

# The Book of Proverbs

## Chapter 15

### *How to Live Wisely*

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## Proverbs 15:1

### *How to Live Wisely*

**(Pro 15:1 ISV\*) ¶ A gentle response diverts anger,  
but a harsh statement incites fury.**

**(Pro 15:1 KJV+) A soft<sup>H7390</sup> answer<sup>H4617</sup> turneth away<sup>H7725</sup>  
wrath:<sup>H2534</sup>  
but grievous<sup>H6089</sup> words<sup>H1697</sup> stir up<sup>H5927</sup> anger.<sup>H639</sup>**

**(Pro 15:1 NASB) A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger.**

**(Pro 15:1 NIV) A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.**

Gentleness will disarm the most furious, but angry words will  
produce wrath.

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## Proverbs 15:1

**(Pro 15:1 NASB) A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger.**

### Five examples of turning away wrath:

1. Aaron (*Lev 10:16-20*)
2. Reubenites (*Josh 22:15-34*)
3. Gideon (*Judg 8:1-3; Prov 15:18*)
4. Hannah (*1 Sam 1:15-17*)
5. Abigail (*1 Sam 25:23*)

### Five examples of grievous words:

1. The Ephraimites (*Judg 12:1-4*)
2. Men of Israel and Judah (*2 Sam 19:41*)
3. Saul and Jonathan (*1 Sam 20:30-34*)
4. Rehoboam (*2 Chron 10:13-16*)
5. Eliphaz (*Job 22:5*)

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## Proverbs 15:2

**(Pro 15:2 ISV\*) ¶ The wise speak, presenting <sup>[Lit. *The*</sup>  
<sup>*tongues of the wise present]*</sup> knowledge appropriately,  
but fools spout foolishness.**

**(Pro 15:2 KJV+) The tongue<sup>H3956</sup> of the wise<sup>H2450</sup> useth  
knowledge<sup>H1847</sup> aright:<sup>H3190</sup>  
but the mouth<sup>H6310</sup> of fools<sup>H3684</sup> poureth out<sup>H5042</sup>  
foolishness.<sup>H200</sup>**

**(Pro 15:2 NASB) The tongue of the wise makes  
knowledge acceptable,  
But the mouth of fools spouts folly.**

**(Pro 15:2 NIV) The tongue of the wise commends  
knowledge,  
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.**

A wise man uses knowledge rightly, but a fool has no true  
sense of its proper use.

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## Proverbs 15:3

(Pro 15:3 ISV\*) ¶ The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
observing both the evil and the good.

(Pro 15:3 KJV+) The eyes<sup>H5869</sup> of the LORD<sup>H3068</sup> are in every<sup>H3605</sup> place,<sup>H4725</sup>  
beholding<sup>H6822</sup> the evil<sup>H7451</sup> and the good.<sup>H2896</sup>

(Pro 15:3 NASB) The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
Watching the evil and the good.

(Pro 15:3 NIV) The eyes of the LORD are everywhere,  
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

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## Proverbs 15:3

(Pro 15:3 NASB) The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
Watching the evil and the good.

### Three examples of God seeing evil:

1. Adam and Eve (*Gen 3*)
2. Achan and his sin (*Josh 7*)
3. Belshazzar (*Dan 5*)

### Three examples of God seeing good:

1. Abraham (*Gen 22*)
2. Joseph (*Gen 39*)
3. Jesus Christ (*Acts 10:38*)

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## Proverbs 15:4

(Pro 15:4 ISV\*) ¶ A gentle statement [*Lit. tongue*] is a tree of life,  
but perverted speech shatters the spirit.

(Pro 15:4 KJV+) A wholesome<sup>H4832</sup> tongue<sup>H3956</sup> is a tree<sup>H6086</sup> of life.<sup>H2416</sup>  
but perverseness<sup>H5558</sup> therein is a breach<sup>H7667</sup> in the spirit.<sup>H7307</sup>

(Pro 15:4 NASB) A soothing tongue is a tree of life,  
But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

(Pro 15:4 NIV) The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life,  
but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

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## Proverbs 15:4

(Pro 15:4 NASB) A soothing tongue is a tree of life,  
But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

A gentle tongue speaks truth and life, but a piercing tongue kills the soul.

The Tree of Lives (*Prov 15:4*) Hebrew: **±ets** (OT:6086) **chayyim** (OT:2416), tree of lives, because it produces constant and eternal life (*Prov 15:4; 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; Gen 2:9; 3:24; Rev 2:7; 22:2, 14*).

