

Thought For The Day

~gathering from the 4 winds~

"come just as you are"

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 43 Issue 820

Jan. 06, 2014

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Here I Am-Shawn McDonald

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Don't Give Up-Shawn McDonald

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Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

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" The Cure "

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Scripture: Proverbs 10,11,12,13(AMP)

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Proverbs 10:1-32 (AMP)

1 THE PROVERBS of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish and self-confident son is the grief of his mother. 2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation) delivers from death. 3 The Lord will not allow the [uncompromisingly] righteous to famish, but He thwarts the desire of the wicked. 4 He becomes poor who works with a slack and idle hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. 5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. 6 Blessings are upon the head of the [uncompromisingly] righteous (the upright, in right standing with God) but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. 7 The memory of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked shall rot. 8 The wise in heart will accept and obey commandments, but the foolish of lips will fall headlong. 9 He who walks uprightly walks securely, but he who takes a crooked way shall be found out and punished. 10 He who winks with the eye [craftily and with malice] causes sorrow; the foolish of lips will fall headlong but he who boldly reproves makes peace. 11 The mouth of the [uncompromisingly] righteous man is a well of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. 12 Hatred stirs up contentions, but love covers all transgressions. 13 On the lips of him who has discernment skillful and godly Wisdom is found, but discipline and the rod are for the back of him who is without sense and understanding. 14 Wise men store up knowledge [in mind and heart], but the mouth of the foolish is a present destruction. 15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin. 16 The earnings of the righteous (the upright, in right standing with God) lead to life, but the profit of the wicked leads to further sin. 17 He who heeds instruction and correction is [not only himself] in the way of life [but also] is a way of life for others. And he who neglects or refuses reproof [not only himself] goes astray [but also] causes to err and is a path toward ruin for others. 18 He who hides hatred is of lying lips, and he who utters slander is a [self-confident] fool. 19 In a multitude of words transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent. 20 The tongues of those who are upright and in right standing with God are as choice silver; the minds of those who are wicked and out of harmony with God are of little value. 21 The lips of the [uncompromisingly] righteous feed and guide many, but fools die for want of understanding and heart. 22 The blessing of the Lord—it makes [truly] rich, and He adds no sorrow with it [neither does toiling increase it]. 23 It is as sport to a [self-confident] fool to do wickedness, but to have skillful and godly Wisdom is pleasure and relaxation to a man of understanding. 24 The thing a wicked man fears shall come upon him, but the desire of the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall be granted. 25 When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are no more, but the [uncompromisingly] righteous have an everlasting foundation. 26 As vinegar to the teeth and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who employ and send him. 27 The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord prolongs one's days, but the years of the wicked shall be made short. 28 The hope of the [uncompromisingly] righteous (the upright, in right standing with God) is gladness, but the expectation of the wicked (those who are out of harmony with God) comes to nothing. 29 The way of the Lord is strength and a stronghold to the upright, but it is destruction to the workers of iniquity. 30 The [consistently] righteous shall never be removed, but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth [eventually]. 31 The mouths of the righteous (those harmonious with God) bring forth skillful and godly Wisdom, but the perverse tongue shall be cut down [like a barren and rotten tree]. 32 The lips of the [uncompromisingly] righteous know [and therefore utter] what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked knows [and therefore speaks only] what is obstinately willful and contrary.

Chapter 10

Now in chapter 10 we have individual proverbs. Most of these individual proverbs are in contrast, where they are contrasting the wise with the foolish, or the wicked with the righteous. Or the diligent with the slothful. I mean, you'll see in each of them a contrast, and there is really not any kind of a tie between the proverb. Each one is a separate little, neat little truth all packaged by itself. Each one is self-explanatory. Thus, there isn't really much that you can say without being redundant.

The Proverbs of Solomon (Pro 10:1).

So now we're getting into the little individual, pithy statements.

A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother (Pro 10:1).

You see, that's my boy. Or that's her boy. The wise son is my boy. The foolish son is hers.

Treasures of wickedness profit nothing (Pro 10:2):

Or gain that is made through wickedness.

but righteousness delivers from death. The LORD will not allow the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked (Pro 10:2-3).

An interesting proverb. God will take care of His own. He'll not allow the soul of the righteous to famish. But ultimately, the wicked are going to have the substance taken away. He becomes poor that deals with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent makes rich (Pro 10:4). Now, one thing that is noted in the proverbs and in the Bible is that God does respect and desire that in your business dealings you always be absolutely honest and upright. Don't be trying to always shyster the other guy or take advantage of another guy. Or we read a little further where the buyer says, "It's not worth a thing, it's not worth a thing." But when he walks away, he brags about what kind of a deal he got. "It's worth nothing. It's worth nothing." And you go away, "Man, did I ever have a deal! Look what I bought for \$5. Really took that sucker." And he speaks against that kind of stuff. "He who deals with a slack hand." Deal honestly. Don't deal with a slack hand. But be diligent. He'll become poor that deals with a slack hand. It'll come back to you. You won't stay in business. You won't last in business. But if you are honest and diligent in business, then you're going to get the reputation for that. You cannot keep your reputation from getting around. It'll either be good or bad.

He that gathers in summer is a wise son: but he who sleeps in the harvest is one that causes shame. Blessings are on the head of the just: but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. The memory of the just is [sweet or] blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot (Pro 10:5-7).

