

## Proverbs 16:1–33 – Wisdom from the Lord

### God's Guidance in Our Hearts (v.1)

*"The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord."*

God shapes our hearts even when we don't notice it. He gives us desires and words at just the right moment. Sometimes, when speaking encouragement or wisdom to someone, we may realize afterward that the Lord Himself gave us those words. He is actively at work, planting His truth within us.

**Personal Application:** Trust that God is working in your heart today. When you feel unsure, remember that His Spirit is shaping your words and guiding your steps.

### God Knows Our Motives (v.2)

*"All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits."*

We are good at justifying ourselves. We can excuse almost anything by giving reasons, but God looks deeper. He sees not only what we do but also *why* we do it.

**Personal Application:** Instead of excusing your actions, invite God to examine your motives. Ask, *"Lord, is this pleasing to You?"*

### Resting in His Care (v.3)

*"Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established."*

Do your best, then entrust the results to God. He doesn't expect perfection—only faithfulness.

**Personal Application:** Release the pressure of performance. Commit your work to God, and rest in the confidence that He is using your efforts for His glory.

### God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility (v.4)

*"The Lord has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom."*

This does not mean God creates people wicked, but that He created all people, and some choose wickedness. God has also ordained the justice that will fall upon those who reject Him.

**Personal Application:** Trust that God will bring justice in His time. Instead of worrying about evil, focus on living faithfully.

### The Dangers of Pride (v.5, 18–19)

*"Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord... Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."*

Pride is destructive. God opposes arrogance, but He lifts up the humble.

**Personal Application:** Choose humility daily. Walk with a teachable heart, and God Himself will honor you in due time.

### **Mercy, Truth, and Reverence (v.6)**

*“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.”*

God’s mercy and truth bring forgiveness. Reverence for Him leads us to turn from sin.

**Personal Application:** Live in awe of God, not in fear of punishment. His mercy frees you, and His truth directs your steps.

### **Living to Please God (v.7)**

*“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

The true measure of life is not “Is this right or wrong?” but “Does this please God?” If you choose to please God, you will do what is right.

**Personal Application:** Let pleasing God be your standard in decision-making. If you live to honor Him, He can bring peace into even the hardest relationships.

### **God Directs Our Steps (v.9, 33)**

*“A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps... The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.”*

We make plans, but God’s hand is on the outcome. He is never caught off guard.

**Personal Application:** Hold your plans loosely. Trust God with the interruptions and redirections of life. They may be His way of protecting or guiding you.

### **Wisdom and Understanding (v.16, 21–23)**

*“How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”*

Wisdom and understanding are treasures greater than wealth. They give us compassion and patience with others.

**Personal Application:** Ask God to give you understanding in your relationships. Seek to “sit where others sit” before judging them.

### **The Power of Words (v.24, 27–28)**

*“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”*

Words can heal or destroy. Kind words bring life; harsh words can break friendships.

**Personal Application:** Be intentional with your speech. Speak life into others today with words of encouragement, blessing, and truth.

### **Self-Control (v.32)**

*“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”*

True strength is not found in overpowering others but in mastering yourself.

**Personal Application:** Ask God to help you control your temper, your tongue, and your impulses. Victory within is greater than victory without.

### **Closing Reflection**

Proverbs 16 reminds us that God is active in our lives—guiding our hearts, directing our steps, weighing our motives, and shaping our character. Pride brings destruction, but humility, mercy, truth, and understanding bring life and peace. Our part is to trust Him, walk in reverence, and let His Spirit shape us into people who live to please Him.

**Takeaway:** God cares about more than just what we do—He cares about why we do it. Live with humility, speak with kindness, and trust Him with every plan.