### Four Figurative Trees of Life:

1. Wisdom and understanding (*Prov 3:18*)
2. Fruit of the righteous (*Prov 11:30*)
3. Hope and desire fulfilled (*Prov 13:12*)
4. A wholesome tongue (*Prov 15:4*)

In these passages a literal tree of life is meant.

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## Sixteen Sources of Life:

1. The tree of life (see above)
2. The path of life (**Ps 16:11; Prov 5:6**)
3. The fountain of life (Ps 36:9; Prov 13:14; 14:27; Rev 7:17)
4. The well of life (**Prov 10:11; John 4:14**)
5. The way of life (**Prov 10:17; 15:24**)
6. The wellspring of life (**Prov 16:22**)
7. The bread of life (**John 6:35**)
8. The ways of life (**Acts 2:28**)
9. The Prince of Life (**Acts 3:15**)
10. The Spirit of life (**Rom 8:2; Rev 11**)
11. The savor of life (**2 Cor 2:16**)
12. The Word of life (**Phil 2:16; 1 John 1**)
13. The promise of life (**2 Tim 1:1**)
14. The hope of life (**Titus 3:7**)
15. The grace of life (**1 Peter 3:7**)
16. The water of life (**Rev 22:1,17**)

LIFE ?? :  
Physical > Temporal  
Spiritual > Eternal

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## (Forty-six Ways of a Fool (Prov 15:5))

1. He is jealous and envious (**1 Sam 26:21**).
2. He is insensible to danger (**2 Sam 3:33**).
3. He denies God (**Ps 14:1; 53:1**).
4. He is ignorant of the future (**Ps 49:10**).
5. He is ignorant of God (**Ps 92:6**).
6. He is a whoremonger (**Prov 7:22**).
7. He rejects God's commandments (**Prov 10:8**).
8. He chatters empty talk (**Prov 10:8,10**).
9. He utters slander (**Prov 10:18**).
10. He is a mischief maker (**Prov 10:23**).
11. He is conceited (**Prov 12:15**).
12. He proclaims foolishness (**Prov 12:23**).
13. He parades his own folly (**Prov 13:16**).
14. He is quick tempered (**Prov 14:17**).
15. He rages and lives in sin (**Prov 14:16**).
16. He pours out foolishness (**Prov 15:2**).

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## Proverbs 15:5

**(Pro 15:5 ISV\*) ¶ A fool rejects his father's instructions, but anyone who respects [Lit. keeps] reproof acts sensibly.**

**(Pro 15:5 KJV+) A fool<sup>H191</sup> despiseth<sup>H5006</sup> his father's<sup>H1</sup> instruction:<sup>H4148</sup> but he that regardeth<sup>H8104</sup> reproof<sup>H8433</sup> is prudent.<sup>H6191</sup>**

**(Pro 15:5 NASB) A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.**

**(Pro 15:5 NIV) A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.**

[fool] Hebrew: **°eviył** (OT:191) means lax or careless habit of mind and body; to be perverse, silly, and a fool.

Used 19 times in Proverbs (**Prov 1:7; 7:22; 10:8,10,14,21; 11:29; 12:15-16; 14:3,9; 15:5; 16:22; 17:28; 20:3; 24:7; 27:3,22; 29:9**).

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## (Forty-six Ways of a Fool (Prov 15:5))

17. He despises parents (**Prov 15:5**).
18. He is incapable of decent speech (**Prov 17:7**).
19. He does not profit by reproof (**Prov 17:10**).
20. He is insensible (**Prov 17:12**).
21. He is not interested in wisdom (**Prov 17:16**).
22. He is a shame to parents (**Prov 17:21**).
23. He is always dissatisfied (**Prov 17:24**).
24. He is contentious (**Prov 18:6**).
25. He has no delight in knowledge (**Prov 18:2**).
26. He is perverse in speech (**Prov 19:1**).
27. He cannot appreciate luxury and honor (**Prov 19:10; 26:1,8**).
28. He is a meddler (**Prov 20:3**).
29. He despises wisdom (**Prov 23:9**).
30. He is incapable of wisdom (**Prov 24:7**).
31. He gives foolish answers (**Prov 26:4-5**).

