

WISDOM

A young man asked me recently, "Pastor Chris, is wisdom the most important thing I can ask God for?" My answer was, "Put it this way... If you don't possess it you will never know whether you are being wise or being foolish." Proverbs 4:7 in The Message Bible expresses it nicely, *"Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom!"*

Wisdom is an absolute necessity for living in the realm of honour, success and prosperity. In the same passage in Proverbs 4 it says, *"Never walk away from Wisdom—she guards your life; love her—she keeps her eye on you..... Throw your arms around her—believe me, you won't regret it; never let her go—she'll make your life glorious"* (Verses 6, 8 - The Message).

Notice that wisdom (a) guards your life, (b) watches over you, and (c) makes your life glorious. However, there are three things you are required to do, (1) love her, (2) don't neglect her, (3) embrace and hold onto her. These three things are conveyed in three simple words, LOVE - HONOUR - TREASURE. It's the three things every healthy relationship thrives on.

In Proverbs, wisdom is always referred to in the "feminine." She is a lady through and through! If she's not loved, honoured and treasured you will never make her happy, and an unhappy woman is not going to make your life glorious. Therefore, wisdom is not tough like a man - who will just get on with it, no matter what! Rather, she must be nurtured through love, honour and respect. She must feel treasured and appreciated at all times. To have a healthy and prosperous relationship with wisdom, you must know exactly who she is (a perfect lady) and how important it is to keep her close to you.

The rewards of wisdom are great, so it's worth the effort. Here are but a few.... **Happiness** (Proverbs 3:13); **Long life, riches and honour** (Proverbs 3:16); **Peace** (Proverbs 3:17); **Safety** (Proverbs 3:23) **Rest** (Proverbs 3:24) **Freedom from Fear** (Proverbs 3:25) and **Promotion** (Proverbs 4:8).