



STRUCTURAL INSIGHTS: PROVERBS 3:1-10



Pr 3:1 My son,
do not forget my law,
But let your heart keep my commands;

2 For length of days and long life And peace
they will add to you.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart,

4 *And* so find favor and high esteem
In the sight of God
and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

8 It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

EXPLANATION

Five Key Proverbial Principles (Proverbs 3:1-10)

- I. Life (Proverbs 3:1-2): Quantity & Quality
- II. Relationships (Proverbs 3:3-4): Favor & Esteem
- III. Direction (Proverbs 3:5-6): The Lord leads
- IV. Spiritual (Proverbs 3:7-8): Refreshment
- V. Financial (Proverbs 3:9-10): Priority and Generosity

I. Life (Proverbs 3:1-2): Quantity & Quality

Pr 3:1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; **2** For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.

Key Words:

- **Forget:** make insignificant, wipe from memory, fall into oblivion (relational)
- **My law (torah):** Mom and Dad's teaching the truth from God's word
- **Commands:** Specific instructions of the Do's and Don't
- **Keep:** guard and protect something significant, keep in memory (relational)
- **Length of Days:** extending the number of days
- **Long Life:** extending the years of life
- **Peace (shalom):** peace, prosperity, health, security
- **Add:** increase in quantity

Proverbial Principle "Live long and prosper": Those who obey God, and His Word will "in general" will experience a longer life ("length of days and long life") and better quality of life (peace).

- OT Example:
 - **Negative: Ex 31:14** You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.
- NT Insights:
 - **Negative: 1 Co 11:28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **30** For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. **31** For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

- **Negative: 1 Jn 5:16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. **17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

Law & Commands: In the Old Testament, when these are paired together and applied, they reveal faith, love, and obedience to God and are rewarded with blessing. When they are rejected, they reveal unbelief and receive punishment and condemnation.

Implication: The parent's teaching primarily comprises of God's Word to tutor the children in three areas: learn what is *true* (righteousness), learn how to *think* (perceive), learn how to *traverse* (receive) (Proverbs 1:2-3). You are instructing your children, grandchildren and yourself with the Word of God to have faith in God so that one's character and conduct are transformed by God and His Word.

- **Ga 3:24** Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- **Note:** The "will of God" is a general term to capture all of God's commands for us which we seek obey in the Spirit.

Important: Two ways to receive righteousness:

- Righteousness by Law → You must perfectly obey 100%
- Righteousness by Faith → You trust in Christ's 100% perfect obedience
 - **Ro 10:4** For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. **5** For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "*The man who does those things shall live by them.*" **6** But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "*Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'*" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) **7** or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8** But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to*

shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "*whoever calls* on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

- Christians and the 10 Commandments:
 - **Ro 13:8** Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there *is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.
 - The church is not obligated to keep the ceremonial laws (sacrificial system, clean and unclean distinctions) nor are we under Israel's theocratic civil laws (stoning sabbath breakers and adulterers). However, the moral laws are still applicable as expressed in the Law of Christ.
 - **Example: Ex 22:1** "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.
 - **Principle: Stealing and Consequences**
 - **1 Pe 4:15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.
 - **Eph 4:28** Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
 - **Ro 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. **15** What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

Principle: Teach them to love and obey God and His Word

Question: What sin and disobedience can you repent of immediately and with the Lord's help change?

II. Relationships (Proverbs 3:3-4): Favor & Esteem

Pr 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, **4** *And* so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

Key Words:

- **Mercy:** to give favor/love toward another that is not earned or deserved
- **Truth:** honesty, integrity, reliability, trustworthiness
- **Forsake:** abandon, leave behind, neglect
- **Bind (Command):** place upon, fasten upon, join
- **Write (Command):** engrave, mark, make a record (memorize, conviction)
- **Favor:** pleasing in the sight of others
- **High Esteem:** good reputation, integrity of character

Proverbial Principle "Win Friends and Influence People": We are to be merciful and honest to others with compassion and integrity like our Lord Jesus Christ. When you combine these two traits with law and commandments, there is a wonderful balance of truth and grace. This is illustrated by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

- **Jn 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - Women at the Well (John 4:1-26)
 - Paul and the Thessalonians
 - **1 Th 2:7** But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. **8** So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. **9** For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. **10** You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; **11** as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, **12** that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Question: What is the idea behind "bind them around your neck"?

Answer: In this context, it implies yielding, and being led by mercy and truth, informed by the law and commands.

