

“These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David’s son, Israel’s king—written down so we’ll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it’s going; a manual for living, for learning what’s right and just and fair; to teach the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality. There’s something here also for seasoned men and women, still a thing or two for the experienced to learn—fresh wisdom to probe and penetrate, the rhymes and reasons of wise men and women.”

Proverbs 1:1-6, The Message

THE PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

Provide _____, godly wisdom so we can _____ in this world

“Knowledge is nothing more than an accumulation of raw facts, but wisdom is the ability to see people, events, and situations as God sees them. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon reveals the mind of God in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations, too.” — www.gotquestions.org

Proverbs provides wisdom on: personal conduct, sexual relations, business, wealth, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, parenting, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, godliness, and more!

PROVERBS 28:9

“God detests the prayers of a person who ignores the law.” (NLT)

“If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable.” (NIV, NRSV)

“If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.” (ESV)

“God has no use for the prayers of the people who won’t listen to him.” (MSG)

If God so clearly wants us – all of us – to pray, then how could our prayers be something He “detests,” something He considers an “abomination,” or something He has “no use for?”

All Scripture references are from the New Living Translation (NLT) of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

“‘What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?’ says the Lord... ‘When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims.’” Isaiah 1:11-15

1. God is not _____ to hear and respond to our prayers
2. God doesn’t want us to _____ upon His grace
3. God doesn’t want us to _____ our sin
4. God takes sin _____ so we should too

“Volitional sin derails our faith and brings our prayer life to a screeching halt.”

GOD WANTS OUR PRAYERS TO FLOW OUT OF A PLACE OF

- **Pro** _____ = right standing
“If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” Psalm 66:18
“Listen! The Lord’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.” Isaiah 59:1-2
- **Pro** _____ = right believing (full of faith)
“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” Hebrews 11:1
“Pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.” 2 Timothy 2:22
- **Pro** _____ = right living
“We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will.” John 9:31
“Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.” 1 Timothy 6:11

OUR ALWAYS AVAILABLE PRAYER

“But If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9