

ARCHITECT OF THE FUTURE SERIES 3

PATTERN FOR LIVING

AN APOSTOLIC GUIDE AND PERSPECTIVE
THROUGH THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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WISDOM GUIDE RESOURCE.

BY WISDOM A HOUSE IS BUILT

AN APOSTOLIC PERSPECTIVE TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

By Isaiah-Phillips Akintola

A STUDY NOTE ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS,
IT'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE RELEVANCE

**This study is a practical kingdom resource note,
divided into twelve introductive focal points which are:**

- Why a study notes on the book of proverbs?
- Morality, humanity, and spirituality.
- The mystery of the soul-man.
- The three divine cords of proverbs.
- Definition of proverbs.
- The central theme of proverbs.
- Highlighted objective of the study notes

- Outline study of proverbs.
- The principle of ethics in relationship.
- Proverbs, a mentorship manual.
- The big chasm in spiritual development.
- Wisdom, the principal thing.
- Two kinds of wisdom.

Each of this focal point seeks to expand the perspective and understanding of its reader in a manner that introduces the core objectives of the ministry of wisdom as a useful, strategic, relevant apostolic tool in engaging and resolving the moral deficit of the 21st-century society. This resource is primarily put together for any member of the body of Christ who is passionate about upgrading his or her spirit along with the current, progressive, apostolic revelatory truth for rebuilding society.

I have taken the time to explain this view in my motivation which I firmly believe will give a better perspective to some of the reasons why the ecclesia now needs to firmly reexamine the book of Proverbs as a current, kingdom resource material in extracting powerful ethical, corporate, institutional value models for the 21st century society.

All that men have tried to create and build without the approved imprint of God's knowledge, and wisdom is all collapsing today without remedy. Families, marriages, economies, education, and government institutions across the world are failing and

imploding because men have decided to see the relevancy of God's wisdom and knowledge as obsolete and foolishness.

I have also used this platform to share my journey into the discovery of the book of Proverbs as an excellent, profound material the Holy Spirit used in informing and transforming my own personal life's journey as a young adult in searching for the truth. Please take the time to carefully read and understand each point in this study note so you may arrive at the very intended desired will of the father for your life, family, and community. It's my most profound prayer that you will find this resource useful and instructive for a more advanced spiritual integration and improvement.

THE HUMANITY AND AUTHORSHIP OF PROVERBS

¹ King ¹¹

¹ Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ² They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. ⁵ He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did

evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

I will like to state here that Solomon's life as productive as it was, cannot be defined as a perfect moral-spiritual yardstick in determining the quality and authenticity of the book since himself disobeyed the command of God by marrying from some of the nations the Israelites were prohibited from marrying. And we were subsequently informed that these women turned his affection and loved away from the God of his father.

Nevertheless, Solomon displayed unprecedented knowledge and high-quality standard of God's divine wisdom in discerning truth, and, judging very complex human issues in his days, and this is plain because he had earlier asked for the gift of wisdom from the God that he may lead and guide his people in the correct way of the Lord.

The book of proverbs, just like any other book in the Bible is the very expression of the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the Father, displayed through the lives of some key chosen instruments, used as scribes and authors of the greatest inspired book ever, the Bible. People wrote based on their divine leading and guidance given to them. Solomon did not initiate the depth of spiritual knowledge, insights, and wisdom we read in the book. He was only a conduit of divine expression. Proverbs chapter 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

The point, therefore, is, the Lord, in His infinite wisdom and sovereignty will use any vessel, including a donkey, prepared or unprepared to convey his intended, inspired objective in a manner that his truth is not compromised nor contradicted. **God's eternal intention carried out by chosen vessels, cannot reduce nor disvalue his ultimate prophetic counsel, regardless of their seemingly personal flaws and misrepresentation.** The truth expressed in the book of Proverbs is faultless because it transcends the wisdom and knowledge of men. Every statement in the book of Proverbs is divinely inspired for the use of teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in the act of righteousness. [2 Timothy 3:16]

2 Peter chapter 1:19-21

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

MORALITY, HUMANITY, AND SPIRITUALITY

By wisdom, a house is built, and through understanding, it is established; through knowledge, its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. [Proverbs 24:3-4]

46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on the rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed, and its destruction was complete.” [Luke 6:46-49]

In the past two decades or so, I have observed a worrying behavioural trend amongst members of the body of Christ. I have watched and carefully notice the rise of certain strange spiritual, ideological frame of thinking among many of our Frontline charismatic churches across the globe has now been exported to the African region. While this spiritual ideology seems to reflect almost all the characteristic of what defines Christian beliefs, this philosophy, however, emanates from another dimension of a false spirituality that is not consistent with sound, ethical biblical value footing.

What do I mean by this? A close examination of this 'spirituality', particularly amongst the 21st century [young adults] millennial which is its main target, seeks to downplay the very heart of what makes the Christian faith potent and powerful in comparison to other world religion, and that is the sacredness of morality.

We cannot have nor fully express biblical spirituality without the solid footing of a profound moral philosophy. Morality, the sense of truth and correctness is the heart of human dignity and the footing of biblical spirituality. The moment you remove the sacredness of moral value from society, we are no better than the beast of the field entrapped in our palatial city towers.

Corruption and perversion become the ultimate manifest reality of any individual or civilisation that rejects the principles and values of moral obligation. The ten commandments were not given to hinder a man from expressing his desire as it has been generally assumed.

The commandment was written for the protection of humans against his self-destructive tendency. The law, we are informed is our schoolmaster ordained to teach and guide us in the act of sound moral judgement. In other words, there's a day of graduation for us if we successfully pass the principles taught through the laws.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. [Psalm 19:7]

The laws were primarily designed to teach and guide humans to grow in the correctness of a sound, value, character lifestyle that promotes respect, honour, and the dignity of every man and woman regardless of race, color, or religion. And the knowledge and practice of the law [principle] of God carry the authority to convert the soul of man. The entire composition of about 600 plus commandments given to the priest who represents the nation of Israel can be summed in one word, and the word is respect.

To respect others, we need to change our mindset and perspective about humans, regardless of their colour of skin, gender, or nationality. What God was trying to teach us through the commandments is the sacredness of all human being. When we learn to respect people for who they are as creatures created in the image and likeness of God, we will undoubtedly restrain ourselves from hurting or abusing them. This is the reason why it was said that the entire law and prophets are hanged on love for God and our fellow humans.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Mathew 22

35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

One of the major schemes of the New Age concept of what constitutes a typical philosophical frame of freedom and liberty, particularly among the millennial is to remove the ideology of right and wrong completely. They say that the idea of what is right or wrong should be a personal choice of how one feels towards a matter. The humanist new age belief does not agree that right or wrong should be defined by what God prescribes in his Holy book called the Bible; and unfortunately, this false philosophy of politically correct gospel is now filtering into the circle of many households within the body of Christ.

Morality is the heart of true spirituality. What I mean by this is, for you and me to define or express sound, biblical spirituality, the truth must play its role as the framework that holds together the moral components of behavioural pattern. **You cannot have balanced spirituality without the practice of sound morality; neither can you express genuine morality in any given area of life without the**

expression of absolute truth. Truth is the measuring yardstick of all levels of morality.

The accuracy of truth is what defines the sacredness of sound morality; as morality defines the essence of genuine spirituality. The wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of God produce a consistent moral lifestyle which is reflected in spirituality. Everything God created carries his fingerprint of morality and spirituality; even love has got its own moral obligation. To seek to love or receive love from others without factoring the moral responsibility is to turn love to an instrument of manipulation and self-destruction.

We cannot separate creation and its complex sociocultural obligation from consistent moral-ethical values. Justice and equity are established on the footing of morality. Morality is defined as the principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good or bad behaviour. To therefore try to promote or stress an idea of some 'spirituality' or better still, socioeconomic advancement in a society that is void of a genuine, solid, consistent, moral framework culture is to build such endeavour on what the word of God calls a sinking sand foundation.

There's a way life was designed to function, and that's what we see expressed through the wisdom and knowledge shared in the book of Proverbs. The thought that we can downplay certain core aspects of what defines Christian character values by replacing them with religious, social, charitable activities is to be dancing to a particular tune of music the enemy has for a long time composed to lure us back to where the first man fell to his deception.