- **Idea Repeated: Pr 6:20** My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. **21** Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.
- **NT Contrast: Ac 15:10** Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Question: What is the idea behind "write them on the tablet of your heart"?

Answer: Learn, apply, and develop convictions of how to be merciful and reliable with God's Word.

- **New Covenant: Je 31:33** But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- **Contrast: Je 17:1** "The sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond *it is* engraved On the tablet of their heart, And on the horns of your altars,
- **Example: Ge 39:4** So Joseph found favor in his (Potipher) sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority.
 - **How? Ge 39:2** The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. **3** And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.
- **NT Insight:**
 - **Ac 2:41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising

God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Connection:

- The law & commands are inseparable from mercy & truth
- "Forget not" and "let not" stress the passionate pursuit of loving God and loving others.
 - **Contrast: Ho 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
- Mercy and truth toward others result in favor & high esteem with God and man
 - **Ro 14:16** Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; **17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** For he who serves Christ in these things *is acceptable to God and approved by men.* **19** Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
- Godliness can lead to persecution
 - **2 Ti 3:10** But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - **Beware:** It is the godly message and godly manner that should cause the persecution. They persecute because they hate the light to reveals their sin.
 - **Jn 3:20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- **Job 24:13** "There are those who rebel against the light; They do not know its ways Nor abide in its paths.
- **1 Pe 2:11** Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, **12** having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Question: Who in your life have you failed to show sufficient mercy? How can you correct this immediately?

III. Direction (Proverbs 3:5-6): The Lord leads you

Pr 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Key Words:

- **Trust:** rely, place your confidence (in the Lord)
- **Lean:** depend, rely, "you are in peril if the object of trust fails"
 - **Note:** these words are nearly identical in meaning, the difference in meaning is the object relied upon
- **Understanding:** insight into a situation leading to a decision and direction
- **Direct:** a path with purpose and direction, rather than wandering directionless
- **Path:** conduct of your life's journey, how you think, speak, and live

Proverbial Principles "In God we Trust": Those who place their confidence in the Lord and His Wisdom through faith and obedience are given a Biblical path to pursue.

- OT Example
 - **Positive: Ps 9:10** And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.
 - **Je 17:7** "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. **8** For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

- **Negative: Je 2:13** "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *And* hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.
 - **Pr 25:19** Confidence in an unfaithful *man* in time of trouble *Is like* a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.
- NT Insights:
 - **Eph 1:13** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
 - **Php 3:3** For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
- Implication:
 - **Trust:** The emphasis in this passage is a faith that relies on the Lord to direct your decisions. Solomon challenges you to do the Lord's will according to His Word rather than your wisdom and experience.
 - **All Ways:** No compartmentalization! Every area of your life must be sanctified by the Lord and His Word.
 - **Pr 16:3** Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.
 - **Php 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. **9** The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.
 - **Ro 8:5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Application: Begin each day asking the Lord for awareness and wisdom in all decision making (minor and major) and plead with the Lord to help you bring every decision to Him and allow His Word to adjust your thinking and ask for courage to obey fully.

Beware the Hinderances to Obedience:

- Ignorant
 - **Ro 11:25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
- Immature
 - **Heb 5:13** For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

- Believe a lie
 - **Ga 3:1** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

- Impatience
 - **Jas 1:4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- Do not follow through
 - **Jas 1:12** Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- Lust and pride
 - **1 Jn 2:16** For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Question: What area of your life needs a new spiritual direction?

IV.Spiritual (Proverbs 3:7-8): Refreshment

Pr 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. **8** It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

Key Words:

- **Wise:** prideful in thinking, exalting self
- **Fear:** respect, reverence, in holy fear
- **Depart:** put off, put away, distance oneself
- **Health:** healing, and vigor
- **Flesh:** literally 'naval,' internal organs
- **Strength:** refreshment, restorative, liquid
- Bones: skeleton

Proverbial principle "Get Fit": "Being wise" in your own eyes is welcoming pride. Such arrogance leads one to embrace sin with disastrous consequences for one's spiritual walk. The only antidote to pride is humility!

In the Old Testament there is a clear connection between "flesh" and "bone" and sin:

- OT Example:
 - **Ps 6:2** Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I *am* weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.
 - **Ps 32:3** When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.
 - **Ps 38:3** *There is* no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor *any* health in my bones Because of my sin.
 - **La 3:4** He has aged my flesh and my skin, And broken my bones.