Think that one over. How do you want people to think of you when you're gone? The memory of the just will be blessed. But if you've been rotten then your name will rot.

The wise in heart will receive commandments: but the prating fool shall fall. He that walks uprightly walks surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. He that winketh with the eye causes sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall. The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. Hatred stirs up strifes: but love covers all sins (Pro 10:8-12).

This is quoted in the New Testament where we are told, "But love covereth a multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:8). Hatred, if you're filled with hatred, it's just going to stir up strife. Everybody's going to hate you. But if you're a loving person, they're willing to overlook your faults. It just covers so many faults if you're a loving person. If you're a hateful person, man, then people are looking, they're scrutinizing you for faults. They can't wait to find it. It satisfies them when they can find something wrong and to see the flaws. But if you're a loving kind of a person, then they're just going to overlook all kinds of mistakes. So if you're not a perfect person, then you better be a loving person and you'll be able to get along all right. For "love covers a multitude of sins, all sins."

In the lips of him that has understanding wisdom is found: but the rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding. Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. A rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty. The labor of the righteous tends to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin. He that is in the way of life that keeps instruction [or he that is in the way of life keeps instruction]: but he that refuses reproof errs. He that hides hatred with lying lips, and he that utters a slander, is a fool (Pro 10:13-18).

Now there is no contrast here. There are just two things that are declared. The man who hides hatred with his lying lips, that is the deceitful, hypocrite, and the man who utters a slander. You utter something slanderous about someone else, you're a fool.

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin (Pro 10:19):

In other words, the more you talk, the more you're going to... the greater possibility you're going to sin.

but he that refraineth his lips is wise (Pro 10:19).

Better to keep your mouth shut and let people think you're a fool, rather than to open it and remove all doubt. That's Proverbs 1:4 by Chuck. I took it from the nineteenth here. There's nothing new under the sun.

The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for lack of wisdom (Pro 10:20-21).

I love this one.

The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and he adds no sorrow with it (Pro 10:22).

Oh, the blessings of the Lord. How rich they are. How rich is the time that we can spend together in a Christian fellowship and all. And there's no sorrow with it. You know there are a lot of people out doing things and all, oh, have a great time, but oh, man, the sorrow that follows. The remorse as, you know, the chickens come home to roost, and as it begins to come back on you. But the blessings of the Lord, they just make you so rich and there's no sorrow attached to it. It's just good all the way.

It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding has wisdom. The fear of the wicked shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. As the whirlwind passes, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation (Pro 10:23-25).

The wicked are to be destroyed, but the righteous will endure forever.

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to him that sends him (Pro 10:26).

I don't know what vinegar is to the teeth, but I do know what smoke is to the eyes. It smarts. And if you send a sluggard to do a job, man, it smarts. So is the sluggard to him who sends him.

The fear of the LORD prolongs ones days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity. The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth. The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom: but the perverse tongue shall be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaks perversity (Pro 10:27-32).

So all of these little nuggets, as I say, they are contrasts. And this is classic Hebrew poetry. For they found beauty in the ideas and the thoughts that were expressed rather than in the rhyme or the rhythm. Whereas, to us poetry has to be in rhyme and has to be in a rhythm to be attractive to us, but with the Hebrew poetry, it's all in the thoughts that are expressed. And usually in either the

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contrasting thoughts which in this chapter we have an excellent example as we were contrasting the righteous with the wicked and all, all of these contrasts to the Hebrew, that's just beautiful. They revel in the thought, the contrasting thoughts. Where for us, you got to have the rhyme. You got to have the rhythm, you know. And then we dig on the rhyme or the rhythm of a thing.

There are strange things done neath the midnight sun By the men who toil for gold.

The arctic trails, oh, their secret tales That would make your blood run cold.

The Northern Lights have seen queer sights, But the clearest they ever did see.

Was a night on the marge of the Lake Lebarge

When I cremated...

You know, the rhyme and the... We love it. You love to throw the rhyming words together. And the rhythm of it carries us. But with the Hebrew poetry, there is, there isn't the rhythm, there isn't the rhyme, there's just the thoughts. And you get the beauty in the contrasting thoughts, or in the compounding of a thought, which some of these were in the compounding. A couple of them were compounding of thoughts, but most of them were contrasting thoughts. So you get the idea of what a proverb is now as we move into these little three liners or whatever. You begin to catch the idea of the contrast of a proverb, and also of what constitutes poetry in the Hebrew idea and all. So next week we will continue on eleven through fifteen. A lot of wisdom, a lot of understanding, a lot of knowledge packed away in these proverbs. And I pray that as we study them, that you will gain, you'll begin to receive the words of wisdom and instruction, justice, judgment and equity; give you knowledge and discretion.

Father, we thank You for the study of Your Word and we ask You, Father, make us wise. Men of understanding hearts. Oh God, help us to come into the fear of the Lord where we might have a proper respect for You. Learning to love the things that You love. Hating those things that You hate. That we might walk in righteousness and in the uprightness of our heart before Thee, Lord, knowing that Thou, Lord, seest us day by day. Nothing is hid from Thy sight. So may we live, Lord, as in Thy presence and conscious of Thy presence. So let us walk in all purity, holiness, righteousness. Oh God, make us pure even as Jesus Christ is pure. In His name we pray. Amen.

