

Proverbs 6 – Light For Your Life

Think about a time you have experience a power outage. When everything goes dark, especially at night, you want to find a source of light, right? Without light, we can't see where we are going. Proverbs 6:23 tells us the same principle holds true in our spiritual lives - *without the light of God's Word, we all stumble through life.* We don't know where to go or what to do. But God gave us His Word to show us His way in the midst of the darkness of this world.

Proverbs 6 calls attention to some specific areas where we might stumble in the dark - issues of finance, work ethic, dealing with dishonest and arrogant people who stir up trouble and sexual temptation. We live in these realities; still, many of us don't seek God daily in His Word. Instead, we walk in the dark with fear, anxiety, frustration, stress, and confusion, without knowing what to do.

God has given us the light of His Word to direct our steps in every dark place we might find ourselves. He does not want to steal our joy. Neither does He want to continue in confusion, anxiety, and frustration. God's wisdom in His Word leads us to get the most out of this life for which He created us. He wants us to enjoy life!

God does not only want us to enjoy life on vacation; He shows us how to enjoy life in our daily work. He doesn't only show us how to enjoy life in the very best years of marriage; He shows us how to enjoy life when we are single or when marriage brings challenges. We face temptations all through life - how to spend our money or our time, and how to think, speak, and act in many contexts. Those who pursue wisdom will turn to the light of God's Word and trust that He knows best, always binding His commands to their hearts (v 21). What does God promise to those who do that? He will give us the direction, protection, and counsel we need (v 22).

Warnings Against Folly

How can we be responsible and wise with our resources, and avoid financial traps that could harm you or others?

6 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, ² you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth. ³ So do

this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go—to the point of exhaustion—and give your neighbor no rest! ⁴ Allow no sleep to your eyes, no slumber to your eyelids. ⁵ Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

Being Responsible and Wise

Proverbs 6:1-5 warns against the dangers of taking on debt, making foolish financial commitments and making promises you cannot keep. To put up security for a stranger is a most dangerous thing, as thousands have learned the hard way. No wise man does this for a stranger. Often, parents will sign notes or loans with their children. There is a principle seen in these biblical words of wisdom. No one should co-sign on any amount which possibly could fall back upon them and become their responsibility to pay.

We must be discerning, commit the situation to prayer, and follow the Lord's leading where known and trusted people are involved, and one must be able to pay should it ever become necessary. But this is definitely not something to do for strangers and those barely known to us. If you have become surety for your neighbor; get released from the obligation (Proverbs 6:3, 5).

We want to make certain that we do not play into the hands of or come under the control or the power of someone else. The creditor now has his neighbor in hand as a cosigner, holding surety which may include a man's house and possessions, thus making all he has dependent upon the will of his creditor-neighbor (vv. 1, 2).

A Lesson From the Ant

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ⁷ It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸ yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

Take a lesson from the ants. "The book of Proverbs speaks a lot about the value of hard work, and for good reason. The difference between success and failure, between potential disappointment or fulfillment, is often hard work." The ant does not need someone watching over them to make sure they work hard because they always work hard!

Everything we do, we do for the Lord. Colossians 3:23-24
²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for

the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

⁹ How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Poverty will come in like a thief. It will come swiftly. We love to procrastinate and think things can always be done later. The hard worker can look forward to later; for those who procrastinate it will come like a prowler. When it comes, it will bring a shortage of provision because of the lack of commitment and laziness. How can we learn from the lessons of nature and creation? We must ask ourselves if there are any areas of our lives where we have become lazy or slothful.

COOKING UP TROUBLE

¹² A troublemaker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth, ¹³ who winks maliciously with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers, ¹⁴ who plots evil with deceit in his heart— he always stirs up conflict. ¹⁵ Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

A troublemaker and a villain is the one who walks with a vicious mouth. Walks means his behavior, and his everyday practices are filled with corrupt speech so you can't trust him. When he speaks, his speech is not straightforward, or trustworthy. This is an individual who says perverted, twisted or untrue things.

Perversity means it is not normal or right. The Old Testament describes the perverse generation of Israelites who deviated and distorted the Lord's ways, turning from Him (Dt 32:20). Perversity comes from one's heart (Pr 6:14). Pr 6:14 links perversion with the heart which makes sense since as Jesus taught out of the mouth comes that which fills the heart (Mt 12:34, Lk 6:45).

Seven Things The Lord Hates

¹⁶ There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him:

¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to

rush into evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 6:16-19 warns against the dangers of pride, deceit, and wickedness, and the importance of pursuing humility and righteousness. How can we seek to cultivate a humble and repentant heart and to reject the ways of the world that lead to destruction? There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Haughty Eyes or Pride: Notice that these sins involve the eyes, the tongue, the hands, the heart, the feet, the mouth. The term arrogance means "to feel that one has a right to demand certain attitudes and behaviors from other people". To arrogate means "to claim or seize without justification..."

Pride heads the list of God's "hates" because it is the worst and most dangerous of all sins. Proud people look down on other people, because they feel superior to them. It is the attitude that overvalues self and undervalues others. It is the feeling that says, "I'm better than someone else. "Prideful" is the one word that best describes Satan. Because of pride, Satan led a rebellion against God.