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## (Forty-six Ways of a Fool (Prov 15:5))

32. He is not dependable (**Prov 26:6**).
33. He is hopeless (**Prov 26:12**).
34. He is inseparable from folly (**Prov 26:11; 27:22**).
35. He trusts in himself (**Prov 28:26**).
36. He utters all he knows (**Prov 29:11**).
37. He is unbearable (**Prov 30:21-22**).
38. He walks in darkness (**Eccl 2:14**).
39. He destroys self (**Eccl 4:5; 10:12**).
40. He is light and frivolous (**Eccl 7:6**).
41. He acknowledges he is a fool (**Eccl 10:3**).
42. He is full of empty words (**Eccl 10:14**).
43. He has no foresight (**Matt 7:26; 25:2-8**).
44. He is covetous (**Luke 12:20-21**).
45. He constantly debates non-essentials (**2 Tim 2:23**).
46. He is ignorant (**1 Peter 2:15**).

## Proverbs 15:6

**(Pro 15:6 ISV\*) ¶ The righteous house is itself [The Heb. lacks *itself*] a great treasure, but within the revenue of the wicked calamity is at work.**

**(Pro 15:6 KJV+) In the house<sup>H1004</sup> of the righteous<sup>H6662</sup> is much<sup>H7227</sup> treasure:<sup>H2633</sup> but in the revenues<sup>H8393</sup> of the wicked<sup>H7563</sup> is trouble.<sup>H5916</sup>**

**(Pro 15:6 NASB) Great wealth is *in* the house of the righteous, But trouble is in the income of the wicked.**

**(Pro 15:6 NIV) The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble.**

[revenues] Hebrew: **tebuw<sup>ah</sup>** (OT:8393), increase (**Prov 15:6; 8:19; 16:8; Isa 23:3; Jer 12:13**).

The gain of the wicked is through crime and trouble.

## Proverbs 15:7

**(Pro 15:7 ISV\*) ¶ What the wise have to say disseminates [Lit. *The lips of the wise spread*] knowledge, but it's not in the heart of fools to do so.**

**(Pro 15:7 KJV+) The lips<sup>H8193</sup> of the wise<sup>H2450</sup> disperse<sup>H2219</sup> knowledge:<sup>H1847</sup> but the heart<sup>H3820</sup> of the foolish<sup>H3684</sup> doeth not<sup>H3808</sup> so.<sup>H3651</sup>**

**(Pro 15:7 NASB) The lips of the wise spread knowledge, But the hearts of fools are not so.**

**(Pro 15:7 NIV) The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.**

It is in the heart of the wise to spread knowledge, but not so with fools.

## Proverbs 15:8

**(Pro 15:8 ISV\*) ¶ The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.**

**(Pro 15:8 KJV+) The sacrifice<sup>H2077</sup> of the wicked<sup>H7563</sup> is an abomination<sup>H8441</sup> to the LORD:<sup>H3068</sup> but the prayer<sup>H8605</sup> of the upright<sup>H3477</sup> is his delight.<sup>H7522</sup>**

**(Pro 15:8 NASB) The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.**

**(Pro 15:8 NIV) The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.**

## Proverbs 15:8

(Pro 15:8 NASB) The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

### Three examples of wicked sacrificing:

1. Cain (*Gen 4:5*)
2. Saul (*1 Sam 15*)
3. Jews (*Isa 1:11-15; 66:3*)

[abomination to the LORD]

## Proverbs 15:10

(Pro 15:10 ISV\*) ¶ Severe punishment awaits anyone who wanders off the path—  
anyone who despises reproof will die.

(Pro 15:10 KJV+) Correction<sup>H4148</sup> is grievous<sup>H7451</sup> unto him that forsaketh<sup>H5800</sup> the way;<sup>H734</sup>  
and he that hateth<sup>H8130</sup> reproof<sup>H8433</sup> shall die.<sup>H4191</sup>

(Pro 15:10 NASB) Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way;  
He who hates reproof will die.

(Pro 15:10 NIV) Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path;  
he who hates correction will die.

Correction is painful to the backslider.

## Proverbs 15:9

(Pro 15:9 ISV\*) ¶ The lifestyle of the wicked is detestable to the LORD,  
but he loves those who ardently pursue righteousness.

(Pro 15:9 KJV+) The way<sup>H1870</sup> of the wicked<sup>H7563</sup> is an abomination<sup>H8441</sup> unto the LORD;<sup>H3068</sup>

but he loveth<sup>H157</sup> him that followeth after<sup>H7291</sup> righteousness.<sup>H6666</sup>

(Pro 15:9 NASB) The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
But He loves one who pursues righteousness.