Proverbs 11:1-31 (AMP)

1 A FALSE balance and unrighteous dealings are extremely offensive and shamefully sinful to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight. 2 When swelling and pride come, then emptiness and shame come also, but with the humble (those who are lowly, who have been pruned or chiseled by trial, and renounce self) are skillful and godly Wisdom and soundness. 3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the willful contrariness and crookedness of the treacherous shall destroy them. 4 Riches provide no security in any day of wrath and judgment, but righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God) delivers from death. 5 The righteousness of the blameless shall rectify and make plain their way and keep it straight, but the wicked shall fall by their own wickedness. 6 The righteousness of the upright [their rectitude in every area and relation] shall deliver them, but the treacherous shall be taken in their own iniquity and greedy desire. 7 When the wicked man dies, his hope [for the future] perishes; and the expectation of the godless comes to nothing. 8 The [uncompromisingly] righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked gets into it instead. 9 With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge and superior discernment shall the righteous be delivered. 10 When it goes well with the [uncompromisingly] righteous, the city rejoices, but when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. 11 By the blessing of the influence of the upright and God's favor [because of them] the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. 12 He who belittles and despises his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding keeps silent. 13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy and faithful in spirit keeps the matter hidden. 14 Where no wise guidance is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. 15 He who becomes security for an outsider shall smart for it, but he who hates suretyship is secure [from its penalties]. 16 A gracious and good woman wins honor [for her husband], and violent men win riches but a woman who hates righteousness is a throne of dishonor for him. 17 The merciful, kind, and generous man benefits himself [for his deeds return to bless him], but he who is cruel and callous [to the wants of others] brings on himself retribution. 18 The wicked man earns deceitful wages, but he who sows righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation) shall have a sure reward [permanent and satisfying]. 19 He who is steadfast in righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God) attains to life, but he who pursues evil does it to his own death. 20 They who are willfully contrary in heart are extremely disgusting and shamefully vile in the eyes of the Lord, but such as are blameless and wholehearted in their ways are His delight! 21 Assuredly [I pledge it] the wicked shall not go unpunished, but the multitude of the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall be delivered. 22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman who is without discretion. 23 The desire of the [consistently] righteous brings only good, but the expectation of the wicked brings wrath. 24 There are those who [generously] scatter abroad, and yet increase more; there are those who withhold more than is fitting or what is justly due, but it results only in want. 25 The liberal person shall be enriched, and he who waters shall himself be watered. 26 The people curse him who holds back grain [when the public needs it], but a blessing [from God and man] is upon the head of him who sells it. 27 He who diligently seeks good seeks [God's] favor, but he who searches after evil, it shall come upon him. 28 He who leans on, trusts in, and is confident in his riches shall fall, but the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall flourish like a green bough. 29 He who troubles his own house shall inherit the wind, and the foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart. 30 The fruit of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise captures human lives [for God, as a fisher of men—he gathers and receives them for eternity]. 31 Behold, the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall be recompensed on earth; how much more the wicked and the sinner! And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the ungodly and wicked?

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Shall we turn now in Proverbs to the eleventh chapter.

Now we have come in the Proverbs to individual little sayings of wisdom. Each one is separate and complete in itself and unrelated to the next. So that there is very little to comment on, because each of them become a complete little thought and finish within the verse itself. So it is extremely difficult as far as exposition is concerned, because it says it all. And the wisdom is to be gleaned just from really the brevity of the statement itself. And we are in the section in which we are dealing with that type of Hebrew poetry that is in contrast. And in these particular proverbs, there is a contrast between the righteous and the evil. And so you'll find them contrasted all the way through in these little nuggets of truth.

A false balance is an abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight (Pro 11:1).

Now before the age of computers and scales like we have and all now, they used to do all of their merchandising with balanced scales. And they had little weights, and the weights would be set on the one side of the balance and then you'd put the grapes on until the scales balanced out. But these clever fellows would oftentimes have two sets of weights: one that they would buy with, and the other that they would sell with. And this was known as a false balance. And, of course, it's an abomination to the Lord. God wants us to deal fairly. God wants us to deal honestly. If you're in any kind of a business, God wants you to be upstanding in your business and to deal fairly and honestly with people. "A false weight is an abomination to the Lord." So it's talking about these diverse weights that people would often use. I read that years ago in England when they still used the balanced scales that a baker sued a farmer over the pound of butter that he was buying. And he said that when he first started buying butter from the farmer, it was a full pound. But gradually the farmer was selling him less and less, until now he was only giving him about three quarters of a pound of butter and still charging him for the full pound. And so he sued him in court. The farmer in his own defense said to the judge, "Sir, I only have a balanced scale to measure the butter." And he said, "I always put the baker's pound loaf of bread on the other side of the scale and that's how I know when he has his pound of butter." There is a tendency of charlatans to jimmy the gallonage measures on the gas pumps and things of this nature. God hates this kind of chicanery, and it's an abomination to God. God wants you to be fair, upright, honest in all of your dealings. He doesn't want you to be dishonest and shrewd and trying to take people. "The just weight in His delight." God delights in honesty in business.

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom (Pro 11:2).

