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## PROVERBS 3:1-10

### Proverbs Series

Open your Bibles please to Proverbs 3. I encourage you to bring your Bible with you because each week I'm going to take you through the words that are in the passage. So being able to look at the text yourself or having it on your cellphone or iPad, whatever way that you like to look at God's word, I'd encourage you to do that, follow along with me because my goal is to teach you.

The desire that I have is to present information to you in this book of Proverbs that will guide you through this whole study so that you'll never forget the book of Proverbs. Whenever you think of the book of Proverbs you'll remember the study that we're doing. I think it's strategic. My goal is to provide some instruction in hopes that as we're moving forward we can move through this pattern of moving to knowledge and then understanding and wisdom.

Knowledge is more information so you can learn more, then you can have more understanding so you can start – "oh I get it" – and then you can live differently. The idea of wisdom is it's insightful information, unusual insight that has application so I know how to live. That's why it's so important for us here.

We call our website Take Jesus Home. That's kind of our motto – take Jesus home. It's not just about taking Jesus to your house. When you leave here you take Jesus with you. You take the studies with you. You take them to your workplace, you take them to your home, you take them to your private life. So that when you leave here you've got something very significant that you're going to be working with.

What I'm going to do today is I'm going to share with you a lot. I hope you're ready for this. I had originally thought I would share with you nine applications from Proverbs 3 and ten new Hebrew words. But I thought, "Wow that's so much information," so I broke it in half. We're going to do this over two weeks.

What I want to do is I want you to understand some new Hebrew words that maybe you haven't heard before. I've chosen these ten Hebrew words over the next two weeks to be the ones that I think will be helpful for you. You've got two handouts today. The orange-colored handout contains the Hebrew words on it. I would encourage you to put that in your Bible because whenever I'm teaching out of the Old Testament I will refer to Hebrew words. It's often going to be those ten. They all happen to be in this passage, in Proverbs 3. So I think it will be helpful to you as we're going forward.

I also want to introduce you to nine different applications in the passage. But before I do that, if you have your Bible and you're looking at Proverbs 3, I want to take you to a few verses in the passage, every other verse at first. Here's what you're going to see. You do this and get this basically is what he's saying in Proverbs. He's saying if you live this way, these are the things that are generally going to happen. These may surprise you because we don't (at least in Calvary Chapel we don't) talk about this kind of stuff a lot. But let me point these out to you.

Proverbs 3:2. Here are the results. I'm going to come back to the principles in a minute. Here's the results of living God's ways. Verse 2: *For they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.*

Believe me, we're not one of those prosperity churches that say, "Jesus wants you rich! And so give us your money and we'll pray on it on your pillow and then you'll have lots more money." We don't do that kind of stuff. There are churches that have that kind of approach. We don't. But I just want you to see here the results of living God's way. These are the tendencies. You do this and these are the things that happen.

Verse 4: *Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

Verse 6: *He will make your paths straight.*

Verse 8: *This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.* If you're into health we're going to learn some things today about that.

Verse 10: *Then your barns will fill to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

Jump down to verse 16. *Long life is in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor.*

Verse 23: *Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.* You having sleep problems? Okay, let's look and see what Proverbs has to say about that.

I'm just drawing attention first of all to the results of doing these nine applications that we're going to talk about over the next two weeks. I want you to see that there's blessings that comes from serving the Lord. When you serve God, you do what He says, there are blessings that come.

Now these things are generally true. You have to understand these are not like "if I do this then I'm instantly going to get these blessings." But it's kind of like if you exercise and you eat well, you're going to feel better. Right? Generally speaking. Unless you get hit by a car and you get killed or something. I mean there are always exceptions to the rule. But generally speaking what Proverbs says is here's the key to life. If you'll live this way, amazing things will happen in your life. I want to show you what it means to live God's way. That's what he's saying.

So we're going to look at these nine applications in chapter 3 of ways that we can live and God will do some teaching in our own hearts as we move forward.

Let's go to the first one. The first application (we'll start at verse 1) is to be a learner. Certainly we're going to learn things maybe about gardening or you're going to learn something in your classroom when you're at school. But recognizing that the learning, the knowledge that takes place fits into a bigger puzzle of what God is doing, that God is working in our lives and the knowledge is a key component. You're going to learn information. And being a learner will help you. In particular you want to take the learning that you're learning from God's word or from the advisors that you have, as we learn about the counsel in Proverbs, and you want to apply them in your life.