(Pro 15:9 NIV) The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

God hates the way of the wicked, but He loves that of the godly.

## Proverbs 15:11

(Pro 15:11 ISV\*) ¶ Since Sheol [i.e. the realm of the dead] and Abaddon [i.e. the realm of destruction in the afterlife] lie open in the LORD's presence,

how much more the hearts of human beings!

(Pro 15:11 KJV+) Hell<sup>H7585</sup> and destruction<sup>H11</sup> are before<sup>H5048</sup> the LORD;<sup>H3068</sup>

how much more then<sup>H637</sup> <sup>H3588</sup> the hearts<sup>H3826</sup> of the children<sup>H1121</sup> of men?<sup>H120</sup>

(Pro 15:11 NASB) Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD,

How much more the hearts of men!

(Pro 15:11 NIV) Death and Destruction lie open before the LORD

— how much more the hearts of men!

(Prov 15:11 RSV) Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the Lord, how much more the hearts of men!

## Proverbs 15:11

**(Pro 15:11 NASB) Sheol and Abaddon *lie open* before the LORD,  
How much more the hearts of men!**

What a wonderful way to say that the deepest mysteries of life are known to God,

We don't understand Sheol.

We don't know what Abaddon -- the pit -- involves, but God does.

How much more does he know the secrets of the human heart, and can tell us the right way.

[Hell] Hebrew: **She<sup>o</sup>owl** (OT:7585), the unseen world, the place of departed spirits ***Luke 12:5; 16:19-31.***

**[how much more then the hearts of the children of men?]**  
Question 11. Next, ***Prov 17:16.***

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## Proverbs 15:13

**(Pro 15:13 ISV\*) ¶ A happy heart enlightens the face,  
but a sad heart reflects a broken spirit.**

**(Pro 15:13 KJV+) A merry<sup>H8056</sup> heart<sup>H3820</sup> maketh a  
cheerful<sup>H3190</sup> countenance:<sup>H6440</sup>  
but by sorrow<sup>H6094</sup> of the heart<sup>H3820</sup> the spirit<sup>H7307</sup> is  
broken.<sup>H5218</sup>**

**(Pro 15:13 NASB) A joyful heart makes a cheerful face,  
But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.**

**(Pro 15:13 NIV) A happy heart makes the face cheerful,  
but heartache crushes the spirit.**

A happy disposition shows in the countenance, but a gloomy one keeps the spirit broken.

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## Proverbs 15:12

**(Pro 15:12 ISV\*) ¶ The arrogant mocker never loves the  
one who corrects him;  
he will not inquire of [Lit. *not go to*] the wise.**

**(Pro 15:12 KJV+) A scorner<sup>H3887</sup> loveth<sup>H157</sup> not<sup>H3808</sup> one  
that reproveth<sup>H3198</sup> him:  
neither<sup>H3808</sup> will he go<sup>H1980</sup> unto<sup>H413</sup> the wise.<sup>H2450</sup>**

**(Pro 15:12 NASB) A scoffer does not love one who  
reproves him,  
He will not go to the wise.**

**(Pro 15:12 NIV) A mocker resents correction;  
he will not consult the wise.**

**Three examples of hating reproof:**

1. Ahab (***2 Chron 18:7; Prov 17:4***)
2. The Jews (***Amos 5:10***)
3. The Pharisees (***Luke 7:30***)

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## Proverbs 15:14

**(Pro 15:14 ISV\*) ¶ A discerning mind seeks knowledge,  
but the mouth of fools feeds on stupidity.**

**(Pro 15:14 KJV+) The heart<sup>H3820</sup> of him that hath  
understanding<sup>H995</sup> seeketh<sup>H1245</sup> knowledge:<sup>H1847</sup>  
but the mouth<sup>H6310</sup> of fools<sup>H3684</sup> feedeth on<sup>H7462</sup>  
foolishness.<sup>H200</sup>**

**(Pro 15:14 NASB) The mind of the intelligent seeks  
knowledge,  
But the mouth of fools feeds on folly.**

**(Pro 15:14 NIV) The discerning heart seeks knowledge,  
but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.**

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## Proverbs 15:14

**(Pro 15:14 NASB) The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge,  
But the mouth of fools feeds on folly.**

A wise man seeks knowledge, but a fool feeds on foolishness.