Now as you go through the proverbs he has so much to say about pride. And it is a very fascinating study just to run your concordance through Proverbs and find out how many things he has to say about pride. Certainly it is something that God disdains. And it is true the man who is proud is blind. The man who is proud has never seen God. There's no way that a person can really come into a real relationship with God and still be proud. Isaiah said, "In the year the king Uzziah died then I saw the Lord high and lifted up, sitting upon the throne, His glory filled the temple. Then said I, 'Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell amongst a people of unclean lips'" (Isaiah 6:1,5). In seeing God, he sees the truth about himself. And so the man who is proud has never seen the truth about himself, which means he has never really seen God. And so there is much said about pride. How God hates pride. How God hates a haughty attitude, a haughty spirit, thinking that I am better than somebody else. Thinking that I'm too good to give him the time of day. Thinking, "Well, I'm too busy to be bothered by his needs." That I'm somehow elevated or above him. God hates that kind of an attitude. The lowly, that is the attitude that is esteemed of God. And so with the proud comes shame. God will bring him to shame.

In the next, after our lesson, the sixteenth I think, we get into more things on pride and all, cometh before a fall and so forth. But lowly and the proud and the humble are contrasted many times.

The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them (Pro 11:3). And so the contrast: the one, a man of integrity being guided; the man of perversity being destroyed. Riches profit not in the day of wrath (Pro 11:4): Or in the coming day of God's judgment. Riches are going to be no profit to a person. How can you buy God off? "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26) You see. In the day of wrath riches will have no value at all. When God's day of judgment comes, the riches that you have gained will be of absolutely no value to you at all. but righteousness will deliver a man from death (Pro 11:4). The day of God's wrath, riches of no value. In fact, we are told in Revelation that they'll be selling a measure of wheat for a day's wage. A pint of wheat, work all day, for a pint of wheat. The day of God's wrath. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness (Pro 11:5). So contrasting between righteousness and wicked. The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but the transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness (Pro 11:6). You'll be caught in your own guile, in your own deceit. When a wicked man dies, his expectation [or his hope] perishes: and the hope of the unjust men perish (Pro 11:7). So the death of the wicked, hope is all gone. As long as there's life, there's hope. When he dies, there is no hope.

Jesus said to Martha, when she said, "Lord, if You'd only been here, my brother would not have died." He said, "Your brother's going to live again." She said, "Oh yes, Lord, I know in the last day, the great resurrection." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life. He that believeth on Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. He who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:21,23-26) I like that. Jesus is so direct with people. He makes this incredibly radical statement. So radical that it rivals anything I've ever read or heard of any man stating in Israel. A man saying, "If you live and believe in Me, you'll never die." Then He says, "Do you believe this?" So immediately He puts you on one or the other side of the fence. Yes, I believe. No, I don't believe. Oh, but it's much more than that. You either have hope or you have no hope. Those who do not believe in Jesus Christ, they have absolutely no hope. "When a wicked man dies, his expectation shall perish, and the hope of unjust men perishes." It's the end of it. No hope for them. But those who believe in Christ, "Thank God," Peter said, "for a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (I Peter 1:3).

The righteous is delivered out of trouble, [contrast] the wicked cometh to his just desserts (Pro 11:8). Now God delivers the righteous man; the wicked man falls in the pit.

A hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor (Pro 11:9): Oh, the tongue, what it can do as far as destruction. How many people have been destroyed by gossip--many times untrue. "The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor." Contrasting: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting (Pro 11:9-10). So the contrast again, the righteous and the wicked. When it goes well with the righteous, the city is rejoicing. When the wicked dies, the city rejoices. When the righteous man is blessed and things are going well with him, everybody rejoices. When the wicked man gets wiped out, everybody rejoices. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He that is void of wisdom despises his neighbor: but a man of understanding makes peace. A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit will conceal the matter (Pro 11:11-13). Talebearer will go out and tell everything he knows of evil, of the wrongdoing. But the person of a faithful spirit will cover it; he'll conceal the matter.

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Pro 11:14). I've often said also, "In the multitude of counselors there is confusion." There are people who shop counselors. They'll come up and they say, "I was talking with Pastor Romaine, and I talked to Chuck Mattier, and I talked to Jerry Westburg, and I wanted to talk to you about this." Well, you know that they're really not looking for counsel. It's that the other three guys haven't agreed with them yet, and they're looking and hoping someone's going to agree with them somewhere along the line. They're looking for confirmation rather than real counseling, real guidance. And people just shop around until they can find someone who'll say, "Oh well, that's fine. Go ahead and do it. Yes, that's wonderful." They're really not wanting to be guided. They're only wanting affirmation that what they're doing is all right to do, is the right thing to do. And so in the multitude of counselors, quite often there is confusion. The more you go to, the more different things you hear. And you get to you don't know what to do.

He that is surety for a stranger will smart for it (Pro 11:15): If you say, "Oh yeah, he's all right," and you don't know the guy, hey, you're going to get bit. You're going to smart for it. and he that hateth suretyship is sure (Pro 11:15). Interesting play on words. If you hate suretyship, that is, putting up your word for somebody else, if you hate doing that, then you're going to be safe. But if you put it up for a stranger, you're going to get hurt.

A gracious woman retains her honor: and strong men retain riches (Pro 11:16). "A gracious woman retains her honor." Beautiful.

The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubles his own flesh. The wicked works a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. As righteousness tendeth to life; and he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death (Pro 11:17-19). So righteousness and life contrasted with evil and death. They that are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight (Pro 11:20).

What a contrast. Though hand join in hand (Pro 11:21), That is, for strength and defense. the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered (Pro 11:21).

This next one is an interesting picturesque. As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion (Pro 11:22). A beautiful woman that has no discretion, has no sense. The ornament of gold, it's beautiful, but it's out of place in a swine's snout. A fair woman, beautiful, but she's out of place if she doesn't have discretion, if she's not discreet.

The desire of the righteous is only good (Pro 11:23): Righteous and wicked again. but the expectation of the wicked is wrath (Pro 11:23). Now here we have an interesting spiritual law in the twenty-fourth proverb here. There is that which scatters, and yet it increases; and there is that is that which holds more than is necessary, but it tends towards poverty (Pro 11:24). There is a spiritual law, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; measured out, pressed down, running over, shall men give unto your bosom" (Luke 6:38). "He that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly; he that soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully" (II Corinthians 9:6). And "whatever measure you mete it out, it's going to be measured back to you again" (Mark 4:24). Spiritual law. Here it is said in just a little different way, but the same spiritual truth. "There are those who scatter, and yet they increase." You increase by giving. "There are those who withhold more than is necessary, but it tends towards poverty." The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered himself. He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it. He that diligently seeks good procureth favor: but he that seeks mischief, it will come to him. He that trusts in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. He that troubles his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise (Pro 11:25-30).

They that are wise, let's see, they that win souls are wise and shall shine as the stars forever and ever. In Daniel, he that winneth souls is wise and "shall shine as the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). How God wants us to be winning souls for Jesus Christ. "He that winneth souls is wise." A very wise occupation to give yourself to, winning others to Jesus Christ. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; he that winneth souls is wise."

Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more than the wicked and the sinner (Pro 11:31).

Continuing the contrast between righteousness and wickedness on through the twelfth chapter of the Proverbs.

Proverbs 12:1-28 (AMP)

1 WHOEVER LOVES instruction and correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is like a brute beast, stupid and indiscriminating. 2 A good man obtains favor from the Lord, but a man of wicked devices He condemns. 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness, but the root of the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall never be moved. 4 A virtuous and worthy wife [earnest and strong in character] is a crowning joy to her husband, but she who makes him ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. 5 The thoughts and purposes of the [consistently] righteous are honest and reliable, but the counsels and designs of the wicked are treacherous. 6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them and the innocent ones [thus endangered]. 7 The wicked are overthrown and are not, but the house of the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall stand. 8 A man shall be commended according to his Wisdom [godly Wisdom, which is comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God], but he who is of a perverse heart shall be despised. 9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed but works for his own support than he who assumes honor for himself and lacks bread. 10 A [consistently] righteous man regards the life of his beast, but even the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. 11 He who tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits is lacking in sense and is without understanding. 12 The wicked desire the booty of evil men, but the root of the [uncompromisingly] righteous yields [richer fruitage]. 13 The wicked is [dangerously] snared by the transgression of his lips, but the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall come out of trouble. 14 From the fruit of his words a man shall be satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hands shall come back to him [as a harvest]. 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who listens to counsel is wise. 16 A fool's wrath is quickly and openly known, but a prudent man ignores an insult. 17 He who breathes out truth shows forth righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God), but a false witness utters deceit. 18 There are those who speak rashly, like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. 19 Truthful lips shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is [credited] but for a moment. 20 Deceit is in the hearts of those who devise evil, but for the counselors of peace there is joy. 21 No [actual] evil, misfortune, or calamity shall come upon the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil, misfortune, and calamity. 22 Lying lips are extremely disgusting and hateful to the Lord, but they who deal faithfully are His delight. 23 A prudent man is reluctant to display his knowledge, but the heart of [self-confident] fools proclaims their folly. 24 The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor. 25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but an encouraging word makes it glad. 26 The [consistently] righteous man is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked causes others to go astray. 27 The slothful man does not catch his game or roast it once he kills it, but the diligent man gets precious possessions. 28 Life is in the way of righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation), and in its pathway there is no death but immortality (perpetual, eternal life).

Chapter 12

Whoso loves instruction loves knowledge: but he who hates reproof is brutish (Pro 12:1).

And there's a lot in the Proverbs about instructing a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a fool and he will hate you. And a fool hateth instruction, and so forth. And the value of loving instruction, receiving instruction.

A good man obtains favor of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will be condemned by God. A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones (Pro 12:2-4).

Now to understand what the virtuous woman is about, you'll have to turn to Proverbs 31 when you get home and read the description of the virtuous woman. She's a crown to her husband. What a blessing a good woman is. How thankful we are for these marvelous wives God has given us. They're a crown to her husband.

The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsel of the wicked is deceit. The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand (Pro 12:5-7).

That is much like the third verse. Says it in a little different way.

A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised. He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honors himself, and is lacking bread (Pro 12:8-9).

That's a very interesting proverb. There are those which honor themselves, which, of course, there are much about that, too. But he that is despised and has a servant, better off than the person who honors himself.

A righteous man regards the life of his beast (Pro 12:10): Kindness to animals, it is a sign of a righteous man. A person who is cruel to an animal is really cruel to one of God's creatures, one of God's creation. So the righteous man regards the life of his beast.

but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he who follows vain persons is void of understanding (Pro 12:10-11).

So if you're just sitting around town following vain persons, leaving your field go, you're void of understanding. But if you're out there working in your field, you're going to be satisfied with bread. The wicked desires the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yields fruit. The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble. A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompense of a man's hand shall be rendered unto him. The way of a fool is right in his own eyes (Pro 12:12-15):

You remember, "Instruct a fool and he'll hate you." but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. A fool's wrath is presently known (Pro 12:15-16): They spout off their mouths. They just, you know, they let you know that they don't appreciate that. You presently know the fool's wrath. He doesn't try to hide it. but a prudent man covereth shame (Pro 12:16). The prudent man, "Oh, let it go." But a fool's wrath is presently known.