So let's read verses 1 and 2 of Proverbs 3. *My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.*

He's talking about two particular kinds of learning that we have – the teaching and the commands. In particular he's talking about *my son*, listen to *my commands*. Listen to your dad's commands. Listen to your parents' commands.

The idea here is that there's two ways to learn. One is that you can learn by experience and the other is you can learn by teaching. Right? We all know that. I'm telling you right now, it's much easier to learn by teaching than by experience. Experience is a very unforgiving master. If you read the instruction manual of a particular product, that's learning by teaching. If you don't read the instruction manual, that's learning by experience. And sometimes that turns into a major problem. So what we want to do is we want to listen to the teaching.

The teaching is going to be important and we want to take it from our heads. He's saying grab onto it and keep it where? Do you see in the passage what it says? Where do you keep that teaching? He says *keep my commands in your heart*.

That's going to be our first Hebrew word I want you to see. You're going to see this word all through the Bible. We're talking about in the Old Testament. The Old Testament's written in Hebrew. We're going to see this word often. The word is *levav*, heart. It represents not just this pulsating thing inside of your body, it represents the control center of a person where experiences are processed and decisions are made. We're going to see that same word, *levav*, used in verse 1 and verse 3 and verse 5 in our passage today.

Now you want to recognize that your heart is this control center. It's when you start feeling anxious (your emotions of course exist inside of your heart) or when you feel angry or you feel sad, you want the teachings or those commands to be in your heart, to help guide you. Because otherwise if you start getting anxious you might take some action that is inappropriate, that is unwise. Wisdom is skillful action. Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom you want applied to your heart so that when those emotions start running kind of weird you have a plan and you're able to manage them well. Keep them in your heart. That's the control center of a person. It happens to be where your emotions are, but where your decisions are made too.

It's also where desires exist. So your desires are sometimes good and they're sometimes not good. Right? When they're not good we call them temptations. But when your desires are good –

it might be a very good thing that you want to have the house clean, but sometimes your desire to have the house clean if you're not wise can create damage in relationships because you take it out on somebody else because they're not keeping up to your standard. So we want to be able to take our desires and wrap them around this idea of the teachings, the commands in your heart. When you bring those commands inside your *levav* or your heart, then they guide you. It's going to be really important to do that.

Notice the last part of the verse – when you do this *it will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity*. So generally speaking what's going to happen is you'll have more peace in your heart. When you have the Lord governing your emotions, your desires, and other things, you're going to have more peace in your heart.

Prosperity – interesting word. Talking about having more wealth, more money. That's what he's talking about here. He's saying your heart is set in the right place and so you're going to be moving in the right direction. Interesting that he would use that word here as well. The word *levav* is that word 'heart.' We're going to see it twice more in our teaching today, but you'll see it all throughout the Bible. It's the control center of your life.

Let's go to the next command. The first application was be a learner.

By the way, I'm going to share a lot of stuff with you today. If you want, you can take notes, but I would encourage you to go away with one thing. I think there's a lot of stuff. Usually you have three points in a sermon, right? Because that's all that one person can remember. There's going to be a lot of stuff today. Don't focus on getting it all. If the Lord would share one thing with you that you could take away, you'll be moving on this path of wisdom.

Let's go to the second principle or point that we're going to see application in this passage by looking at verses 3 and 4. I suggest it's to make love a priority. Let me read the verses.

Look at verses 3-4. *Let love and faithfulness* – that word *faithfulness* has the essence of truth or integrity. *Let love and truth never leave you; bind them around your neck* (that is like put a necklace around so that you'll be reminded that it's there), *write them on the tablet of your heart*.

Now isn't it interesting that we use the word *levav* there again. Write it on the tablet of your *levav*. That means when you are living your life, every time you leave your heart to make a decision, just like you go through the doorpost of your heart, "okay I just made a decision," you want written on the doorpost of your heart 'love and truth.' If you're going to make a decision, your heart is the place where those decisions are made, and you make those commitments and passions then you want love and truth to be right there to guide you.

In order to understand this word 'love,' we've got to understand this Hebrew word. If you're a Jewish person, you would fall in love with this word. This is the word *chesed*, with a rough 'k' from the back of your throat. *Chesed* is how it is pronounced. This is the word used of God's unfailing love. His loving kindness. And it's not based on the acts that we do. It's based on God's character and it's based on His covenant. Sometimes called the covenant faithfulness of God. That God's love.

His kindness doesn't just come from the fact that I did good today so He loves me and He's kind to me. But rather His cunningness, His unfailing love (His loving kindness is often how it's translated), comes from His character of who He is. So we love this word.