Man, in the beginning

In the beginning, when Elohim created man, he gave him out of his own very Spirit the innate ability to manage and regulate his own life, and the paradise he was placed in with his wife. Within the breath man was made of was the spirit of judgement, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge that produced the creative, leadership capabilities, and components for precise human development and productivity at all spheres of his existence. Adam was a true representation of a man adequately resourced and empowered by heaven to govern and manage his life and his environment in accordance with divine intent.

However, when he allowed himself to be ensnared by the device of another strange spirit that spoke through the voice of his wife, he did not only lose the divine connection to the creative resource that allowed him to govern and manage his life and household, but also lost his administrative authority to regulate the earth which was unfortunate. One single act of disobedience and rebellion plunged the entire human race into a spiral of confusion, dysfunctionality and self-implosion.

The great news however is, Christ, our Passover Lamb and redemption has paid the price not to merely restore man back to the first place he was in the garden but has also been awakened and reconnected to the same empowered Spirit-life of God to reign and manage life's complexity as it was in the beginning.

What a day we live in if only this seed of truth can firmly and effectively find its root back within the human heart. The awakening and influence of a soulish lifestyle in place of a spirit-driven life since the first man was compromised in the garden has remained the sole challenge hindering man from reclaiming the inheritance of redemption, and the full restoration of a life centred in Christ.

The activity of the sinful human nature has continued to disrupt and dismantle the system, order, and template of living a productive, spiritually motivated life that does not only bring joy to the heart of his creator but also allows him to maximize the creative potential of his God-given capabilities for excellence.

The generation of Noah

Genesis chapter 6

5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

If there's ever a time in the history of the church where the issue of understanding the importance and significance of living by an accurate sense of sound biblical knowledge, wisdom, and insight is needed is certainly now. At every turn of history, the father in his divine knowledge has released into the nations those he has handpicked, trained, and imparted with his governmental grace to lead a generation to the next reality of his prophetic kingdom agenda.

There's a common fact that defines this category of humans regardless of their environment; they are passionate about the values spirit that characterizes the act and science of leadership at whatever level of their assigned representation. This quality of character is usually not about a position of authority, but about a condition of lifestyle that attracts and influence others to be the best they can be for God as we see mirrored out through the life of Noah.

We are today witnessing an increased sense of a rebellious, diabolic lifestyle that seeks to erode the shared values and sacredness of love, dignity, and respect for humans at all levels of the community. Today, society is faced with a severe deficit of truth and integrity for the sole reason of what I call, the rise of a misplaced priority and inconsistent human value system, particularly from those of us given the leadership assignment of building and managing a sound, healthy, productive family and community structure.

As the Church and society continue to witness the increase of a strange, demonic system positioned to challenge and frustrate the counsel and wisdom of God in all spheres of human affairs, we need to seriously reexamine the word of God in the context of searching for the right apostolic model system required to resist and destroy this assault of darkness invading human hearts.

Unfortunately, those in the Leadership position within the mainstream church have now joined affinity with spiritual lukewarmness, manipulation, intimidation, the New Age philosophy, and of course, occultic practice in churches in order to gain illegitimate power to captivate and lure their followers. Many so-called Christian nations and societies no longer consider the demand to draw sound counsel for living from God's word.

The temptation to yield to the wisdom produced by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil has progressively increased as many now compromise their stand in faith on what is biblically declared as the absolute truth. Being politically correct has become the new normal in the circle of Pentecostal charismatic church leaders. The stand for absolute truth no longer appeals to these men and women who have become soulish and materialistic in their outlook and objectives.

The powerful force of the spirit of Jezebel the adulteress, according to Proverbs chapters 5, 6, and 7, has continued to pull many without sound knowledge and discretion into the chamber of death. We are now witnessing how the enemy is trading with the souls of men at all levels of human affairs, and this destructive activity seems to be taken as the new normal.

The spirit of Jezebel has now gained control over the heart and soul of our leaders; humanist principles and Satanic inspired motivation for leadership is being pushed and promoted all across government and academic institutions to replace a well-trying, consistent, biblically sound, ethical values and principles.

Truth has fallen to the ground, and wisdom is now crying where the paths meet, but no one is paying close attention to its cry. The craze for financial and material prosperity and the gain for global power and influence has continued to replace the call for truth, equity, peace, and justice among the nations.

Reclaiming the footing for correct moral perspective to life is highly critical in this hour if the ecclesia is ever going to advance to the next dimension of kingdom engagement. The mere preaching or teaching about spirituality, and the dominion principles of reigning in life, without a return to that perfected biblical moral quality standard of life, will only suspend our day of emergence as true representatives of Christ and his kingdom to this generation.

The word of God, according to Mathew chapter 5 verse 8 says only the pure in heart will see God...it does take a qualitative understanding and practice of a sound morality to gain the valued insight into the spiritual dimension of the Lord's prophetic dealings within the earth.

I sincerely felt within my spirit the urgency to release a material that can help reawaken our sense of truth and rightness in practice back to the right direction of a lifestyle that is not corrupt by the seductive spirit of the day.

THE MYSTERY OF THE SOUL-MAN

Right from the moment the first man sinned and was kicked out of the garden, humanity has been in a perpetual state of spiritual and psychological slumber. The functional intellectual capability of the soul while still in its state of spiritual death remains a challenging mystery to many spiritual leaders today. Further still, the best of anthropologist and clinical psychologist are yet to effectively unravel how an individual can seamlessly function in a duality of values and character with less trace of identification.

The complexity of the unregenerated soul has grown to become a major challenge both for the body and society in general. Corruption, which reflects the inherent fallen human nature is something government and leaders across the globe are struggling to understand and deal with but have continued to fail. Corruption within the human soul cannot be merely identified and successfully dealt with by merely using the psychoanalyst method.

Dealing with the result or consequence of corruption does not remove the tendency of corrupt practice amongst humans. Corruption is part of the inherited fallen human behavioural character that can only be adequately addressed by dealing with the fallen, self-centred human nature, which Christ alone has the answer. The principle of truth found in the book of Proverbs highlights some of the profound ways and methods on how to strategically deal with corrupt nature in order to prevent corrupt tendencies from manifesting.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

I'll like to start with some position of facts in order to carefully and effectively capture the very heart of what the book of Proverbs is all about in practicality, meaning, beyond the theological and poetic framework of this material, there's a deep, intimate, spiritual standard that applies to every facet of human moral value code of existence within the book that must not be missed nor taken for granted.

The character quality of paying careful attention to what is being said is a crucial factor to unlocking the powerful principle being taught by a father to his son who will eventually lead and shepherd his people like a flock to the next generation. As you read, you'll notice the impact of the gross reality of what could be termed as the failure of the knowledge and wisdom of men in comparison to what has been eternally prescribed to man as the only pathway to the ascended wisdom that leads to man's freedom, tranquillity, development, and productivity.

The book of Proverbs is a written manual for managing the very common domestic issues of life, and the most complex 21st-century sociocultural challenges one can imagine. It deals with subjects that stems from some very close personal human misgivings to the height of resolving issues on the scale of a national and global leadership crisis.

My focal point in this study is not much of a historical overview, nor is it one framed around some primitive religious, traditional background. This material is based on a sound, practical, theological, spiritual view lens of life. What this implies is, my approach is one that seeks to assemble some of the best principles that offers clear, instructive, guidelines in building effective manhood and communities that are primarily Christ-centered, and kingdom-driven in the marketplace of life.

This means that the lessons, principles, and moral standards that will be gained through this material can be effectively applied to very simple or highly challenging life issues. Resolving the issues of life from a balanced biblical perspective requires a sense of broad spiritual knowledge, wisdom, and insight, indeed.

However, one also needs the ethical code character system that is comprehensive and consistent in practice, which means that the basic values of timekeeping, courtesy, sensitivity to others, respect, honour, obedience, submission, care, commitment, faithfulness, accountability and responsibility; selflessness, a deep sense of self-respect and dignity of labour, regardless of one's area of career or functionality is critically important.

Before we proceed further into this study, I'll like to firmly establish this footing of understanding in regard to the coherency and values of biblical wisdom, as it relates to the divine objective for building and developing capacity in the agenda of human reformation and transformation. One significant error that must be avoided is to narrow down the mind of God as it relates to wisdom to merely what is written in the book of proverbs.

The book of proverbs is a framework that allows us to discover the wider ministry and objective of wisdom as it relates to the expression of what can be defined as a perfected human society. Societies are built based on values, culture, tradition, and what could be defined as the best ethical, moral principles. However, if the philosophy and culture that produces these character components are not in sync with the divine values of the author of life himself, one is bound to fail at the end, regardless of how strong those values may seem at the moment.