He that speaks truth shows forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. There is that which speaks like the piercing of the sword (Pro 12:17-18):

People can cut you to shreds with their words. Words can be devastating. So cutting. God help us not to have a sharp tongue. God help us not to use our tongue like a sword to cut people. But rather may our words be a balm, a healing agent, a comfort, lifting up one another. If you use your tongue as a cutting instrument, if you use your tongue to destroy others, then people are going to seek to defend themselves, and what you dish out is going to come back to you. People are going to start cutting you and chopping you if you're always chopping others. But if you will speak well of others and speak well to others, and it's just as easy to compliment a person as it is to cut them down. And there's probably just as much to be commended as there is to be condemned in any of us. There is another proverb, "There is so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us that it ill behooves any of us to talk of another."

My words can be used to build up. My words can be used to tear down. It seems that there are two types of people in the world. Those who are building up, those who are tearing down. Now when you're looking for a friend, which kind do you look for? You are drawn to and you look for the person who is constantly building up. You don't like to be around a person who's constantly tearing you down. You avoid them like the plague. But a person who is kind, a person who is gentle, a person who is complimentary, you enjoy being around those kind of people. So there are those who speak and their words are like the piercings of the sword. but the tongue of the wise is health (Pro 12:18). It's building. It's edifying. The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment (Pro 12:19). Truth will endure. A lie might serve for a moment, but you'll get caught. Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace is joy. There shall no evil happen to the just (Pro 12:20-21):

Now, that is in the final judgment.

but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD (Pro 12:21-22): There are many things that are an abomination to the Lord, and you should take your concordance and run this word abomination and find out how many things are an abomination to the Lord. A proud look is an abomination to the Lord, a lying tongue (Proverbs 6:17), a false balance (Proverbs 11:1). These things are an abomination to God. Now I surely don't want to be doing anything that's an abomination to God. I don't want to find my life an abomination unto Him. So it would be wise to follow this through in your concordance and find out how many things and what things are an abomination to God so you can avoid them. "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord." but they that deal truly are his delight. A prudent man conceals knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaims his foolishness. The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under taxes. Heaviness in the heart of a man makes it stoop: but a good word makes it glad. The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor: but the way of the wicked seduceth them. The slothful man [or the lazy man] does not roast that which he killed when he was hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious (Pro 12:22-27).

The Bible, more or less, condemns the hunting for just the joy of hunting. Hunting to eat, yes. But, "The slothful man doesn't roast that which he took hunting."

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death (Pro 12:28). Now Jesus said, "He who lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:26). Here we are told, "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Then how do we explain what happens to those who live and believe in Jesus Christ who have lived a righteous life? If Jesus said, "He who lives and believes in Me shall never die," I must accept that, that that is true. Then if they have not died, what has happened to them? Paul said in II Corinthians 5, "For we know that when this earthly tent (our body) is dissolved, we have a building of God that is not made with hands, that is eternal in the heavens. So then we who are living in these bodies do often groan, earnestly desiring to be freed from these bodies. Not that we would be an unembodied spirit, but that we might be clothed upon with the body which is from heaven. For we know that as long as we are living and are at home in this body, we are absent from the Lord. But we would choose rather to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord" (II Corinthians 5:1-8)).

There is no death. What is there? There is a metamorphosis, a change of body, where my spirit moves from this tent into what Jesus said was a mansion. "In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I'm going to prepare a place for you. And if I prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). So one day my spirit is going to be freed from this tent, from this house. And it will move into a new building that God has been preparing for me. "A building of God that is not made with hands, that is eternal in the heavens." And even as God designed this body to exist upon the planet Earth and to exist within the environmental aspects that are on the planet Earth, so God has made another body for me that is designed for the environmental conditions of heaven. This body is not made as an eternal dwelling place. This body is decaying. The tent is getting old. Getting ragged. Beginning to leak. So we who are in these tents do often groan, earnestly desiring to move out. Tired of trying to patch it. Keep it clean. Move into that new building of God. What a contrast! "Not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

The new body I have is a permanent model. And even as I've borne the image of the earth and have been earthy, I'm going to bear the image of the heavens. My new model. I can hardly wait to see the new model. I'm interested in all the gadgets that it must have, so far superior to this. And yet, this body is... not to degrade this. The body is a marvelous instrument. Absolutely phenomenal all of the capacities that God has built into the human body. But yet, that new model that God has for me, vastly superior. This model in which I'm living is designed and restricted to one place—the earth and the environs around the earth. The new model, take it anywhere.

If I want to go sit on the sun for a while, surely God can design a body that could exist on the sun. There would really be no bigger problems in designing a body to exist on the sun than there would be to design one to exist on the earth. After all, He's the Master Designer. The new body, building of God, eternal in the heavens.