### **Four examples of seeking knowledge:**

1. Solomon (*1 Kings 3:5-10; Prov 19:8*)
2. Queen of Sheba (*1 Kings 10; Matt 12:42*)
3. The Ethiopian eunuch (*Acts 8:28*)
4. The Bereans (*Acts 17:11*)

## Proverbs 15:15

**(Pro 15:15 ISV\*) ¶ The entire life [Lit. All the days] of the afflicted seems disastrous,  
but a good heart feasts continually.**

**(Pro 15:15 KJV+) All<sup>H3605</sup> the days<sup>H3117</sup> of the afflicted<sup>H6041</sup> are evil:<sup>H7451</sup>  
but he that is of a merry<sup>H2896</sup> heart<sup>H3820</sup> hath a continual<sup>H8548</sup> feast.<sup>H4960</sup>**

**(Pro 15:15 NASB) All the days of the afflicted are bad,  
But a cheerful heart has a continual feast.**

**(Pro 15:15 NIV) All the days of the oppressed are wretched,  
but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.**

The afflicted are always sad, but the merry are always happy.

## Proverbs 15:16

### *On Contentment and Other Good Things of Life*

**(Pro 15:16 ISV\*) ¶ Better is a little accompanied by fear of the LORD  
than abundant wealth with turmoil.**

**(Pro 15:16 KJV+) Better<sup>H2896</sup> is little<sup>H4592</sup> with the fear<sup>H3374</sup> of the LORD<sup>H3068</sup>  
than great<sup>H7227</sup> treasure<sup>H4480 H214</sup> and trouble<sup>H4103</sup> therewith.**

**(Pro 15:16 NASB) Better is a little with the fear of the LORD  
Than great treasure and turmoil with it.**

**(Pro 15:16 NIV) Better a little with the fear of the LORD  
than great wealth with turmoil.**

Better is poverty with the fear of the Lord, than riches with troubles.

## Proverbs 15:17

**(Pro 15:17 ISV\*) ¶ A vegetarian meal [Lit. A meal of herbs] served with love is better  
than a big, thick steak [Lit. a fattened ox] with a plateful of [The Heb. lacks a plateful of] animosity.**

**(Pro 15:17 KJV+) Better<sup>H2896</sup> is a dinner<sup>H737</sup> of herbs<sup>H3419</sup> where<sup>H8033</sup> love<sup>H160</sup> is,  
than a stalled<sup>H75</sup> ox<sup>H4480 H7794</sup> and hatred<sup>H8135</sup> therewith.**

**(Pro 15:17 NASB) Better is a dish of vegetables where love is  
Than a fattened ox served with hatred.**

**(Pro 15:17 NIV) Better a meal of vegetables where there is love  
than a fattened calf with hatred.**

**(Prov 15:17 RSV) Better is a dinner of herb's where love is  
than a fatted ox and hatred with it.**

## Proverbs 15:17

**(Pro 15:17 NASB) Better is a dish of vegetables where love is**

**Than a fattened ox *served* with hatred.**

Who would not prefer to sit down at a table where there is only bread and water but a wonderful atmosphere of love, than to a table loaded with goodies where everyone growls, snaps at and degrades each other?

Better is a poor man's dinner where love is than a rich man's feast with hatred and strife.

## Proverbs 15:18

**(Pro 15:18 ISV\*) ¶ The quickly angered man stirs up contention,  
but anyone who controls his temper calms a dispute.**

**(Pro 15:18 KJV+) A wrathful<sup>H2534</sup> man<sup>H376</sup> stirreth up<sup>H1624</sup> strife:<sup>H4066</sup>**

**but *he that is slow*<sup>H750</sup> to anger<sup>H639</sup> appeaseth<sup>H8252</sup> strife.<sup>H7379</sup>**

**(Pro 15:18 NASB) A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,  
But the slow to anger calms a dispute.**

**(Pro 15:18 NIV) A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension,  
but a patient man calms a quarrel.**

A fiery-tempered man causes trouble, but a man slow to anger promotes peace.