There is no such law or principle within the fallen human realm that carries such potency of character longevity to self-sustain its own morality and spirituality. Sustainable knowledge and wisdom for human growth and productivity must be exclusively sourced and maintained from the ascended wisdom of the author of life himself, and this is the very reason why humanist advocates critically challenge, resist, and reject the biblical values found in the word of God.

To continue to promote the lie that says life is a product of some cosmic reaction that took place some billions of years ago that is yet to be absolutely proven in any book, or science laboratory as the truth, is directly defying and rebelling against the profound law of creation found in the holy bible.

Of course, for secular academics to believe and accept the version of creation found in the word of God is to, therefore, accept other moral laws and spiritual values, defined to govern human relationships and interaction which unfortunately is seen as a burden and set back to their narrative of democracy and human right ideals.

The 21st-century humanist agenda of being politically correct has crept even to the arena of the mainstream biblical interpretation. The inherent values of truth, right, and wrong, has now become a relative matter. The powerful moral values given to help humans to define and regulate the concept of fairness in a relationship is now being challenged and resisted because such standard does disagree to the narrative of what the fallen, rebellious humanist agenda is seeking to achieve.

There can be no true and lasting freedom without the factor of a sound spiritual, moral framework. This false agenda is not a new phenomenon; we saw this same spirit manifest in ancient Egypt and Babylon, and we also saw how the God of heaven responded in his judgement to their defiance.

When Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, said to Moses, who is that God that I should give a listen to allow the Israelites to go? God showed up by revealing his ability and dominance. When a golden image was forged in the land of Babylon for all who lived in it to fall and worship it, we also saw God showed up in exhibiting his power, authority, and sovereign reign even in the midst of the fire. The best of the wisdom of men is nothing to be compared to the 'foolishness' of God.

Many powerful kingdoms have risen and collapsed from one generation to the next due to their inability to sustain their traditional sociocultural, ideological values of wisdom. There was a time in human history where the Persian, Babylonian, Assyrian, and the Roman empire were the most powerful rulers of the world, but they all imploded at some point because their philosophy of existence is outside the divine nature of God's intended wisdom, knowledge and understanding of life.

The wisdom of God is holy, pure, and multidimensional in understanding and practice, and it requires a broad spiritual insight of what is both written and being spoken by the progressive revelation of God in order to have the best perspective of its intended prophetic objective. This is to prevent the mistake of allowing fallen human [wisdom] intelligence to interfere, misguide, and misinterpret how the author of life himself designed humans to engage life from all dimensions.

This note seeks to broaden our insight into how truth speaks to each other from a balanced biblical standpoint in order to have a clearer in-depth revelatory insight towards the mind of the father for the ministry of wisdom. The scripture declares that Jesus Christ has become to us wisdom, we, therefore, need to find the various strands of truth within the scripture as they relate and connect to the relevant aspects of topics and issues we read in the book of Proverbs.

THE THREE DIVINE CORDS IN PROVERBS

[Proverbs 3:19-20]

1. By WISDOM the Lord laid the earth's foundations,
 2. By UNDERSTANDING he set the heavens in place;
 3. By his KNOWLEDGE, the watery depths were divided,
- and the clouds let drop the dew.

1 Corinthians 1:10-25

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

This scripture is probably one of the greatest declarations of truth found in the word of God in the sense that it clearly articulates the full function of the ministry of Christ as the avatar of the father’s wisdom to man’s redemption and transformation, and there’s certainly no doubt that it lays the foundational footing in defining the core objective for this study of the book of Proverbs.

There’s no book, chapter, verse, or passage in the entire word of God that stands on its own, nor should be viewed, or isolated in its interpretation by its own merit; biblical truth is designed to depend on other scriptural truth for correct knowledge, interpretation, understanding and application. The entire 66 books of the bible are a piece of artwork, interwoven as a single thread of rope, conveying one single truth, expanded in a multidimensional format of coherency.

It's significant to note that the principles and value standard within the bible are not divided by time, space, or the writer's own opinion. The word of God is the revelation of the father's wisdom carried and conveyed through chosen individuals, communities, and regions of the earth for the sole purpose of demonstrating his sovereignty and majesty in the earth.

The word of God, which is the conveyer of truth, by default, carries within it, the eternal, designed, program for all human existence and character formation development, such that human lifestyle can adjust to the perfect, intended will and purpose of the father from a micro level, to a broader concept of community lifestyle engagement. In other words, man is ordained to find meaning, relevance, and usefulness in the living word of God on a daily, continual basis.

This means that biblical scripture and the act of revelatory inspired knowledge, are intended to speak to each other regarding the issues of content, context, meaning, and the essence of truth, and if we learn to allow one strand of truth in the word of God to lead us to another aspect of truth, we will undoubtedly arrive at the heart of the father's intended design even as he leads us to that zenith of his divine intended perspective for living life productively.

God's truth is a living, inspired, ever-increasing wisdom of the father's mind and intention towards the redemption, reformation, and ultimate restoration of his creation back to his eternal, intended objective. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness"; 2 Timothy 3:16

I am flashing this important point for the single reason that the knowledge and wisdom of God are not arrived at because we have some part of the truth that simply speak to some narrow areas of life that agree with our own narrative, or perspective in order to promote a particular self-centred agenda. Spiritual counsel and the wisdom from the divine perspective are designed to produce a result that allows us to precisely grow into the image and stature of Christ in all things.

The wisdom that comes from above is not just intended to make us wise like Solomon, in terms of merely gaining some intellectual capabilities; nor is it the ability to merely have insight into some uncharted realm of the spirit world. The wisdom from above is ordained to reform and transform our image and likeness into becoming more of the person of Christ in how we think, behave, or respond to the highly complex issues of life.

Every lost aspect of the image of Christ in man must be truly rediscovered and accurately restored to their precise position within man. As we know, image is not just some cast mould or features; the image of Christ in man is a direct reflection of the original intended objective of the Spirit of God in man. The image of God was formed in man, long before he was [shaped] formed out of the dust.

The image of God in man was not the outer covering of some features, but the inner man that carried the very essence of his spiritual identity and objective. The lost image of the Godhead in man is the component of the eternal objective of the father's wisdom in man, ordained for precise representation of his nature in a relationship, creativity, development, and productivity. This is far beyond the

making of things; but rather about the discovery of truth and its precise application in all areas of human interaction.

This is the essence of the ministry of God's truth in the journey of redemption and restoration. Having a holistic knowledge of the entire counsel of the father allows the whole stream of truth to find their way into the famished soul of man.

The wisdom found in the book of Proverbs opens to us the real opportunity to both explore and experience the depth of spiritual wisdom in a manner that allows us to see who we indeed are from an elevated realm of God's life. Let's look at the definition of Proverb to begin this great journey of discovery.

DEFINITION OF PROVERB FROM WEBSTER DICTIONARY

Proverb

1. A short sentence often repeated, expressing a well-known truth or common fact, ascertained by experience or observation; a maxim of wisdom.
2. A by-word; a name often repeated; and hence frequently, a reproach or object of contempt.
3. it sometimes signifies a moral sentence or maxim that is enigmatical; a dark saying of the wise that requires interpretation.

The Proverbs found in the word of God, particularly, the ones expressed by Solomon and the other two authors are coincided by nature; they are compacted truth that needs to be extracted and expanded in a precise manner that should speak in a context that brings discernment and direction to various areas of human development. Further still, there is a close similarity between Proverbs and Parable that should be carefully noted, especially when considering the writings of Agur and King Lemuel. I, therefore, think it's essential to also look at the definition of Parable in the light of studying the book of Proverbs.

THE DEFINITION OF PARABLE

From Webster dictionary:

PARABLE, n. [L. parabola; Gr. to throw forward or against, to compare to or against; as in conféro, collatum, to set together, or one thing with another.] A fable or allegorical relation or representation of something real in life or nature, from which a moral is drawn for instruction; such as the parable of the trees choosing a king, Judges 9; the parable of the poor man and his lamb. 2 Sam 12; the parable of the ten virgins, Mat 25

The words of Proverbs by nature are;

- a. Words of knowledge, wisdom, and great insight
- b. Short sentences often repeated for the sake of clarity and understanding

- c. They define the framework of a sound moral judgment
 - d. They define and compare right, and wrong believes system
 - e. They indicate the path to bring discipline and correction to various areas of life
 - f. They force humans to think and ponder about making the right decision
 - g. They are often the records of wise saying pass down from one generation to the next
 - h. They often require others with insight and wisdom to precisely interpret them.
 - i. They are usually relevant for the present and future generation development.
- J. Biblical proverbs are inspired. Therefore, they are spiritual by essence and objective.

