

BIBLE CHALLENGE - Wisdom

The book of Proverbs is called 'wisdom literature.' It guides us to think and act in a way pleasing to God which leads to a full life.

Find a word from Proverbs 14 that is the OPPOSITE of the following:

Foolish _____

Evil _____

According to these verses in Proverbs, how would you describe a foolish, evil person? What do they do? How do they think?

How would you describe a good and wise person?

Verses from Proverbs 14 (easy readers version)

2 Those who live right respect the LORD, but dishonest people hate him.

3 Foolish words cause you trouble; wise words protect you.

12 There is a way that people think is right, but it leads only to death.

14 Evil people will be paid back for the wrong they do, and good people will be rewarded for the good they do.

15 Fools believe every word they hear, but wise people think carefully about everything.

16 Wise people are careful and avoid trouble; fools are too confident and careless.

17 A quick-tempered person does stupid things, but it is also true that people don't like anyone who quietly plans evil.

18 Fools are rewarded with more foolishness. Smart people are rewarded with knowledge.

19 Good people will defeat those who are evil, and the wicked will be forced to show respect to those who live right.

20 The poor have no friends, not even their neighbors, but the rich have many 'friends.'

21 It is wrong to say bad things about your neighbors. Be kind to the poor, and you will be blessed.

22 Whoever works to do good will find love and loyalty. It is a mistake to work at doing evil.

23 If you work hard, you will have plenty. If you do nothing but talk, you will not have enough.

24 A wise person's reward is wealth, but a fool's reward is foolishness.

Submit Yourself to God

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James 4.1-10 underline the word submit

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. *Resist* the devil, and he will flee from you. *Draw near* to God, and he will draw near to you. *Cleanse* your hands, you sinners, and *purify* your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. *Humble* yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.



What five things are we commanded to do to SUBMIT yourself to God?

1. R _____ the devil
2. D _____ N _____ to God
3. C _____ your hands
4. P _____ your heart
5. H _____ yourself before the Lord

What must the devil do?

What things will God do?

BONUS: What do you think might be another word for 'cleanse your hands?'

How might you 'purify your heart?'

Submission – *the spirit of humble cooperation with God and with those to whom God has given authority. Submission is for our flourishing together - us and those to whom we submit.*

In what kind of situations do you think submission is required? Draw a few scenes of SUBMISSION.

UNGODLY SUBMISSION	GODLY SUBMISSION
Unfair sacrifice only for the benefit of another	Humble cooperation for our benefit together
Passive and Weak	NOT passive or weak
Giving in (acquiescence)	A choice of the heart to trust in God's sovereignty Honours God's order
Leads to abuse and harm	Does not tolerate abuse or harm
Giving up your own responsibility	Does not violate a person's godly conscience Does not remove a person's responsibility to make wise choices
	Obedience Faith Humility
	Submitting to God AND to the people systems given by God: Family Church Society
	We cannot submit ourselves to God if we do not submit to God's structures for a healthy society

We must resist the enemies of godly submission:

- Our own perspective and opinion about reality
- 'Majority Rule' and 'The Voice of the People' – God is not a democracy
- Our own passions and emotions that war inside of us
 - Our strongest urges are often wrong
- Our own friendship with the things of the world
 - The world's way usually seems easier – at least at first
- Our pride – God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble