwhelming sense of the glory, worth, and beauty of the One True God.”

John J. Parsons, Parasha Eikev, The Fear of the Lord.



"You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. He *is* your praise, and He *is* your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen."
Deuteronomy 10: 20. 21.



The fear of God is also the fear of losing Him, of hurting Him, of offending Him, and therefore of damaging our relationship.

“The key to Christian living is a thirst and hunger for God. And one of the main reasons people do not understand or experience the sovereignty of grace and the way it works through the awakening of sovereign joy is that their hunger and thirst for God is so small.”

John Piper



The fear of God has as consequence respect for people.

It is our duty to respect people, as we respect God himself. This is the most important aspect of helping everybody to become who they are.

“When we treat people merely as they are, they will remain as they are. When we treat them as if they were what they should be, they will become what they should be.”

” Thomas S. Monson, Pathways to Perfection. Discourses of Thomas S. Monson.



3. The fear of the Lord is necessary in all our choices



The first and the most
important lesson to
learn in life:

Beginning of the Book
of Proverbs

The last and the most
important lesson to learn
before the marriage, before
founding a new family:

End of the Book
of Proverbs

"The fear of the LORD is
the beginning of
knowledge, but fools
despise wisdom and
instruction." (1: 7)

"Charm is deceitful,
beauty is vain, but a
woman who fears the
Lord is to be praised."
Proverbs 31: 30.

“Without the fear of God, men do not even observe justice and charity among themselves.”
John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion



4. The fear of the Lord is the first ingredient of an infinite growth



The fear
of the LORD

is the
Beginning

Of Wisdom

1

"The fear of the LORD is
the respect, reverence,
worship, and awe in His
presence

The fear
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2

The respect of God is just the
beginning, the foundation of
wisdom. The road to fully
explore it is infinite.

The fear
of the LORD

is the
Beginning

Of Wisdom

3

The wisdom is God. The wisdom is
Jesus Christ. (Proverbs 8: 22 – 36.)
Therefore the true wisdom is eternal. It
is infinite.

The fear
of the LORD

is the
Beginning

Of Wisdom

4

If wisdom is God, therefore the only road
to lead us to Him is the 'fear of the Lord', where
we fully enjoy His presence, starting to climb
Jacob's ladder.

5

The 'fools' in this statement are just the contrasting word, underlining the center of the verse, which is WISDOM

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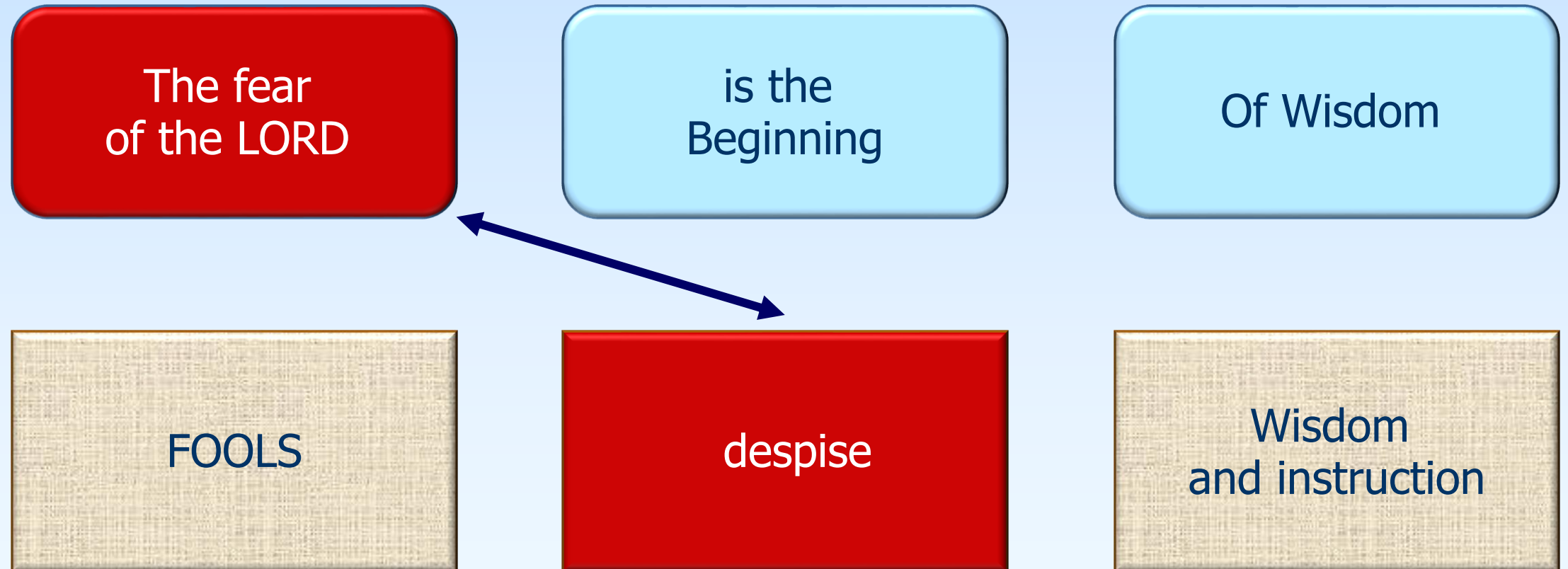
FOOLS

despise

Wisdom
and instruction

6

The word 'DESPISE' is just the opposite of the fear of the Lord, showing that foolishness is the rejection of attachment to the source of the true wisdom. Foolishness is the denial of the need to receive the gift of wisdom. Someone is fool because he refuses to learn, to be teachable.