The profile background of the author of the book of proverbs proves the profoundness of this statement of fact. Solomon was a very wealthy, powerful, and highly influential king in his days, he, however, later discovered that true wealth or influence is a well of wisdom that flows from the mountain of God's Spirit, and should be expressed in a lifestyle of righteousness, peace, and joy. These are not just some wonderful doctrinal scriptures in the bible; they are the very footing of what constitutes the lifestyle reality of the kingdom of God. For the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

These eight outlines are the core themes of the entire book of Proverbs, and we shall later elaborate on them:

- A book that introduces you to the person and ministry of wisdom
- A book on manhood, his morality, responsibility, and accountability
- A book about the power of community either within a family unit, or the broader society
- A book about the ethics of leadership and sound governance
- A book about the justice system of God in a world of injustice
- A book about choosing a life partner and the power of commitment
- A book that teaches about the principle of successful business and entrepreneurship
- A book about the nobility of a godly, virtuous woman

THE CENTRAL THEME OF PROVERBS

Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have a good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Solomon himself will later echo this same theme of the fear of God as the footing to all knowledge, wisdom, and understanding in his writing.

As you read through the book, you'll constantly notice the comparison of two kinds of knowledge, two kinds of wisdom, and lastly, the two types of understanding; one sourced from the earthly fallen nature of man while the other is from heaven above which is the preferred wisdom. The footing of our perspective towards the knowledge and the things of the Spirit is highly important, and this is what we see highlighted throughout the book as Solomon compares the superiority of heaven's wisdom to the carnal knowledge of the man of the earth.

This is a book that records the ordained, eternal, standard of the father for human existence over the self-centred, satanic induced, humanistic ideology of life and existence. The book defines to us the essence of godly wisdom and the victory of acquiring a sound judgment in an environment where soulish and demonic wisdom continues to find increased expression in man's daily life choice.

The word of God is clear about where the wisdom and knowledge of this world comes from; a wisdom that finds its root from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil can never produce a lasting human solution to highly challenging issues in relationships, leadership deficit, development and transformation, and of cause, equitable productivity in all spheres of life.

HIGHLIGHTED OBJECTIVE FOR THIS STUDY MATERIAL:

1. To explore and highlight the richness of heaven's eternal knowledge, wisdom, and counsel in creation. David, the father of King Solomon who is known to be one of the wisest men ever walked on the earth in his own words, tried to capture the sovereign wisdom of his God, as he pens down that which has been revealed to him in the book of psalms, especially Psalm 8.
2. To bring even into closer perspective the relevance of the eternal wisdom given to Solomon, as he assumes the place of leadership and governance of his people as a king.
3. The book of Proverbs, perhaps in the entire bible holds the key to unlocking the principles, value model, and moral authority that can inform, transform, and restore man and creation back to its original position and condition before the fall.

There's certainly no doubt that this book is filled with revelatory knowledge and wisdom nuggets that informs us on how to precisely and strategically engage life at all spheres with a clear, practical, directives that guarantee victory and breakthrough. Indeed, the book is a practical manual that reveals to us on how to conquer the lies, schemes, and falsehood that is continually offered today on the platform of humanistic, democratic ideology.

4. It's a known fact that Solomon is not the sole writer of the book; therefore, it will be wonderful and encouraging to also draw from the rich and broad spectrum of the wisdom of God, invested in the lives of these two otherwise men.

5. Anyone who is seriously interested in the art of leadership development at all levels will undoubtedly find the quality principles and value ethics in this book, not only insightful and instructive, but also relevant in transforming societal perspective, particularly, in dealing with the issues of the abuse of authority and power, especially in the arena of religion, politics, economy and other sociocultural spheres of life.

PRACTICAL OUTLINE STUDY OF THE PROVERBS:

The book of proverbs offers us a real opportunity to draw from the rich wisdom passed down from one generation to the next. In an era where the concept of right and wrong has been left to relativity; meaning, how each of us perceives what is right from what is wrong ultimately determines each one's definition of ethics and morality. Humanist agenda is creating and promoting a generation who have totally lost the sense of what truth, respect, honor, and what value of self-worth is all about.

The book of Proverbs is not just a book about gaining nuggets for success or applying some higher wisdom as it is generally seen today in most business schools across the world. This book defines to us the very concept of heaven's intention for man, and the community has given to him to effectively manage.

This is a book of relationship, instruction, guidance, service, leadership ethics, and governance. The book is a collection of a well-tried, ageless, relevant, current, biblically sound knowledge. This is a manual of pure wisdom and understanding that allows you to make the best choice and decisions from the simplest issues of life to the most complex decisions that continually challenge the best of human acumen.

It is the most comprehensive, up to date, relevant, accurate, collections of biblically centred moral values, ethics and core principles in raising and building a well-balanced, effective, proficient, and successful humans and communities.

The knowledge, wisdom, and understanding found in this resource is highly spiritual in its essence, yet, very practical in its application because it was not just written by some monk or guru excluded from the practical challenges of day to day life.

This book is written within the context of individuals who faced the harsh realities of dealing with daily domestic challenges, leadership and governance in the corridor of power. In the book you'll find how to best engage with very difficult human character's, the issue of raising a child properly, the true meaning of love, the meaning of manhood, the virtue of womanhood, finding a life partner, overcoming

hatred and betrayal, seduction, principles around commerce and business values, entrepreneurship, handling emotional trauma like disappointment and depression, settling disputes, the challenge of youthfulness, identity crisis, injustice, marriage and its commitment, the value of money, education and knowledge, general leadership principles and many more.

A very large amount of the wisdom found in this material was penned down in a very rich and highly influential environment of the house of David, yet, the unhealthy political manoeuvring and contestation of who will become the next King of one of the most powerful nations back then made this a troublesome and dysfunctional environment for Solomon's development.

Indeed, this environment shaped and influence the life of Solomon in a negative manner such that it had left a deep sense of rejection, identity crisis and the fruit of betrayal in the heart of Solomon as a prince, preparing to wear the crown. Royalties back then and even now are not allowed to openly express their emotional disapproval or disappointments regardless of how painful it might be, for such traits are usually assumed as an emotional weakness to other members of the royal family, or even among their own subjects.

Solomon had several times been tested as a potential king on issues of making the best decision in his call to leadership, and he certainly understood the consequence of ignorance, disobedience, rebellion, and of course, making the wrong choice. This is a material that deals with almost every facet of human life; from the joyful position of watching a father lead in his place as a king, to privately listening to the instruction of a father as a teen, to the issue of the news of sexual scandal within the

family. The house of king David was a true learning centre in all of the subjects that can effectively prepare one for leadership life.

The life of his father was a true test of what can go wrong if leadership is not followed according to the divine injunction. I am not surprised that when he was asked to request from God anything he wanted as a king, he did not miss words in asking for wisdom and sound judgement, so he may lead his people in the spirit of integrity, peace and prosperity.

2 Chronicles 11:10-12

10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."

Arguably, the book is one of the most relevant, straight to the point, effective, book in the entire bible for the single fact that its knowledge and wisdom directly deals with the practicality of what could be described as a well-balanced, biblical value system for precise discernment and judgement on the matters of sound morality and spiritual development. Judgement, the ability to carefully discern right from

wrong in order to effectively make an inform decision has continually proven to be extremely challenging for most people today, particularly, the millennials.

THE PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS IN RELATIONSHIP

You will agree with me that certain character qualities and values are generally expected, or required from every human either as a father, or a mother, or a teacher, or a salesman, community leader, an employer, or the employee, a student, or even our spiritual leaders. We naturally expect good character qualities from a friend, a fellow worker, members of our families, from a business leader, government official, or even a political leader and the heads of countries.

These expectations of good behaviour can be defined as a general ethics code. The challenge however is, our expectation or the desire to see this human ethical code does not necessarily make them a reality even when people have been trained to have them. In fact, in most cases, the opposite is what we get, for the single fact that these moral codes are not formed, or imbibed by the merit of birth, race, or the environment of growth.

While there's usually a sense of what is right from what is wrong, humans, generally do not naturally get attracted to embracing the quality of rightness. Is it not amazing that we often find that those in leadership and captains of business who should undoubtedly understand the value and worth of a correct ethical code system are the ones who falter the most.

While we can gather knowledge and information about what is right from what is wrong, and even try our best to keep those code of discipline to our best capacity, time, however, has proven that very few humans can confidently withstand a protracted pressure of the temptation of compromise.

It is important to declare that a sustainable, quality, ethical code is the direct byproduct of deep inner workings of the function of regeneration and the reconfiguration of the human soul which produces the conviction to embrace the correct character lifestyle. Indeed, the power of a correct lifestyle expression is that which is consistent with the demand of what is uniquely required as the correctness, coherent response system to life's most complex issues and challenges regardless of the pressure mounted to compromise.

The fact is, this is going to take more than a good knowledge of a moral-ethical code standard, expected from us as the correct response either in a business environment or in our recreational, social engagements. Correct ethical response to life at all sphere is a reflection of a well-built internal configuration of a refined character principle of life, established on the values of truth and the sacredness of respect, honour, and dignity for oneself and others.

The result of sound ethical codes is the direct product of the reconfiguration and transformation of humans through their exposure to the spiritual knowledge and wisdom of God. No human being regardless of how they've tried to be self-discipline can correctly and effectively produce a balanced, consistent, ethical, character quality that speaks to the correctness of behavioural attitude, particularly, in the place of business and leadership management.

This fact is one of the reasons why we need to wisely study the truth and the principle in this material, in a manner that allows us to rediscover how to best conduct our affairs in a way that allows us to scale through the issues that have destroyed powerful, and highly influential men and women in the past.

PROVERBS, A MENTORSHIP MANUAL

There are three major chords in the entire scripture that capsule the manifestation of heaven's wisdom and sound judgement, and these are, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Each of these characters of the Spirit of God reflects what the father ultimately long to see demonstrate through a vessel that has been regenerated and reintroduced to the fruit of the tree of life, and the portal to such relationship, according to David the father of King Solomon is the fear of God. The other side of this coin is, a man or woman without the resonance of these three cords of righteousness, peace, and joy will never truly experience lasting fulfilment and satisfaction in life irrespective of how rich, powerful, or influential they may be in society.

One of the challenges I have personally encountered while growing up, like many I have met, and sometimes counselled as a mentor and a leader, is on the subject of 'how to translate' into practical effective use, the things we already know either by informed secular knowledge, or knowledge directly imparted by way of spiritual engagement and development.

The position of discerning sound judgement in the place of making a correct, personal life decision is not something that just happens by default. The need to be adequately tutored and train both in the ways of the Lord and through what can be termed as universal values of knowledge and wisdom is highly critical in today's post-modern society.

My own story as a teen growing up

Am not quite sure what initially attracted my special attraction and love for the book of proverbs, given that my early Christian life was one that was filled with various challenges and misguided knowledge about life and the issues of the Spirit. I know that at some point, there was this deep hunger and passion for God, and in fact, my development back then was one that can be said to be filled with many variations of spiritual curiosities. But I could remember that in my very early stage of spiritual exposure that I longed for truth and wisdom.

The hunger to want to know the word of God in such a way that allows me to use what I've learned as an instructive toolbox to teach and help others resolve their life challenges was of great importance to me. In fact, that was part of what led me to go study practical theology in one of the iconic bible training school founded by the late Archbishop Benson Idahosa after been persuaded not to join the Nigerian army force.

I wasn't exceptionally good academically due to a dyslexia challenge, but the community environment and the experience gathered during my studies and interaction with fellow students, indeed, further galvanized my passion and drive for the word of God particularly in the area of seeking in-depth spiritual knowledge and wisdom.

Life was very ruff growing up for the single reason that I didn't have the luxury of being raised and groomed by my own biological parents. There's no doubt that some of these circumstances that shaped my environment of growth greatly impacted my subconscious to the degree that it literally framed my drive for the book of proverbs when the Lord finally cut my attention.

I could vividly remember a period of my life as a young man struggling with insecurity, identity crisis, and the fear of how my future will turn out. Well, I grow up in an environment where you practically never received any form of formal guidance for development. Neither did I received any knowledge about how to manage my hormones, or the development of teen sexuality.

The talk around sex education and the journey of becoming a man was left to chance and what I picked up at that the cinema house, which in fact became my life's educational centre. I never really understood what it meant to be emotionally abused and unbalanced back then because such strong words do not exist or are not encouraged to be used, even though I was the most unhappiest teen around due to how I was mistreated.

In the case with regards to discovering my sexuality as a teen, it was challenging and very complex, in the sense that the house I grew up is three houses away from a brothel. Secondly, the freedom of sharing your heart or feeling about basic needs was no go area. The issue of appreciation and affirming my image as a teen that needs care, support and love was a mere dream that remained a dream.

My freedom was very limited and, in most cases, short-lived. I grew up in fear, bitterness, insecurity, and uncertain about my ability and capacity as a human being, beyond the fact that I struggled with my academics. I was meant to believe I cannot amount to anything than to serve, and I was very good in domestic service because that was primarily my assignment.

Yes, I was small, naïve, and naughty as any teen of my age who is vulnerable; the general environment and the house I grew up was a modest, neat, and, also religious which eventually makes my understanding of God and his love even more complex for me to accept. A few houses away from where I grew up was a brothel whose influence will later impact my identity and sexuality in a very negative manner not because I went there soliciting for sex, but because of the unseen influence, the environment will later have over my life.

If you grow up in an environment where anger, pride and sexual looseness is allowed, you will certainly be impacted directly or indirectly. In most cases, it's usually indirectly to the point that most people don't usually connect their struggling in adulthood to the subtle impact of the people and the environment that negatively shaped their childhood.

Growing up without the knowledge of how to handle, and appreciate my biology and sexuality in a moral, purified manner as a teen was a major battle in my life, and I could not find a true satisfying answer to this complex issue until I discovered some profound, eye-opening keys laying around within the book of proverbs.

It was when I began to read the book of proverbs that my eyes began to open to the reasons why things went so wrong, and of course, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I began to see systematic change. Many are times we've struggled in trying to deal with a particular sin in our lives but have continued to fail because we've not identified and learn to address the main cause that leads to such sin properly. When we learn to deal with the root of sin rather than the fruit of sin, we will certainly begin to experience lasting victory.

Coming up with a practical, biblically focused material in dealing with the condition of the spirit, soul and body of human struggle has always been my desire, and the book of Proverbs has afforded this great opportunity to address this challenge in a holistic spiritual manner.

THE BIG CHASM IN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Don't just live the atmosphere...

We can have spiritual knowledge due to the inflow of certain revelatory inflow into a particular [ministry] house atmosphere, such that when anyone within the radius of such house speaks, people will generally assume the individual speaking to be a person of great insight, revelation and wisdom without the awareness that it is the exposure to such atmosphere that has allowed for such a declaration or manifestation.

When the beneficiary of such manifestation leaves the particular atmosphere or departs from the person carrying such grace, the impact of such spirit manifestation also becomes lifted either immediately or gradually in most cases, except in a rare case where there's a deep covenanted definition of both individual's relationship and assignment.

Have you ever noted how you're able to delve into certain spiritual insight and depth when you meet certain folks, or you suddenly realized how certain gift, grace or even skill, immediately begins to function without effort just because you are in the midst of the presence of certain folks?

This is a powerful, phenomenal that can in most cases help to call for certain in-depth of truth, especially in the gift of faith, word of knowledge, or words of wisdom that has been deposited in us but has remained dormant until you come in contact with this individual or even atmosphere. This is called transference of spirit, which can function either positively or negatively. This is a spiritual reality we saw in the word of God after Saul encountered the son of the prophet on the road. Those who saw Saul began to prophesy amongst the sons of the prophets said "has Saul, the son of Kish also become one of the sons of the prophets?"

Now, this statement is a profound reflection of the present condition where a major part of the Body of Christ is today. Many who have been put in some space of leadership based on the aptitude to reflect zeal; a zeal of some form of revelatory truth without a refined, balanced, character, attitude lifestyle has in no doubt brought unnecessary setbacks to the project of kingdom advance in this season.