A Lying Tongue: There is a connection between pride and lying. Satan fell because of his pride and became the *father of lies*. (John 8:44) *God does not lie*. Numbers 23:1 says that "*God is not a man, that He should lie*"; Hebrews 6:18 says "*It is impossible for God to lie*". John 14:6 - Jesus is "*the way, the truth, and the life.*"

Don't be fooled for lying takes many forms: deception, exaggeration, misrepresentation, dishonesty. Why do we lie? We lie because we are unreliable and untrustworthy. Proverbs 25:19 "*Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*" We can't trust a disjointed foot to perform like a well foot. A broken tooth will be unreliable and painful. Bite into something hard or let something cold come in contact with the broken tooth and you experience pain. We lie because of fear - fear of men, fear of not measuring up, and fear of being found out.

Satan "*was a murderer from the beginning.*" John 8:44 Our generation is becoming ingrained with the idea that human flesh is of no value. God hates hands that shed innocent blood; harms

others without cause or provocation. Genesis 9:6 *prohibits shedding blood because people are the image of God.*

Devising Wicked Plans: God hates a heart that devises wicked plans. That is when folks plan out evil. King Ahab and Jezebel schemed, lied, cheated, and killed Naboth to get control of his vineyard. Judas schemed how he could betray the Lord Jesus. A young person planning out how he can cheat on a test without getting caught. A man and woman planning out how they can deceive their mates so they can be alone with each other. God hates it!

Running To Evil: He hates feet that run to evil. A person who runs to evil does not need his arm twisted. At just a suggestion, he is ready to yield to sin and engages in the swift and eager actions of the person to do some harm.

False Witness: A false witness is one who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. The LORD hates perjury and a lying witness. This is a direct violation of the law (Exodus 20:16 *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor*).

Dissension: Dissension is best described as one who spreads discord and division among his brothers. He who troubles the peace of a family, of a village, of the state by lies and misrepresentations, and strives to turn men's minds against their brothers and sisters. No man in whose heart the fear of God prevails and rules, can ever sow discord among his brethren. These seven things the LORD hates.

WARNING AGAINST ADULTERY

²⁰ My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. ²¹ Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. ²² When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. ²³ For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life, ²⁴ keeping you from your neighbor's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.

Proverbs 6:20-35 speaks of the value of wisdom and the consequences of foolish choices, especially in the context of sexual temptation and immorality. We ask, how can we cultivate a healthy and respectful attitude towards the opposite sex and avoid behaviors that could cause harm?

In Proverbs 1:8-9, Solomon is giving his son that "man to man" talk dreaded by young men. King Solomon says to his son that God never intended young people to be independent of their parents. Instruction from parents is valuable. The scripture says bind them continually on your heart because the heart is the "control center" of our being and needs nourishment by the Word of God.

The Bible teaches us to memorize scripture the way an ant gathers food in summer: because it is so valuable and will be needed in the winter months. "[The ant] prepares her food in the summer, and gathers her provision in the harvest" ([Proverbs 6:8](#)). Memorizing scripture is not a discipline for its own sake. Scriptures are a treasure and are needed to help escape a sinful attitude and live a life that glorifies God. Proverbs 6:23 says for the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light.

Proverbs 6:24 says, to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. The evil woman is on the prowl and she knows how to say the words you want to hear! All sins are rooted in love of pleasure. Therefore be watchful. And I would add that many of these sins are rooted in the pleasure of "love", although the vapid, empty, selfish, self-serving, narcissistic love that the world espouses. Look out! Don't be deceived.

²⁵ Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes. ²⁶ For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife preys on your very life. ²⁷ Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? ²⁸ Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? ²⁹ So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. ³⁰ People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. ³¹ Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. ³² But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. ³³ Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away.

Proverbs 6:25 says do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids. Solomon here gives our Lord's own rule ([Matt. 5:28](#)). Resist lust the moment you encounter it in your heart. 'The fire of lust kindles the fire of hell.

Verse 27-28 says can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? 6:28 Or can a man walk on

hot coals and his feet not be scorched? Nothing can discourage a man who had decided to go this way. Therefore, he should not expect to willfully sin, and then escape the punishment.

Proverbs 6:29 So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife. Whoever touches her will not go unpunished. Just as when a man touches fire or hot coals, he is burned, so too will he be scorched for touching the fiery coals of sexual infidelity. King David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), had first-hand experience with this proverb (see Nathan's rebuke and prophecy in 2 Samuel 12: 9 - 10).

Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry; 31 But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; He must give all the substance of his house. 32 The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it.

Stealing food is a sin but pales in comparison to another man's wife! Here is no excuse or latitude for the thief. He must make full restitution. His temptation renders him an object rather of pity than of scorn—Men do not despise him.

If a thief who is less despised than an adulterer experiences such thorough retribution, should the adulterer except less? But the sin of the adulterer produces no sympathy. There is a loss of "common sense" when one enters into an adulterous relationship as David did (and remember he would have probably been a mature man in his late 40's or early 50's, so it's not as if he did not know better - the point is that if this [Acts 13:22](#) man could fall so could you and so could I given the right set of seductive circumstances.

³⁴ For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. ³⁵ He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse a bribe, however great it is.

The tremendous passions of jealousy and rage shut out all forgiveness. No amount of money can "buy off" the offended husband. No compensation will make up for the inappropriate behavior. Let's seek divine strength to "watch and pray" continually; and while we "think we stand, to take heed lest we fall."