## Proverbs 15:19

**(Pro 15:19 ISV\*) ¶ The lifestyle of the lazy is like a thorny hedge,**

**but the path taken by the upright is an open highway.**

**(Pro 15:19 KJV+) The way<sup>H1870</sup> of the slothful<sup>H6102</sup> man is as an hedge<sup>H4881</sup> of thorns:<sup>H2312</sup>**

**but the way<sup>H734</sup> of the righteous<sup>H3477</sup> is made plain.<sup>H5549</sup>**

**(Pro 15:19 NASB) The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns,**

**But the path of the upright is a highway.**

**(Pro 15:19 NIV) The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns,  
but the path of the upright is a highway.**

A lazy man imagines many obstructions in the way, but the righteous

## Proverbs 15:20

**(Pro 15:20 ISV\*) ¶ A wise son makes a father glad,  
but a foolish man despises his mother.**

**(Pro 15:20 KJV+) A wise<sup>H2450</sup> son<sup>H1121</sup> maketh a glad<sup>H8055</sup> father:<sup>H1</sup>**

**but a foolish<sup>H3684</sup> man<sup>H120</sup> despiseth<sup>H959</sup> his mother.<sup>H517</sup>**

**(Pro 15:20 NASB) A wise son makes a father glad,  
But a foolish man despises his mother.**

**(Pro 15:20 NIV) A wise son brings joy to his father,  
but a foolish man despises his mother.**

A wise son honors his parents, but a foolish one despises them.



## Proverbs 15:21

(Pro 15:21 ISV\*) ¶ Stupidity is the delight of the senseless,  
but an understanding man walks uprightly.

(Pro 15:21 KJV+) Folly<sup>H200</sup> is joy<sup>H8057</sup> to him that is destitute<sup>H2638</sup> of wisdom:<sup>H3820</sup>  
but a man<sup>H376</sup> of understanding<sup>H8394</sup> walketh<sup>H1980</sup> uprightly.<sup>H3474</sup>

(Pro 15:21 NASB) Folly is joy to him who lacks sense,  
But a man of understanding walks straight.

(Pro 15:21 NIV) Folly delights a man who lacks judgment,  
but a man of understanding keeps a straight course.

Folly is joy to fools, but wise men walk sensibly.

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## Proverbs 15:23

(Pro 15:23 ISV\*) ¶ An appropriate answer brings joy to a person,  
and a well-timed word is a good thing.

(Pro 15:23 KJV+) A man<sup>H376</sup> hath joy<sup>H8057</sup> by the answer<sup>H4617</sup> of his mouth:<sup>H6310</sup>  
and a word<sup>H1697</sup> spoken in due season,<sup>H6256</sup> how<sup>H4100</sup> good<sup>H2896</sup> is it!

(Pro 15:23 NASB) A man has joy in an apt answer,  
And how delightful is a timely word!

(Pro 15:23 NIV) A man finds joy in giving an apt reply —  
and how good is a timely word!

A wise man has joy in his answers of wisdom, and a word spoken in season is healthful and refreshing.

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## Proverbs 15:22

(Pro 15:22 ISV\*) ¶ Plans fail without advice,  
but with many counselors they are confirmed.

(Pro 15:22 KJV+) Without<sup>H369</sup> counsel<sup>H5475</sup> purposes<sup>H4284</sup> are disappointed:<sup>H6565</sup>  
but in the multitude<sup>H7230</sup> of counsellors<sup>H3289</sup> they are established.<sup>H6965</sup>

(Pro 15:22 NASB) Without consultation, plans are frustrated,  
But with many counselors they succeed.

(Pro 15:22 NIV) Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers they succeed.

Plans fail when there is no counsel, but succeed where many wise men counsel.

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## Proverbs 15:24

(Pro 15:24 ISV\*) ¶ The way of life leads upward for the wise  
so he may avoid Sheol [i.e. the realm of the dead] below.

(Pro 15:24 KJV+) The way<sup>H734</sup> of life<sup>H2416</sup> is above<sup>H4605</sup> to the wise,<sup>H7919</sup>  
that<sup>H4616</sup> he may depart<sup>H5493</sup> from hell<sup>H4480</sup> H7585 beneath.<sup>H4295</sup>

(Pro 15:24 NASB) The path of life leads upward for the wise  
That he may keep away from Sheol below.

(Pro 15:24 NIV) The path of life leads upward for the wise  
to keep him from going down to the grave.

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## Proverbs 15:24

(Pro 15:24 NASB) The path of life *leads upward for the wise*

*That he may keep away from Sheol below.*

### Four contrasted ways:

1. The way of the wise — the way of fools
2. The way of life — the way of death
3. The way above — the way beneath
4. The way to heaven — the way to hell

[hell] Hebrew: **She<sup>o</sup>owl** (OT:7585), the unseen world, the place of departed spirits **Luke 12:5; 16:19-31**).