The agenda of a spiritual zeal in pursuing riches, fame, position, and leadership platforms without necessarily going through the required character formation development indeed, is a huge deficit to the entire assignment of the ecclesia. One of the reasons why I have taken up this huge project of making a study note of the book of Proverbs through a sound, balanced apostolic perspective is to help bring a clear, practical, spiritual balance to how we ought to develop in order for each member of the body of Christ to effectively and proficiently fulfill their ordained assignment for life.

Many today in the body of Christ are like Saul, the son of Kish, who was called, chosen, and imparted with powerful spiritual truth, but never allowed himself to grow through the required, progressive knowledge and experience of character value formation in a manner that makes him ready for what his assignment entails.

He had charisma without the necessary character to sustain what he's been called to represent on behalf of the kingdom of God for his nation. It is certainly not enough to be able to prophesy, see vision, or even move mountain in order to

effectively function with the right perspective to life. We have to learn and put into action the deep values of character formation learned in the book of Proverbs.

The spirit of the prophetic can fall on anyone, based on their proximity to a well-seasoned prophet, or even their nearness to a strong prophetic, revelatory teaching atmosphere. In other words, folks could mistake both your identity and declaration of truth as an accurate position of your maturity which is often not true.

The biblical spiritual quality of the house that feeds us is duly necessary as equally as the skillful training of our ability to precisely comprehend and judge even as we are able to put into effective use what we are being fed as the value of a coherent eternal truth. Spiritual atmosphere plays a major role in human development if we are sensitive to the process and procedure of engaging each received truth into our core operational value system.

We may belong to a [fellowship] house that either thrives on healings and miracle, or on the power of revelatory [knowledge] insight about the ways and things of the Spirit, but those within such community may still suffer ignorance in the way they see and [understand] interpret truth, or better still, their inability to carefully translate the core functional values and principles of such revelatory truth into their own personal, day to day operational character development engagement. This is the heart of many challenges and disengagement in the body of Christ today. The people are increasing but the church is not growing...

1 Samuel 10:9-13

9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, “What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” 12 And a man of the place answered, “And who is their father?” Therefore, it became a proverb, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” 13 When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

As we can clearly notice, Saul’s ability to prophesy was not of his own doing or even cognition. We are informed that when Saul had finished with Samuel, and as he turned his back to leave for his journey back home, he was immediately imparted with another [spirit] heart without his knowledge.

We are also informed that as Saul and his assistant encountered a company of apprentice prophets at Gibeah, he immediately began to prophesy, and those who knew him previously stood in amazement to the point they made the statement; has Saul, the son of Kish become one of the prophets? Saul’s contact with these groups of young prophets stirred the leadership prophetic spirit already resident in him at his previous visit to the house of Samuel the spiritual father of the nation. This prophetic gesture was a sign and a seal of God’s approval to use Saul in accomplishing his prophetic program for the nation of Israel.

As you can see, any person whose spirit-man has been [touched] awakened to life can receive an unprecedented inflow of revelatory insight without necessarily having an awareness of such deposit until the occasion calls for it.

Furthermore, good folks can be receiving deposits of heavenly things without having the necessary technical [insight] know-how into how to translate such relevant deposit of information into a clear, practical, day to day wisdom key that allows them to efficiently and effectively respond to life's most complex challenges.

Truth appropriation is still a major challenge to many in the body of Christ; fortunately, the book of Proverbs is endowed with in-depth, practical answers to resolving these challenges, and that's why this book is highly vital to anyone serious about living a breakthrough, victorious lifestyle in this season in time.

WISDOM, THE PRINCIPAL THING

True wisdom and sound judgement are the primary theme of the book, and they are the core reasons why we are aiming to study this book, so we can effectively glean and apply this truth into those highly difficult areas of life. Nevertheless, these wisdom and sound judgement are byproducts of an encounter with the person of wisdom. A deep, intimate relationship with the author of the book himself, wisdom, is a key highlight that ultimately will determine how far we will reach in our study.

This study is not one that aims to only acquire deep theological knowledge around wisdom. My aim is for us to enter that spiritual space where we can truly interact with the enriched content of the Spirit of life within the book. It's from this standpoint that we can be effectively introduced to the eternal intention of the father for our lives.

A sound, biblical spiritual-moral quality standard, which is a big deficit in our world today is of great importance to the Father and creator of all things. In his eternal knowledge, he knew that a time would come in human evolution where men will not only seek to discredit his knowledge but will seek to completely discard his wisdom and even deny his existence in their lives.

While few men who have encountered a huge dose of religion may still be professing some form of allegiance based on the written code of the word of God, a close look of their lives however will continue to depict a different view of lifestyle. The point therefore is, we are not just seeking to draw near with our mouth in terms of the powerful values and principle of what has been penned down in the book. My personal aim is that everyone who will begin the journey of finding the life locked within this book will become one in Spirit with the eternal values of the resource.

We cannot separate the position of wisdom from a profound, quality of the person being introduced to us in the entire book who is known as wisdom. Wisdom is way beyond some great ideology, or deep philosophy, either is it some state of spiritual consciousness, attained by the power of meditation and positive thinking as important as they are.

Wisdom is a person, and that person is our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as he is the light, the truth, and life and we can only attain his wisdom through the channel of spiritual regeneration. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom and accept a person be born of the water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

The journey into the dimensional realities of wisdom to deal and handle all issues of life start with a decision to offer one's life back to the very author of life himself. It's from this point on we start being awakened to the true Spirit of wisdom.

What we read in the book of proverbs are not just some clever materials for sound moral judgment, or profound business ethics training principles that can be gleaned and applied out of context to the relevancy of the meaning of life.

The entire principles, values and insights in the book of proverbs are spiritually coded. Meaning, if your spirit-man is yet to be awakened, you will merely be reading a nice textbook on the philosophy of knowledge and wisdom without the power to connect to the spirit-life behind the deep prophetic intention of the material. Putting this into context will help a great deal to truly understand the purpose and objective of the book of proverbs. We shall further expand on this concept as we further study the book.

One of the clearest distinctions of human nature from that of animals is the innate, godly desire to seek the better good of others regardless of the cost. You will, however, agree with me that the condition and practice of the fallen man right through history up to this present day have contradicted this truth.

The fruit of the fallen nature of man has turned him into something else that can only be likened to being worse than a beast of the field. The desire, longing, and passion of humans, including that of those who seem to be highly religious in some form, but are yet to submit themselves to the governing authority of the Christ-life is perpetually seeking self-gratification which leads to a more state of frustration, depression, and corruption.

Yet, we see another advance distinction between man and the animal kingdom, and that is man's innate intelligence to worship. Either man accepts the notion of the existence of his creator or not, he is perpetually continually seeking for the meaning of his existence even in an unconscious manner. The search for meaning, purpose, good and evil, development and advancement at whatever level, all speaks deep into the eternal configuration of man who is made in the image of the Godhead.

The desire to worship an idea, a philosophy, or even the conscious rejection of worship tells us something about the configuration of man in his direct or indirect relationship with his maker. The father, the creator of heaven and earth, in his wisdom have hidden eternity within all humans so that they may seek him.

TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

James 3: 13-17

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 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.

Brother James, one of the most senior elders of the early church, through divine inspiration has done a great Job in summarizing for us the total aim of the speakings of the father through the wisdom of Solomon penned down in the book of Proverbs. Who among you is wise and understanding? Let such a person show, reveal, display, and make a bear by his or her good conduct. Let such conduct of good character be represented by the deeds done in the spirit of humility that comes from wisdom.

This statement captures the very essence of our spiritual journey through life. Our inheritance as sons of God representing the life and nature of our father is to display his glory and manifold wisdom through the character of humility.

The grace to assimilate what we've learned, and then go forth to represent such value of knowledge in a manner where the Spirit of wisdom and understanding is visible for unbelievers and Christians alike to see is a virtue of an authentic kingdom citizenship. Becoming a true carrier of the Spirit of wisdom is way beyond what is said, to what is displayed, and what we are becoming as a part of the body of Christ.

Apostle James went further to reveal the best qualities of this kind of wisdom that is first pure in nature. He said this wisdom is peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, and lastly, impartial and sincere. These are the core moral standard on which true spiritual maturity is established and sustained.

We cannot talk about being spiritual without understanding the moral philosophy and ground such spirituality is firmly based. In comparison, Elder James shows us the nature of the other wisdom, which is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. He says this wisdom produces bitterness, envy, and self-ambition within the human hearts, and where such wisdom is allowed, you'll find disorderliness and every evil practice resident there. James chapter 3:13-18 gives us the pre, mid, and post context of how we should approach and interpret God's truth in the entire book of Proverbs.