As believers or as Jewish people studying and having the law, you look at this and you see the loving kindness of God and you say, "Yes. Oh I'm so grateful because God doesn't measure my goodness and then give me based on my goodness. What He does is He gives me in spite of my badness. He gives me and He cares for me." His loving kindness. The unfailing love of God.

I want you to take that idea and apply it to the passage because the passage isn't talking about God's love. But you have to understand God's love, *chesed*, in that biblical sense before you take it and apply it to this passage.

So look at verse 3. It says, *Let love and faithfulness never leave you.* In other words, you want to be characterized by that kind of a person.

In your heart the way that you process life and the way you live life is that you're a loving and truthful person. When you're loving, that means you're not saying, "I only love the people who love me back," or "I love the people who are nice to me," or "I love the people who are not annoying." Rather it's a characteristic of you that you love based on your covenant before God and the character of who you are. That becomes who you are. Even if the other person doesn't love you. Even if the other person is mean to you or is annoying or does other kinds of things. You want to have *chesed*.

Notice where you're putting it back in verse 3 – *let love (chesed) and faithfulness never leave you.* They're always there. *Bind them around your neck* so that you never forget that they're there. *Write them on the tablet of your heart* so every time you leave the doorway of your heart with a decision, love and faithfulness are posted there to remind you.

Notice what's going to happen in verse 4. *Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.* You want to have a good reputation? If you want to have a good reputation, you're going to have *chesed* and truth in part of the way that you live. It's bound in your heart. It's on the tablet of your heart. You're going to be that kind of a person and it's not going to be dependent on the other person. It's just going to be dependent on your relationship with God and who you are. Because now you are this kind of person and then you're going to have this reputation of someone who has *a good name*, it says there. *You will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

Those ideas, both truth and love, are important words and a very important part of who we are. Those who overemphasize the truth too much can become harsh with someone. Too much truth can result in harshness. Too much love can be kind of mushy without the truth. Both of them are noticed together here – *chesed* and truth, love and faithfulness. Guiding together our thoughts, our actions, and they lead us in this way to have a good reputation. So making love a priority in your life is going to be a key application it seems to me from Proverbs 3 as we're moving toward wisdom and trying to understand it.

Let's go to the next application, which we find in the next two verses. Some of you have memorized this passage. I memorized these verses when I was a child. These are verses 5 and 6, which say, *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways [acknowledge or] submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

So this application is we want to trust God with the whole heart. Remember here's the use of the word heart again, *levav*. You want your whole heart to be in a place where you give it to God. You want to entrust it to Him.

The key to entrusting it to Him is noticing the next Hebrew word I want you to understand. This is the word *Yahweh*. That's the name for God. If you look in your Bible you will see that the word *LORD* has four capital letters, capital L, capital O, capital R, and capital D. You can read about this in the preface of your Bible because the preface of your Bible tells you about why they do this. I'm not going to go into why they all do this, but just to share briefly with you that the word *Yahweh* is the unpronounceable name of God. This is His personal name, *Yahweh*.

The reason I say it's unpronounceable is because the Hebrew people would never say this name. They would never say *Yahweh*. In fact whenever they come to this word in the text, if they're reading it aloud, in place of *Yahweh* they'll say *Adonai*, which is the Hebrew word for Lord. That's why we have taken the custom of the Hebrew people into our English translation and we have put the words *LORD* in order so that you'll know that it's *Yahweh*. It's in capital letters.

The word 'lord' just means 'boss,' and sometimes if you'll see the word 'lord' in your Bible with all small letters, that is the word *adonai*. But whenever it's *Yahweh*, it's these capital letters because He wants you to know that's His name, that's His personal name, unlike other words that just describe who He is.

Go to the previous verse. See in verse 4 the word *God*. See in verse 4 it says, *You will win favor and good name in the sight of God and man.* That's the word *Elohim*, God. And *man*. That word there is having the distinction of the kind of being that He is. I'm a man; He's God. It's this character difference, what He's made up of, His entity. I'm a man; He's God.

We have other words for God like Lord or Father. Those describe relationships. Like I'm a dad, so sometimes people call me Dad or Pastor. Those are titles that I might have. But my name is Scott and you call me Scott because we have a relationship together. His name is *Yahweh*, so when we go to Him we have this personal identification of who He is.

Now that's important because if you're going to trust in the Lord with all your heart, you want Him to know who you're trusting. Trust is built on relationship and so there's this personal dynamic that exists between you and God.