7

Wisdom (Musal) and instruction (Dinah) are in parallel with the essential word of the text, wisdom (hokmah). It confirms

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III. Conclusion



“The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”
Oswald Chambers



FAMILY LIFE:

“Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, who teach their children that the **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family – a family that love and obey God instead of rebelling against Him. Christ is not a stranger in their homes; His name is a household name, revered and glorified. Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such families can claim the promise, “Them that honour Me I will honour.” Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, p. 27.



HEALTH MESSAGE:

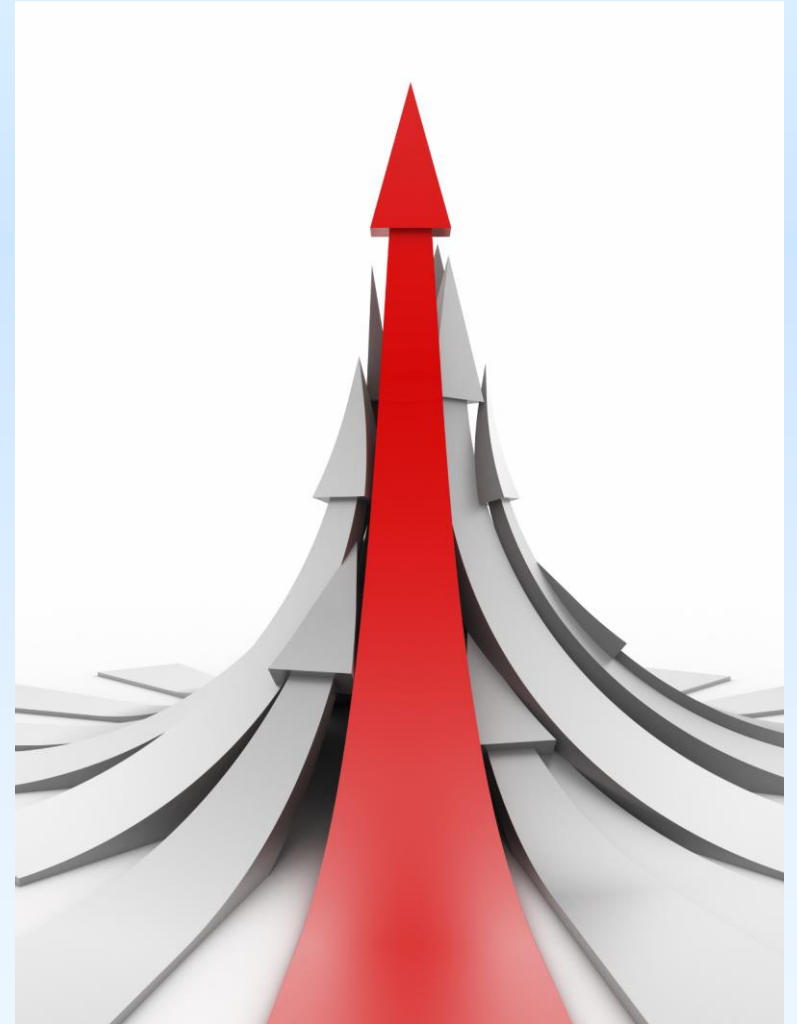
Those who walk in the path of wisdom and holiness find that “godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8. They are alive to the enjoyment of life’s real pleasures, and are not troubled with vain regrets over misspent hours, nor with gloomy forebodings, as the worldling too often is when not diverted by some exciting amusement. Godliness does not conflict with the laws of health, but is in harmony with them. The **fear of the Lord** is the foundation of all real prosperity.”

Ellen G. White, Counsels on Health, p. 29.



LEADERSHIP:

“When God raises up men to do His work, they are false to their trust if they allow their testimony to be shaped to please the minds of the unconsecrated. He will prepare men for the times. They will be humble, God-fearing men, not conservative, not policy men; but men who have moral independence and will move forward in the **fear of the Lord**. They will be kind, noble, courteous; yet they will not be swayed from the right path, but will proclaim the truth in righteousness whether men will hear or whether they will forbear.”
Ellen G. White, 5T p. 263.



“Don’t fear your problems.
Fear God and He will make
your problems disappear.
Your God is a problem
solving God.”
(DS)



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