It is important I state that the book of Proverbs is written on the backdrop of so many renowned philosophers; thinkers, and oriental wise men, or Magi as the scripture refer to them, whose words of wisdom greatly influenced and shaped the architectural frame of thought of great empires and kingdom of old. Many of these so-called great wisdoms are still documented, and in fact, are still being used today as a reference to leadership in political environments and great learning institutions across the world.

Many of this knowledge remain the backbone of democratic leadership values and what is being taught as the philosophy of political science in our advance learning institutions across the globe. But as I have said, some of this wisdom of men have been proven to have continued to fail in the reconfiguration of the human heart, which is where lasting change occurs in its true sense.

Wisdom is not just about the development of science and society as highly important as this is needed; wisdom is first about the reformation, reconfiguration, and ultimately, the complete restoration of man back to his original spiritual state in Christ.

It is important to note again that the battle of the last day is a battle that humanist has set up against the eternal wisdom of God, which they believe they can win. The scripture, according to psalm two, informs us that he who seats in the heaven is laughing over the kings of the earth. The words further declare that the Father is busy destroying the wisdom of the Age and the intelligence of the intelligent. Only the house wisdom is building will stand in this season and in the ages to come.

1 Corinthians 1:10-25

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ

crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

There've been men who spoke and wrote of deep insightful wisdom before the book of proverbs, but one thing is clear, these men's wisdom came from the earth which makes them sensual, regardless of how seemingly excellent or inspiring the philosophy behind their words may sound.

The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was said to make one wise, and the fact is, when Adam and Eve eat of the fruit of the tree, the scripture said that their eyes were open. This statement implied that they became aware of dimensions of carnal existence; they have no clue of how to handle its negative impact. Adam disobedient immediately short down his spiritual capabilities while his enticed, soulish-self instantly took charge of Adam's life.

Man became aware of darkness through a different source of knowledge outside the very counsel and will of his creator. Curiosity, disobedience, and ultimate rebellion were employed by the enemy to introduce darkness to the human heart in the guise of seeking for some transcendent knowledge. This is a big difference from the inspired wisdom that comes from above, which is first pure and peaceable by nature and intent.

The world today is in search of a knowledge that will grant her peace, joy and tranquillity on their own moral terms, and yet, such knowledge has continued to elude them. The insightful declaration by the prophet Jeremiah to the people of his day reechoes and even amplifies the heart of the current speakings of the Lord through the book of Proverbs to this generation, and it will be good if we can put this scripture into context even as we seek and search for wisdom to deal with today's fallen human sociocultural challenges effectively.

Jeremiah 2:13

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

THE CONFLICT OF THE AGE

In an age where the pursuit and acquisition of sound judgement, discretion, and the deep sense of discipline and restraint is almost seen as a sign of weakness and disconnection from the idea of a fast-moving contemporary society which seeks to reject and fight any form of moral chastity. The idea of identifying and accepting a sound moral character, established on the biblical precepts has been seriously contested in some of the Frontline institutions of learning.

The more advanced and progressive society becomes, the more humanistic movements in conjunction with the New Age ideology seek to eradicate every form of moral laws that are put in place to help man maintain its dignity, self-correct management values, and the respect of others within the community.

The promotion of self-determination and self-actualization philosophy, among some Christian groups, and other prominent communities of learning have crippled the idea of sound direction and accurate decision, particularly for teens and the Millennials.

As the New Age globalist movement continues to lobby the 21st century political leaders to accept the evil concept of self-wisdom, and self-worship as the norm to human liberty, the Holy Spirit continues to resound the need for the ecclesia to raise its voice where the pathways of life meet in the proclamation of the everlasting counsel of the father's wisdom to accept the ways of Christ as the only route to lasting freedom. [Proverbs 8]

There's a call to sincerely return to the living fountain of God's word that releases to us the pureness of the ministry of wisdom, required to confront and correct the lies that is being sold to the teens of this generation, just as David the shepherd boy challenged and overpowered an entire Philistine army by killing Goliath of Gath their champion through the wisdom of God.

Sometimes you don't need to confront the horde of the armies of a state to have victory over a country. You only need the wisdom that comes from above to infuse into your spiritual [mind] system the necessary strategy required to locate the weakness of the principality behind the hidden nation representative, and the rest, heaven will complete if you'll obey the voice of God.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS.

Relationship. Influence. Instruction.

These outlines are meticulously designed to summarize and highlight the main subject and focus in each chapter of the entire book of Proverbs. As you will notice, Solomon straightaway gave a clear, insightful purpose and objective for the entire book of Proverbs in his very introduction in Proverbs chapter 1:1-7, and verse 8-15.

These scriptures lay a solid foundational value system in terms of the visionary objective of a correct human development process. Verse 8-15 particularly drills deep into the heart of the knowledge and wisdom Solomon is relating to his audience and readers, and I have summarized these solid footing in three words; and they are Relationship, Influence, and instruction.

However, for clearer in-depth understanding, I have also taken the time to expand on the vision and objective of the book. When there's a clear reason why we personally need to read and study the book of proverbs, I guess that should motivate many, particularly, young folks. You will read about my own personal journey into the book and how it has helped me to have the right knowledge and perspective to

life. Each verse outline can be expanded and use as a training tool for personal or group development.

This is a verse by verse outline and its practical relevance in:

1. Areas of personal strength, courage, and the issue of identity [Prov. 2:1-6]
2. Areas of the benefit of wisdom, good judgement, and the result of a dysfunctional identity [Pr. 3:1-3, b 31,32]
3. Areas of how to guard your heart against the lips of the seducer [Prov. 4:23]
4. Areas about moral discretion, discipline, integrity, and its reward [Prov. 6:2-5, b.6-11]
5. The seven things the Lord hates [Prov. 6:16-19]
6. What my father and mother ought to teach me [Prov.6:20-25]
7. The two women in the book of proverbs; wisdom and the adulteress [Prov. 7:1-9]
8. The origin and nature of wisdom [Prov. 8: 12- 31]
9. The house wisdom builds and her seven pillars {Prov.9:1-5]
10. The invitation of wisdom to her house [Prov. 9:6]

11. The teachings and instruction of wisdom [Prov. 9:7-18]
12. The comparison of the lips of the wise to that of a fool [Prov. 10 21, 31,32]
13. Sound judgement and the reward of the blameless at heart [Prov. 11:12, 20, 30]
14. The discipline that increases knowledge, virtue and honour [Prov. 12:1, 3, 4, 9]
15. The honour of a wife of noble character [Prov. 12:4]
16. The diligent hands will rule [Prov. 12:24]
17. The value of restraint and the glory of humility [Prov. 13:3, 10]
18. The discipline of investment [Pr.13:11, 14, 15-16]
19. The creative knowledge of a woman of wisdom [Prov. 14:1]
20. The wisdom of growing a business [Prov. 14:4]
21. Discerning the true path [Prov. 14:12]
22. The glory of the fear of the Lord [Prov. 14: 26-27]
23. Training yourself to grow indiscretion [Prov. 15:1-2, 4, 23, 28]
24. Learning to heed the instruction of the elders [Prov. 15:5, 20]
25. Understanding the sovereignty of God over all things [Prov. 15:3,11]
26. The wisdom of avoiding quarrel [Prov. 15:14, 19]
27. Learning to submit and trust God with your plans [Prov. 16:1-4, 7]
28. The value of true virtue [Prov.16:19]
29. What flames the passion for accomplishment [Prov. 16:26]
30. The influence of the wrong relationship [Prov. 16:27-30]

31. The wisdom of choosing peace of mind above all else [Prov. 17:1]
32. The inheritance of godly character [Prov. 17:2]
33. God, the only purifier of human hearts [Prov. 17:3]
34. What to prioritize before seeking material prosperity [Prov. 17:16]
35. what it means to remove foolishness from a son [Prov. 17:21-25]
36. The courage to speak truth to power [Prov. 17:26]
37. The world is not formed by opinions; neither should your life be [Prov. 18:2]
38. The dignity of labour [Prov. 18:9]
39. Building a lasting defence wall [Prov. 18:10, 11-12]
40. Learning to judge by facts and evidence from all sides [Prov. 18:17]
41. The virtue of listening with your heart before speaking [Prov. 18:13]
42. The power and purpose of a gift [Prov. 18:16]
43. The wisdom of settling disputes [Prov. 18:18-19]
44. Learning to guard your tongue [Prov. 18:20-21]
45. A wife should be found by careful observation of character [Prov. 18:23]
46. it is not good to have zeal without knowledge [Prov. 19:2]
47. The superior inheritance [Prov. 19: 14]
48. The reward of following instruction [Prov. 19:16, 20]
49. Principle of eternal investment [Prov. 19:17]
50. The hope of discipling your son [Prov. 19:18]

