

Love, Truth, Friendship, Wealth or Wisdom Do Proverbs Point The Way?

The Book of Proverbs is a treasure trove of ancient wisdom, nestled in the Old Testament of the Bible (and many other teachings of mankind). Traditionally attributed to **King Solomon**, it's designed to offer practical guidance for living a life rooted in integrity, humility, and reverence for the Almighty.

□ What It's All About

- **Wisdom vs. Folly:** The central theme is the contrast between wise and foolish living. Wisdom is portrayed as a path to life, while folly leads to ruin.
- **The Fear of the Almighty:** This phrase appears often and means having deep respect and awe for the Almighty—it's described as the beginning of true wisdom (Proverbs 1:7).
- **Practical Advice:** Covers everything from relationships, speech, work ethic, money, parenting, and leadership to moral character.

□ Structure of the Book

- **Chapters 1–9:** Extended poems and speeches urging the pursuit of wisdom, often personified as “Lady Wisdom” calling out to humanity.
- **Chapters 10–29:** Hundreds of short, punchy sayings—classic proverbs—on everyday life.
- **Chapters 30–31:** Wisdom from Agur (son of Jakeh, described as “an inspired utterance”, yet biblical text offers no further biographical details about him) and King Lemuel’s mother, including the famous passage about the “virtuous woman” in Proverbs 31.

💡 Why It Still Matters

- It's not just ancient advice—it's a **moral compass** for navigating (both past and) modern life.
- Many popular sayings like “Pride goes before a fall” and “Iron sharpens iron” come straight from Proverbs.

Proverbs About Love

- “Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers all wrongs.” — Proverbs 10:12
- “May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth—a loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always; may you ever be captivated by her love.” — Proverbs 5:18–19
- “Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.” — Proverbs 15:17

Traditional Proverbs on Love

- “It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.” — Alfred Lord Tennyson
- “Love is blind.”
- “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.”
- “All’s fair in love and war.”
- “Love conquers all.”
- “Where there is love, there is life.” — Mahatma Gandhi
- “Home is where the heart is.”
- “To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.” — David Viscott
- “Love makes the world go round.”
- “A life without love is like a year without summer.”
- “The course of true love never did run smooth.” — William Shakespeare
- “Love and eggs are best when they are fresh.” — Russian proverb
- “Love lives in cottages as well as in courts.” — English proverb
- “You can’t hurry love.”

Proverbs About Truth and/or Honesty

The Book of Proverbs repeatedly upholds truth and honesty as cornerstones of a good life. Below are key passages that highlight these themes.

Proverbs on Truth

- “The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.” — Proverbs 10:32
- “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.” — Proverbs 11:3
- “The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked bring shame and disgrace.” — Proverbs 13:5
- “A truthful witness saves lives, but one who breathes out lies is deceitful.” — Proverbs 14:25
- “The justice of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.” — Proverbs 11:6

Proverbs on Honesty

- “Lying lips are an abomination to the Almighty, but those who act faithfully are his delight.” — Proverbs 12:22
- “Honest scales and balances are the Almighty’s; all the weights in the bag are of his making.” — Proverbs 16:11
- “Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.” — Proverbs 19:1
- “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.” — Proverbs 10:9
- “A man’s own folly leads to his ruin, yet his heart rages against the Almighty.” — Proverbs 19:3 (underscoring the folly of denying honest reality)
- “An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.” — Proverbs 24:26

Each of these verses underscores that truthfulness and upright conduct not only honor the Almighty but also bring security, deliverance, and life to those who practice them.

Proverbs About Friendship

There are several beautiful verses in Proverbs that speak directly to friendship. Here are a few that stand out:

- **Proverbs 17:17** — *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."* This one highlights the constancy of true friendship, especially during tough times.
- **Proverbs 18:24** — *"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."* A powerful reminder that some friendships can be deeper than family ties.
- **Proverbs 27:9** — *"Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice."* A poetic way to describe how meaningful and uplifting a friend's words can be.
- **Proverbs 27:17** — *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* This speaks to the mutual growth and refinement that happens in strong friendships.

Each of these verses offers a different lens on what makes friendship so valuable—loyalty, support, growth, and joy.