## Proverbs 15:25

(Pro 15:25 ISV\*) ¶ The house of the proud the LORD will demolish,  
but he will protect the widow's boundary line.

(Pro 15:25 KJV+) The LORD<sup>H3068</sup> will destroy<sup>H5255</sup> the house<sup>H1004</sup> of the proud:<sup>H1343</sup>  
but he will establish<sup>H5324</sup> the border<sup>H1366</sup> of the widow.<sup>H490</sup>

(Pro 15:25 NASB) The LORD will tear down the house of the proud,  
But He will establish the boundary of the widow..

(Pro 15:25 NIV) The LORD tears down the proud man's house  
but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

The Lord will judge the proud but preserve the humble.

## Proverbs 15:26

(Pro 15:26 ISV\*) ¶ To the LORD evil plans are detestable,  
but pleasant words are pure.

(Pro 15:26 KJV+) The thoughts<sup>H4284</sup> of the wicked<sup>H7451</sup> are an abomination<sup>H8441</sup> to the LORD:<sup>H3068</sup>  
but *the words* of the pure<sup>H2889</sup> are pleasant<sup>H5278</sup> words.<sup>H561</sup>

(Pro 15:26 NASB) Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD,  
But pleasant words are pure.

(Pro 15:26 NIV) The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked,  
but those of the pure are pleasing to him.

[thoughts] Hebrew: **machshebowth** (OT:4284), devices (**Prov 12:5**).

Those of the wicked God hates, but He loves the plans and words of the pure.

[abomination to the LORD]

## Proverbs 15:27

(Pro 15:27 ISV\*) ¶ Those who are greedy for unjust gain bring trouble into their homes,  
but the person who hates bribes will live.

(Pro 15:27 KJV+) He that is greedy<sup>H1214</sup> of gain<sup>H1215</sup> troubleth<sup>H5916</sup> his own house;<sup>H1004</sup>  
but he that hateth<sup>H8130</sup> gifts<sup>H4979</sup> shall live.<sup>H2421</sup>

(Pro 15:27 NASB) He who profits illicitly troubles his own house,  
But he who hates bribes will live.

(Pro 15:27 NIV) A greedy man brings trouble to his family,  
but he who hates bribes will live.

The greedy man is a torment to his own family and a curse to those with whom he deals, but the contented and righteous man, one who hates bribery, shall live.

## Proverbs 15:28

(Pro 15:28 ISV\*) ¶ The mind of the righteous thinks before speaking,  
but the wicked person spews out evil.

(Pro 15:28 KJV+) The heart<sup>H3820</sup> of the righteous<sup>H6662</sup> studieth<sup>H1897</sup> to answer:<sup>H6030</sup>  
but the mouth<sup>H6310</sup> of the wicked<sup>H7563</sup> poureth out<sup>H5042</sup> evil things.<sup>H7451</sup>

(Pro 15:28 NASB) The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,  
But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

(Pro 15:28 NIV) The heart of the righteous weighs its answers,  
but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

The righteous man ponders the thoughts and words of his answer, but the wicked spues out the thoughtless abominations of his heart.

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## Proverbs 15:29

(Pro 15:29 ISV\*) ¶ The LORD is far away from the wicked,  
but he hears the prayers of the righteous.

(Pro 15:29 KJV+) The LORD<sup>H3068</sup> is far<sup>H7350</sup> from the wicked:<sup>H4480 H7563</sup>  
but he heareth<sup>H8085</sup> the prayer<sup>H8605</sup> of the righteous.<sup>H6662</sup>

(Pro 15:29 NASB) The LORD is far from the wicked,  
But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

(Pro 15:29 NIV) The LORD is far from the wicked  
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

The Lord has no fellowship with the wicked, but He draws near and hears the prayers of the righteous (**James 4:8**).

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## Proverbs 15:30

(Pro 15:30 ISV\*) ¶ Bright eyes [Or A cheerful look] encourage the heart;  
good news nourishes the body. [Lit. bones]

(Pro 15:30 KJV+) The light<sup>H3974</sup> of the eyes<sup>H5869</sup> rejoiceth<sup>H8055</sup> the heart:<sup>H3820</sup>  
and a good<sup>H2896</sup> report<sup>H8052</sup> maketh the bones<sup>H6106</sup> fat.<sup>H1878</sup>

(Pro 15:30 NASB) Bright eyes gladden the heart;  
Good news puts fat on the bones.