So there is no death. It's wrong to say of a Christian, "Oh, he died last week." You should rather say, "Oh, he moved last week, didn't you hear? He moved out of that crummy old tent. He's living now in a beautiful new mansion, a building of God not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Proverbs 13:1-25 (AMP)

1 A WISE son heeds [and is the fruit of] his father's instruction and correction, but a scoffer listens not to rebuke. 2 A good man eats good from the fruit of his mouth, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence. 3 He who guards his mouth keeps his life, but he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. 4 The appetite of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the appetite of the diligent is abundantly supplied. 5 A [consistently] righteous man hates lying and deceit, but a wicked man is loathsome [his very breath spreads pollution] and he comes [surely] to shame. 6 Righteousness (rightness and justice in every area and relation) guards him who is upright in the way, but wickedness plunges into sin and overthrows the sinner. 7 One man considers himself rich, yet has nothing [to keep permanently]; another man considers himself poor, yet has great [and indestructible] riches. 8 A rich man can buy his way out of threatened death by paying a ransom, but the poor man does not even have to listen to threats [from the envious]. 9 The light of the [uncompromisingly] righteous [is within him—it grows brighter and] rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked [furnishes only a derived, temporary light and] shall be put out shortly. 10 By pride and insolence comes only contention, but with the well-advised is skillful and godly Wisdom. 11 Wealth [not earned but] won in haste or unjustly or from the production of things for vain or detrimental use [such riches] will dwindle away, but he who gathers little by little will increase [his riches]. 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire is fulfilled, it is a tree of life. 13 Whoever despises the word and counsel [of God] brings destruction upon himself, but he who [reverently] fears and respects the commandment [of God] is rewarded. 14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death. 15 Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the transgressor is hard [like the barren, dry soil or the impassable swamp]. 16 Every prudent man deals with knowledge, but a [self-confident] fool exposes and flaunts his folly. 17 A wicked messenger falls into evil, but a faithful ambassador brings healing. 18 Poverty and shame come to him who refuses instruction and correction, but he who heeds reproof is honored. 19 Satisfied desire is sweet to a person; therefore it is hateful and exceedingly offensive to [self-confident] fools to give up evil [upon which they have set their hearts]. 20 He who walks [as a companion] with wise men is wise, but he who associates with [selfconfident] fools is [a fool himself and] shall smart for it. 21 Evil pursues sinners, but the consistently upright and in right standing with God is recompensed with good. 22 A good man leaves an inheritance [of moral stability and goodness] to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner [finds its way eventually] into the hands of the righteous, for whom it was laid up. 23 Much food is in the tilled land of the poor, but there are those who are destroyed because of injustice. 24 He who spares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently and punishes him early. 25 The [uncompromisingly] righteous eats to his own satisfaction, but the stomach of the wicked is in want.

Chapter 13

In the thirteenth chapter of Proverbs, there is a continuation of the contrasting of the righteous with the wicked, the wise and the scorner, the transgressor and the good man.

A wise son hears his father's instruction: but a scorner does not listen to rebuke. A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. He that keeps his mouth keeps his life: but he that opens wide his lips shall have destruction. The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. A righteous man hates lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and comes to shame. Righteousness keeps him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthrows the sinner. There are those that seem to be rich, and yet they have nothing: there are those that seem to be poor, yet they have great riches (Pro 13:1-7).

That's because true riches are not measured in material things. True riches have a standard in spirituality, in the eternal. Your true riches are those that you'll possess five minutes after you're dead. Now, a lot of people have been awfully rich in life, but five minutes after they're dead, they're going to be absolute paupers. They'll have absolutely nothing. There are many people who have had nothing all through life, but five minutes after they're dead, they're going to have such vast riches, the true riches, spiritual riches.

Jesus in Luke's gospel the twelfth chapter speaks a parable beginning with verse 16,

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room to bestow all of the my fruits? And he said, I know what I'll do: I'll pull down my barns, I'll build bigger ones; and then I will bestow all my fruits and all of the my goods. Then I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall be those things that you have laid up? Who's going to inherit it? So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God (Luke 12:16-21).

True riches are those that are laid up in heaven. They are the riches that will not decline. They are the riches that cannot lose their value. True riches. So there are those who seem to be very rich, and yet, in reality, they have nothing. There are those who seem to be poor, and yet they are very rich.

The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor hears not rebuke. The light of the righteous rejoices: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. Only by pride comes contention (Pro 13:8-10):

Now that's an interesting statement, but examine it carefully. Whenever contention arises, somewhere behind it, someone's pride. How important it is for us to come to the cross and to reckon our old man to be dead. But that's the only way you're going to get rid of pride. And that's the only way you're going to get rid, then, of contentions.

"I'm so upset. Did you hear what he did?" "Why are you so upset?" "Well, he said this about me and all." "Well, how much truth is there to it?" "Well, I didn't want people to know that bit of truth about me." I want people to think, I always want people to think better of me than I really am. I always like pictures that flatter me. If they look too much like me I don't care for them. I like them to make me look really handsome and all, you know. Oh, that's a good picture. Doesn't really look like me, but it's sure good-looking, you know. Somehow we always want to put out a better impression. And anything that tarnishes, that creates contention within us. Pride is the basis of contention. "Only by pride comes contention."

but with the well advised is wisdom. Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase (Pro 13:10-11).

Now there are a lot of scams whereby people are getting wealthy. A while back there were these pyramid parties. "Wealth gotten by vanity." That is, you know, the get-rich schemes. Money that is gained by get-rich schemes is going to vanish.

I have a friend who is a member of the mafia, and I've been witnessing to him for quite a while. He loves to flash a roll. He loves to open up his safe and let me see hundred thousand dollars in hundred dollar bills. Or he loves to take me out to dinner and pull out a roll of twenty thousand dollars in hundred dollar bills, you know, peel them off. He just loves to flash of it. And he's always, always dreaming up some scam to rip somebody off. He was laughing and telling me about how that he collected \$20,000 from a guy to rub out another guy. And he said, "I was going to get \$50,000 for the job." He said, "I took \$20,000 down, I should get \$30,000 when he's done." But he said, "I just took the \$20,000." He said, "I didn't rub out the guy," but he says, "but I got \$20,000." He said, "But who's the guy going to tell? Who's he going to complain to?" Now he told me, he said, "You see this wad of money?" He said, "I have it now but," he said, "out there there's a hundred guys that know that I'm presently got the roll." And he said, "All of them are sitting up nights dreaming up some scam by which to rip the money off of me." And he said, "One of them will come up with something and I'll be a sucker and I'll go in for it, and he's going to rip me off from this roll. And when he does, everybody will know that he's got the roll and they'll all then start dreaming up and I'll start dreaming up a scam to rip him off from the roll." He said, "We all know where the roll is." And he says, "We all get to handle it every once in a while for a while." But he says, "Sooner or later one of these guys gets to us with a scam and he rips us off, and then, you know, we have to go after him." And he said, "It's money that just passes through our hands every once in a while." And I thought of this proverb. "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathers by labor shall increase."

Hope deferred makes the heart sick (Pro 13:12):

Oh yes, I'll marry you, honey. Just wait a year. Oh, my heart's sick. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick."

but when the desire comes, it's a tree of life. Whoso despises the word shall be destroyed (Pro 13:12-13):

And this would be the Word of God.

but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded (Pro 13:13).

Will be blessed.

The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Good understanding gives favor: but the way of the transgressors is hard (Pro 13:14-15).

Sometimes we look at sinners and say, "Oh man, he's got his way." No, the way of the transgressor is hard. God declares that. And we see that so many times. We see a person just really up against the wall. We see them just really, you know, they really had it. They come in and say, "Oh. Can't believe." "The way of the transgressor is hard." It's going to catch up with you, and when it does, man, you've had it.

Every prudent man deals with knowledge: but a fool lays open his folly. A wicked messenger falls into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health. Poverty and shame will come to him who refuses instruction: but he who regards reproof shall be honored. The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it's abomination to fools to depart from evil (Pro 13:16-19).

Desire accomplished. The completed goal, oh, how sweet it is.

He that walks with wise men shall be wise: but the companion of fools shall be destroyed. Evil pursues the sinners: but to righteous good shall be repaid. A good man leaves inheritance to his grandchildren: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that that destroys for want of judgment (Pro 13:20-23).

It is interesting that the United States has had a tremendous food program for India. I forget exactly what percentage of the food that we send over, though, is eaten by rats. But it's a large percentage of the grain that we send to support India is eaten by rats. And of course, they don't believe in killing rats 'cause it might be your uncle. It could very well be one of mine. I always questioned him. But it really isn't always for the lack of food that a person is hungry. It's many times the lack of good judgment.

Now he that spares the rod hates his son: but he that loves him will chasten him often (Pro 13:24).

Thought For The Day Page 11

Solomon has quite a bit to say about the correction of a child. "The foolishness of the world is bound up in the heart of the child, but the rod of instruction driveth it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). Then he said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Now my son thought that was a command and when I started using rod, he said, "But the scripture says, 'Spare the rod and spoil the child." He thought that I was supposed to spoil him, you know. And I said, "Son, you don't understand. It means if I spare the rod I'll spoil you. He that spares the rod hates his son."

The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want (Pro 13:25).

Through The Bible c 2000 Series; Chuck Smith; Bible commentaries, 1979-1986)



Proverbs 13:12 says that "hope deferred makes the heart sick." What is "hope deferred"? I believe it is what we call disappointment.

We all are disappointed when things do not work out the way we want them to. We become disappointed when we have a plan that fails, a hope that does not materialize, or a goal that is not reached. We are disappointed by everything from a picnic that is rained out to the loss of a job. We are disappointed when the new watch we were given will not keep time correctly, or when the child we had hoped would turn out right shows no signs of doing so.

When things like that happen, for a certain period of time we experience a letdown—one that can lead to depression if it is not handled properly. That is when we have to make the decision to adapt and adjust, to take a new approach and just keep going despite our feelings. That is when we must remember that we have the Greater One residing within us, so that no matter what may happen to frustrate us, or how long it may take for our dreams and goals to become realities, we are not going to give up and quit just because of our emotions.

That is when we must remember what God once told me in just such a moment: "When you get disappointed, you can always make the decision to get reappointed!"

Disappointment often leads to discouragement, which is even more of a "downer." We have all experienced the depressing feeling that comes after we have tried our very best to do something and either nothing happens or it all falls totally apart.

How disappointing and discouraging it is to see the things we love senselessly destroyed by others or, even worse, by our own neglect or failure. Regardless of how it may happen or who may be responsible, it is hard to go on when everything we have counted on falls down around us. That is when those of us who have the creative power of the Holy Spirit on the inside can get a new vision, a new direction, and a new goal to help us overcome the frustrating, downward pull of disappointment. Hope deferred does make the heart sick, but hope can be rekindled, and our hearts can be made whole again by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Everyday Life Bible.

(Amplified Bible; Joyce Meyers; 2006; Faith Words; Scripture; Commentaries; pages 838-839)