Likewise, Proverbs about friendship span cultures and centuries, offering timeless wisdom on loyalty, trust, and companionship. Here's a curated list that includes more **biblical proverbs** from the Book of Proverbs and **traditional sayings** from around the world:

More Biblical Proverbs on Friendship

- *"Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?"* — **Proverbs 20:6**
- *"Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."* — **Proverbs 27:6**

Traditional Proverbs About Friendship

These are well-known sayings from various cultures:

- *"A friend in need is a friend indeed."*
- *"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."*
- *"A friend to all is a friend to none."*
- *"Birds of a feather flock together."*
- *"False friends are worse than open enemies."*
- *"Friendship is like money, easier made than kept."*
- *"The best mirror is an old friend."*
- *"One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives."*
- *"Friends are the family you choose."*
- *"A sweet friendship refreshes the soul."*

- *"A single rose can be my garden... a single friend, my world."*
- *"Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief."*
- *"Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow."*
- *"Friendship is one soul in two bodies."*
- *"The only way to have a friend is to be one."*

Proverbs About Money and Wealth

Let's explore the wisdom-packed verses from the **Book of Proverbs** that focus on **money, wealth, and financial principles**. These proverbs offer timeless insights into earning, giving, saving, and the dangers of greed.

- *"Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness."* — **Proverbs 23:4**
- *"Greedy people try to get rich quick but don't realize they're headed for poverty."* — **Proverbs 28:22**
- *"Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth."* — **Proverbs 10:4**
- *"Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow."* — **Proverbs 13:11**
- *"The blessing of the Almighty brings wealth, without painful toil for it."* — **Proverbs 10:22**
- *"Wealth is a crown for the wise, but the folly of fools yields only folly."* — **Proverbs 14:24**
- *"A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous."* — **Proverbs 13:22**
- *"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."* — **Proverbs 22:7**
- *"Honor the Almighty with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."* — **Proverbs 3:9**
- *"Better a little with the fear of the Almighty than great wealth with turmoil."* — **Proverbs 15:16**
- *"Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses."* — **Proverbs 28:27**
- *"One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty."* — **Proverbs 22:16**

Traditional Proverbs About Money & Wealth

These come from various cultures and traditions:

- *"Money often costs too much."* — Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *"Time is money. Don't waste it."*
- *"Money is a good servant but a bad master."*
- *"Money talks, wealth whispers."*
- *"Money can't buy happiness."*
- *"A fool and his money are soon parted."*
- *"Easy come, easy go."*
- *"The lack of money is the root of all evil."*

- *"Where there's muck, there's brass."* (British saying — "brass" means money)
- *"Don't put all your eggs in one basket."*
- *"Save for a rainy day."*
- *"He who pays the piper calls the tune."*
- *"It's not what you earn, it's what you save."*

Proverbs About Marriage

Happy wife, happy life? Proverbs about marriage—whether from the Bible or traditional wisdom—offer rich insights into love, commitment, and the quirks of living together. Here's a curated list divided into **biblical** and **traditional** proverbs:

Biblical Proverbs on Marriage

From the Book of Proverbs:

- *"He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Almighty."* — **Proverbs 18:22**
- *"A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones."* — **Proverbs 12:4**
- *"Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife."* — **Proverbs 21:9**
- *"House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Almighty."* — **Proverbs 19:14**
- *"A virtuous woman is more precious than rubies."* — **Proverbs 31:10**
- *"Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value."* — **Proverbs 31:11**
- *"She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."* — **Proverbs 31:12**
- *"A wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."* — **Proverbs 14:1**

Traditional Proverbs About Marriage

From cultures around the world:

- *"Happy wife, happy life."*
- *"Love is blind, but marriage restores its sight."* — Jewish Proverb
- *"Marriage is the sunset of love."* — French Proverb
- *"A happy man marries the girl he loves; a happier man loves the girl he marries."* — Nigerian Proverb
- *"Marriage is like a groundnut: you have to crack it to see what is inside."* — Ghanaian Proverb
- *"Love is a sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock."* — Jewish Proverb
- *"Marriage is the only war in which you sleep with the enemy."* — Mexican Proverb
- *"Marriage halves our griefs, doubles our joys, and quadruples our expenses."* — English Proverb
- *"One who marries for love alone will have bad days but good nights."* — Egyptian Proverb

- *"The quarrel of lovers is the renewal of love."* — Moroccan Proverb

Proverbs About Building a Home Together

A good home is built not just with bricks, but with **wisdom, love, and spiritual grounding**.

Likewise, building a good home *with someone else* is a beautiful blend of love, wisdom, teamwork, and faith. Here's a collection of **traditional** and **biblical proverbs** that speak to the heart of creating a nurturing, lasting home together:

- *"Bricks and mortar make a house, but the laughter of children makes a home."* — **Irish Proverb**
- *"A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams."* — **Unknown**
- *"It is not the fire in the fireplace which warms the house, but the couple who get along well."* — **Malagasy Proverb**
- *"A hundred men may make an encampment, but it takes a woman to make a home."* — **Chinese Proverb**
- *"Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in that action."* — **Mother Teresa**
- *"A good home must be made, not bought."* — **Joyce Maynard**
- *"Home is not where you live but where they understand you."* — **Christian Morgenstern**
- *"The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home."* — **Confucius**

The **Book of Proverbs** doesn't directly contrast *building a house with your soulmate* versus *acquiring one built by someone else*, but it does offer rich metaphors that lean toward the value of **intentional, wisdom-driven homebuilding**.