(Pro 15:30 NIV) A cheerful look brings joy to the heart,  
and good news gives health to the bones.

Righteousness rejoices the heart, and good news is healthful.

[light of the eyes] See **Matt 6:22; Luke 11:34**.

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## Proverbs 15:31

(Pro 15:31 ISV\*) Whoever listens to a life-giving rebuke  
will be at home among the wise.

(Pro 15:31 KJV+) The ear<sup>H241</sup> that heareth<sup>H8085</sup> the reproof<sup>H8433</sup> of life<sup>H2416</sup>  
abideth<sup>H3885</sup> among<sup>H7130</sup> the wise.<sup>H2450</sup>

(Pro 15:31 NASB) He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof  
Will dwell among the wise.

(Pro 15:31 NIV) He who listens to a life-giving rebuke  
will be at home among the wise.

He who heeds advice shall be a companion of the wise.

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## Proverbs 15:32

(Pro 15:32 ISV\*) ¶ Whoever ignores instruction hates himself,  
but anyone who heeds reproof gains understanding. [Lit. *hear*]

(Pro 15:32 KJV+) He that refuseth<sup>H6544</sup> instruction<sup>H4148</sup> despiseth<sup>H3988</sup> his own soul:<sup>H5315</sup>  
but he that heareth<sup>H8085</sup> reproof<sup>H8433</sup> getteth<sup>H7069</sup> understanding.<sup>H3820</sup>

(Pro 15:32 NASB) He who neglects discipline despises himself,  
But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

(Pro 15:32 NIV) He who ignores discipline despises himself,  
but whoever heeds correction gains understanding

## Proverbs 15:33

(Pro 15:33 ISV\*) ¶ The fear of the LORD teaches wisdom,  
and humility precedes honor.

(Pro 15:33 KJV+) The fear<sup>H3374</sup> of the LORD<sup>H3068</sup> is the instruction<sup>H4148</sup> of wisdom;<sup>H2451</sup>  
and before<sup>H6440</sup> honour<sup>H3519</sup> is humility.<sup>H6038</sup>

(Pro 15:33 NASB) The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom,  
And before honor *comes* humility.

(Pro 15:33 NIV) The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom,  
and humility comes before honor.

## Proverbs 15:32

(Pro 15:32 NASB) He who neglects discipline despises himself,  
But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

He who rejects advice hates his own soul, but the one who profits by it gets wisdom and understanding.

### Six examples of hating own soul:

1. Dathan (**Num 16:12-14,31-33**)
2. Zedekiah (**2 Chron 36:12; Jer 39:1-7**)
3. Nebuchadnezzar (**Dan 4:27-33**)
4. Belshazzar (**Dan 5:22-30**)
5. The Jews (**Matt 23:34-38**)
6. The Gadarenes (**Luke 8:37**)

### Four examples of getting knowledge:

1. Job's friends (**Job 42:7-9**)
2. The Samaritan woman (**John 4:17**)
3. Two disciples (**Luke 23:26-32**)
4. Paul (**Acts 9:6-22**)

## Fourteen Blessings of the Fear of the Lord (Prov 15:33)

1. Is the beginning of wisdom (**Prov 1:7; 9:10**)
2. Determines destiny (**Prov 1:29**)
3. Helps depart from evil (**Prov 3:7; 16:6**)
4. Is to hate evil (**Prov 8:13**)
5. Prolongs days (**Prov 10:27**)
6. Gives strong confidence (**Prov 14:26**)
7. Is a fountain of life (**Prov 14:27**)
8. Produces satisfaction (**Prov 15:16**)
9. Is the instruction of wisdom (**Prov 15:33**)
10. Tends to life (**Prov 19:23**)
11. Gives riches, honor, and life (**Prov 22:4**)
12. Brings freedom from envy (**Prov 23:17**)
13. Brings blessing and prosperity (**Eccl 8:12; Isa 33:6**)
14. Involves humility (**Isa 2:10-21**)

## Proverbs 15:33

**(Pro 15:33 NASB) The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom,  
And before honor comes humility.**

### **Five examples of humility before honor:**

1. Joseph (*Gen 39-41*)
2. Gideon (*Judg 6:15*)
3. Daniel (*Dan 2:30-48*)
4. Hananiah (*Neh 7:2*)
5. Jesus Christ (*Phil 2:5-11*)