Implication: Spiritual disobedience has consequences to the whole person, physically and spiritually.

- NT Insights:
 - **Eph 5:29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. **30** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

- **Note:** This has profound implications! Christ Himself cares for us by "nourishing" us through His word, and "cherishes" us by providing for our needs, physically and spiritually.

The Insidiousness of Pride:

- **Pharoah: Ex 15:9** The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.'
- **Pr 26:12** Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.
- **Is 5:21** *Woe to those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!
- **Ro 11:25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
- **Deacon: 1 Ti 3:6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.
- **Devil: Is 14:12** "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **13** For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' **15** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
- **Devil: Eze 28:12** "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **13** You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. **14** "You

were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. **15** You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. **16** "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. **17** "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. **18** "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. **19** All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And *shall be* no more forever." ' "

- **Pr 16:18** Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.
- **2 Co 11:3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

A Check List for Diagnosing Pride

(Excerpt from Neil T. Anderson, Discipleship Counseling, p 301)

- Having a stronger desire to do my will than God's will
- Leaning too much on my own understanding and experience rather than seeking God's guidance through prayer and His Word
- Relying on my own strengths and abilities instead of depending on the power of the Holy Spirit
- Being more concerned about controlling others than developing self-control
- Being too busy doing important things to take time to do little things for others
- Having a tendency to think I have no needs
- Finding it hard to admit when I am wrong
- Being more concerned about pleasing people than pleasing God
- Being concerned about getting the credit I feel I deserve
- Thinking I am more humble, spiritual, religious or devoted than others
- Being driven to obtain recognition by obtaining degrees, titles or positions

- Often feeling that my needs are more important than another person's needs
- Considering myself better than others because of my academic, artistic or athletic abilities and accomplishments
- Other ways I have thought more highly of myself than I should

Question: In what tangible/practical ways can you put off pride and put on humility?

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

V. Financial (Proverbs 3:9-10): Priority and Generosity

Pr 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Key Words:

- **Honor:** distinguish, show significance and priority, glorify
- **Possessions:** material wealth
- **Firstfruits:** that which comes first and is best
- **Increase:** harvest, what was produced
- **New Wine:** grape juice, beginning to ferment, not significantly alcoholic
 - **Ho 4:11** "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.
 - **Ac 2:13** Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."
 - **Note:** Not a "strong, intoxicating drink"

Proverbial Principle "Money Talks": God's request for a portion of your possessions is a protection against greed and covetousness as well as to cultivate gratitude and generosity. It should result in a proper stewardship with the capacity to share and help others.

- OT Example:
 - Initial Principles:

- **Nu 18:21** "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.
- **Dt 14:22** "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. **23** And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. **24** But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, **25** then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. **26** And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. **27** You shall not forsake the Levite who *is* within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you. **28** "At the end of *every* third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store *it* up within your gates. **29** And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who *are* within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.
- **Mal 3:8** "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it. **11** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; **12** And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.
 - **Note:** The old Testament tithe was obligatory under the mosaic law.

- NT insights:
 - Giving Principles
 - **Regular Interval: 1 Co 16:2** On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.
 - **Needful: 1 Jn 3:17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
 - **Responsible: 1 Ti 5:8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
 - **Confidential: Mt 6:3** But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.
 - **Sacrificial: 2 Co 8:2** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.
 - **Proportional: 2 Co 8:3** For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing,
 - **Worshipful/Theological: 2 Co 8:5** And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.
 - **Gospel: Philippians 4:15–19 15** You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; **16** for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift*

more than once for my needs. **17** Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. **18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. **19** And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- **1 Co 9:14** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.
 - **1 Ti 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. **18** For the Scripture says, "*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*" and, "*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*"
- **Rewardable: 2 Co 9:6** But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
 - **Purposeful & Cheerful: 2 Co 9:7** *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
 - **Note:** This list is not intended to be exhaustive

Warnings:

- **Pr 11:24** There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, But it *leads* to poverty. **25** The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.
- **Pr 23:5** Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.
- **Ec 5:10** He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity. **11** When goods increase, They

increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see *them* with their eyes?

- **1 Ti 6:6** Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Implication:

- Generosity flows from our love for God and love for others and keeps us from loving this world and its wares. Additionally, generosity flows from a proper stewardship of time, talents, and treasures.

Question: What ways can you improve on your stewardship that will result in more generosity toward God and others?