These verses from the Book of Proverbs and other scriptures emphasize wisdom, unity, and love in the home:

- **Proverbs 15:16** — *"Better a little with the fear of the Almighty than great wealth with turmoil."* This verse suggests that wealth can bring harm when attention is not paid to what is most important.
- **Proverbs 3:33** — *"The Almighty's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous."* Follow the correct path to get home safely.
- **Joshua 24:15** — *"As for me and my household, we will serve the Almighty."*
- **Proverbs 24:3–4** — *"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."* This verse suggests that a home built with care, wisdom, and shared understanding becomes a place of richness—not just materially, but spiritually and emotionally.
- **Proverbs 14:1** — *"The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."* It highlights the active role of a partner in shaping the home, implying that building together leads to strength and stability.

- **Psalm 127:1** — *"Unless the Almighty builds the house, the builders labor in vain."* This verse underscores the importance of divine partnership in the process—when two people build with purpose and faith, the result is enduring.
- **Joshua 24:15** — *"As for me and my household, we will serve the Almighty."* It reflects the unity and shared values that make a house a true home.

□ Why Building Together Matters

While these verses don't explicitly compare building vs. acquiring, the **imagery of construction**—laying foundations, filling rooms, establishing walls—suggests that **the process itself is transformative**. Building a home together:

- Fosters **shared purpose and teamwork**
- Creates **emotional investment and pride**
- Reflects **mutual growth and spiritual alignment**

In contrast, acquiring a pre-built home might lack that depth of shared experience and intentionality.

Our Home, Our Covenant

Building a home together is more than bricks and mortar—it's a journey of shared dreams, faith, and steadfast love.

Pillars of Our Home

- **Wisdom** "By wisdom a house is built..." (Proverbs 24:3) We will seek insight in every decision, big or small.
- **Understanding** "...through understanding it is established." (Proverbs 24:4) We will listen deeply and honor each other's hearts.
- **Knowledge** "...its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." (Proverbs 24:4) We will share what we learn—about life, faith, and one another.
- **Active Partnership** "The wise woman builds her house..." (Proverbs 14:1) We will work side by side, hand in hand, celebrating every milestone.
- **Faith & Foundation** "Unless the Almighty builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1) We will root our home in devotion to the Almighty and one another.
- **Joy & Hospitality** "Bricks and mortar make a house, but the laughter of children makes a home." (Irish Proverb) We will welcome friends, family, and strangers with open arms and open hearts.

Promise Each Other

1. I promise to lay each brick with care, honoring your dreams as if they were my own.
2. I promise to fill each room with patience—seeing you not only for who you are today, but who you will become.
3. I promise to build our foundation on faith, trusting that the Almighty brings growth and will strengthen our union.

4. I promise to guard our home against pride and greed, choosing generosity and humility in every season.
5. I promise to celebrate our harvests—big and small—with thanksgiving, knowing our greatest riches are unseen.
6. I promise to grow alongside you, sharpening our minds and spirits “as iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17).

Together, watch our home rise—not as property possessed, but as a living testament to shared purpose, unwavering faith, and a love that builds forever.

Wealth or Wisdom?

Given the option of one or the other, but only one, which should everyone seek out more; wealth or wisdom?

Choosing Between Wealth and Wisdom

When faced with the choice of pursuing either wealth or wisdom—but only one—both Scripture and the weight of human experience point decisively toward wisdom.

Why Wisdom Surpasses Wealth

- “How much better to get wisdom than gold, and to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver!” (Proverbs 16:16)
- “Take my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than choicest gold, for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.” (Proverbs 8:10–11)
- “Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.” (Proverbs 3:16)

These verses underscore that while wealth can buy comforts, it can’t purchase true insight, character, or fulfillment. Wisdom grants the discernment to navigate life’s challenges, build healthy relationships, and steward any resources—material or spiritual—for lasting good.

The Perils of Chasing Wealth Alone

- Wealth is fleeting: “In the blink of an eye it disappears, for suddenly it sprouts wings and flies away like an eagle toward heaven.” (Proverbs 23:5)
- Riches can foster pride and false security: “A rich man’s wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall *in his imagination*.” (Proverbs 18:11)

Without the guiding lamp of wisdom, even great riches can lead to ruin, strained relationships, and a restless heart.

Verdict

When pressed to choose only one, seek wisdom. It outlasts gold, equips you to make sound decisions, and ultimately shapes a life of purpose and peace. Wealth, and the pursuit of it, often leads to peril and you can't take it with you when visiting the Almighty.

The pursuit of wisdom rarely results in any harm and is smiled upon by the Almighty; so it is best to spend as much time as possible cultivating it instead.