51. The penalty of hot-tempered [Prov.19:19]
52. The delight [desire] of true love [Prov. 19:20]
53. The glory of accepting discipline [Prov.19:25, 27]
54. The mockery of intoxication [Prov. 20:1]
55. Understanding time and season [Prov. 20:4]
56. How to draw water from the depth of the human heart [Prov. 20:5]
57. The value and virtue of [consistency] faithfulness [Prov.20:6]
58. Leadership is governing with a sight to expose corruption from afar [Prov.20:8]
59. Entrepreneurship foundation [Prov. 20:13-18]
60. The reward of dishonour [Prov. 20:20]
61. Do not seek revenge over evil is done to you [Prov. 20:22]
62. The reward of being led by the Spirit of the Lord [Prov. 20:24]
63. Value your words and commitment before making them [Prov. 20:25, 28]
64. No earth king escapes the Lord's sovereign rulership [Prov. 21:1-3]
65. The profiting of strategic planning [Prov. 21:5]
66. The importance of practising justice in nation-building [Prov. 21:15]
67. The strength of wisdom over a fortified city [Prov. 21:22]
68. Children require skillful training to grow properly [Prov. 22:6]
69. Principle of building a productive community [Prov. 22:10]

PROVERBS 22 FROM VERSE 17 CHANGES THE TONE OF ITS MESSAGE TO A CLEAR, DIRECTIVE INSTRUCTION FOR GODLY LIFESTYLE.

I TERM THESE WORDS AS THE SAYINGS OR SPEAKINGS OF WISDOM:

- 70. Develop a keen passion for listening to wise people [Prov carefully. 22:17-21]
- 71. Flee from a wrong association that can negatively influence you
[Prov. 22:24-27]
- 72. Do not be governed by a contemporary New Age spirit [Prov. 22:28]
- 73. Learn to refine your gift and creativity for the best kingdom use [Prov. 22:29]
- 74. Compulsion, acknowledgement, and the power of presence
[Prov. 23:1-5, 6-8]
- 75. Not everyone servers your time and rich wisdom [Prov. 23:9]
- 76. The inheritance of a father over his son [Prov. 23:15-19]
- 77. Avoid over-indulgent and the sin of prostitution [Prov. 23:20-21,26-28]
- 78. Truth, your greatest investment [Prov. 23:23]
- 79. The destruction of alcohol and intoxication [Prov. 23:29-35]
- 80. Wisdom, the architect of a successful life construction [Prov. 24:3-4]
- 81. The true measure of your strength [Prov. 24:10]

82. We are all called to save somebody, regardless of how small the assignment
83. Living by the law of a balanced scale [Prov. 24:23-26]
84. Don't spend your investment on liability but on assets [Prov.24:27]
85. God takes delight in a man that can search and investigate matters
[Prov. 25:1-3]
86. The principle of effective leadership and governance [Prov. 25:5, 6-7]
87. Living successfully within a community of people [Prov.25:8-23]
88. The power of self-control [Prov. 25:28]
89. A lifestyle of right standing nullifies a curse [Prov. 26:2]
90. Notice the folly of a fool when they are around [Prov. 26:4-12]
91. The character of laziness [Prov. 26:13-16]
92. The wisdom of living a day at a time [Prov.27:1]
93. Guard yourself of self-exaltation [Prov.27:2]
94. Guard yourself of jealousy [Prov. 27:4]
95. The heart of true friendship [Prov. 27:5-6, 9,10]
96. An exaltation for teens who desire to be independent [Prov. 27:8]
97. An uncontrolled adventure and curiosity can bring destruction [Prov. 27:12]
98. The heart of hypocrisy [Prov. 27:14]
99. The character of a quarrelsome wife [Prov. 27:15-16]
100. The place and influence of true relationship [Prov. 27:17-19]

101. Be aware of how you respond to the praise of men [Prov.27:21]
102. The test of true employer and leadership in the marketplace [Prov.27: 23-27]
103. Guilt breeds fear and uncertainty [Prov. 28:1]
104. Principle of governance and the weakness of democracy [Prov. 28:2-3]
105. Honesty, the anchor of successful business [Prov. 28:8]
106. Prayer and principal knowledge of God's word [Prov. 28:9]
107. The difference between material riches and discernment [Prov. 28:11]
108. Godly men are needed in political space and governance [Prov. 28:12]
109. The power of confession of wrongdoing [Prov. 28:13-14]
110. Don't chase fantasy, work your land [Prov. 28:19-20]
111. One of the best yields of investment is to the poor [Prov. 28:27]
112. Justice in a nation brings stability and prosperity [Prov. 29:4]
113. A true leader rejects the presence of psycho-fans [Prov. 29:12]
114. Discipline imparts wisdom [Prov.29:15, 17]
115. Principle of divine guidance, conviction, and restraint in followership [Prov.29:18]
116. Trust in the Lord removes the fear of men from the heart [Prov. 29:25]
117. True justice is from the Lord [Prov. 29:26]
118. The two realities of existence [Prov. 29:27]

PROVERBS CHAPTER 30; THE SAYINGS OF AGUR:

- 119. In search of the knowledge of the holy one [Prov. 30:1-4]
- 120. Every word of God is flawless and true [Prov. 30:4-6]
- 121. The two things Agur seeks for which I also seek [Prov. 30:7-9]
- 122. Be wear of the humanist idealism of self-centeredness [Prov. 30:11-13]
- 123. Contentment is a required virtue [Prov. 30:15-16]
- 124. The dishonouring of parents will be judged [Prov. 30:17]
- 125. The excellent discovery of Agur; he draws key outstanding observation of these four characters which are referred to as the 'way' or a manner of their operation. Agur believes that are important lessons to learn from these observations [Prov. 30: 19]
 - a. The way of an eagle in the sky
 - b. The way of a snake on a rock
 - c. The way of a ship on the high sea
 - d. The way of a man with a woman
- 126. The four mysteries that make the earth tremble in fear [Prov. 30:23]. One may not fully grasp what Agur is saying here until it is put into context. In an ancient world of kingship, lordship, slave masters, life is usually predictable. However, the sovereign God, over all things, knows how to turn things towards the direction of his purpose and intent. This concept of truth is still relevant today, especially in a

worldview that is led by the awareness of relationship, commitment, diligence, and loyalty in service rendering

- a. A servant who becomes king
- b. A full who is full of food
- c. An odious woman who gets to marry
- d. A maidservant who takes the [position] place of her mistress

[Esther comes to mind]

127. The observation of Agur continues four most unassuming creatures with unprecedented intelligence, industry, and instinct of survival. The key here is the value of teamwork. [Prov. 30:24-28]. These four speaks to how we need to view life and understand the arrangement of progress and development.

- a. An Ant
- b. A Coneys
- c. Locusts
- d. Lizards

128. There are three things that are stately in their stride, even four that moves with stately bearing:

- a. A Lion
- b. Strutting rooster
- c. A male goat
- d. A king with an army around him

129. The sayings of King Lemuel; an oracle his mother taught him. The power and influence of a mother who influenced and shaped the leadership spirit of his son. [Prov. 31:1-7].

- a. She advised him on the issues around enchantment and intoxication
- b. Leadership must be about correct representation, especially those who cannot speak for themselves. Leadership should be about grassroots
- c. Let leadership and governance be guided by fairness, uprightness, and justice, especially for the poor.

Conclusion:

I hope these few expanded highlights has allowed you to appreciate the voice of God through the book of Proverbs. The Book of Proverbs as you might have noticed has remained one of the least read, acknowledged, and misunderstood books in the entire bible, and the simple reason for this is due to most people inability to connect the rich wisdom in the book to the present reality of human life. The spirituality in the resource is forever guiding us to a safe path where we constantly escape the

potholes and traps the enemy set for us. It is my advice again that we should daily make it our duty to take a verse or phrase from the book as our watchword for the day. We should allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through a practical approach in the word. I pray that these words will continue to speak and minister to us all in a profound way that will adjust our spirituality within the struggle of our contemporary life and experiences.

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