I hope you have that relationship today, that you've trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. When you've made that commitment to Jesus and He's controlling your life that is a personal decision. It's a personal decision that doesn't have anything to do with what church you go to, or what prayers you say, or what you do in other areas – it has to do with relationship.

So if you for some reason have a view of a distant God out there somewhere and you haven't made Him personal then you want to embrace Him into your life to accept Him to come into your *levav*, your heart, and He will be in that control center of your life and He will run your life.

Then we come to this idea – *trust in the LORD (Yahweh) with all your heart*. Not just pieces of it – your whole heart. You give your whole heart to the Lord and you entrust yourself to Him.

And notice the next line – *and lean not on your understanding*. The word *understanding* of course is one of our key words as we're seeing in Proverbs. There's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Knowledge says, "I get it." But sometimes we think we get it and we don't really get it because it's our understanding. So there's a distinction here between our understanding and God's understanding. Make sure that you've got the right understanding. Just because you think you've got it, doesn't mean you have.

*Don't lean on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.*

I want to introduce you to another Hebrew word here. You're going to see this word regularly in the Bible. It's the word *derekh*. The *derekh* means the way that you act, the path that you take, the manner in which you live. It describes a path, really that's what you're thinking of, and it's the way you walk on the path. The way that you walk on the path is your life.

So the *derekh* here is – *in all your derekhs, in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight*. The word *paths* is not the word *derekh* there; it's the word *ways*. *In all your ways acknowledge him*. So there's a way of living, you see. Think about the way that you're living because that's what it's saying. *In all your ways*, in all the ways that you live, *acknowledge him or submit to him*.

There's another verse that uses this word *derekh* twice in Psalm 1:6. Let me read it to you. *For the LORD (Yahweh) watches over the way of the righteous, but the way (that's the derekh) of the wicked leads to destruction.*

He's talking about the way they live. The manner, the way that you live every day. What you do when you get up, how you handle yourself in conflict, what you do with your emotions, how you handle difficult relationships, the way that you live is what he's talking about. And *in all your ways submit to him*. In all the ways – the way that you clean, the way that you work with your checkbook, the way that you handle difficult situations, everything – the way that you live submit to Him. That's what he's saying here.

That's why I like the word *derekh* because *derekh* describes this idea of the way that we live. *In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.*

Let's do one more. One more idea or application that comes from Proverbs 3 that I want to share today. The rest of them I'll share next week. Practice humility. It's interesting that he would emphasize this idea of humility here in the midst of this whole passage of wisdom. The idea is

you have to be humble in order to grow, in order to be a learner, in order to respond to correction well, in order to handle other things well. You need to be able to practice humility well. Actually I just realized we're going to do one more after this. But practice humility is going to be key.

Let's read the verses in verse 7. *Do not be wise in your own eyes* (in other words, don't be proud); *fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

Interesting that he's talking about your heart – there's this mind-body connection. Many of us know as we're trying to do well in our physical bodies that there's a mind-body connection here. The writer of the Proverbs is saying you want to be humble and that's going to contribute to health in your body. Interesting idea there.

But I want to take one Hebrew word and show you this one Hebrew word that we're going to see over and over again. This is probably the key word, the one key word in the book of Proverbs. It's the word *wise*. The word 'wise' is *hakham*. If you say wisdom it's *hokhmah*. It's just changing the words a little bit. But *hakham* means wise and it means unusual insight resulting in skillful living. That's what wisdom is.

This is going to be the word you want. This is the word you want in your life. You want to be the person that doesn't just react to life situation. You want to be the person who sees something and then has the principles of God in your life so intertwined that it comes out in a skillful way, a wise way. The decisions that you make, the responses that you have, the interactions that you have demonstrate wisdom because you have this thing inside you that's called wisdom. We learned last week that wisdom coats your heart, it protects your heart, it guards it. We saw that several times in chapter 2. So this word wisdom or wise is going to be important.

Take that idea and put it back in the passage because in the passage it says *do not be wise in your own eyes*. Don't think that you know it all. If you think that you know it all then you're not going to be a learner. If you think that you know it all, you're not going to trust God with all your heart. If you think you know it all then you're going to miss some of the benefits that God has for you. So he's saying *do not be wise in your own eyes*.

A moment ago I talked to you about *don't lean on your own understanding*. So understanding can be misused; now wisdom can be misused. You think you know it all, you think you're the person who's wise in your own eyes, and then you've got a problem. Being wise in your own eyes creates this issue inside your heart that makes you unable then to grow in wisdom.

So he's saying, *Do not be wise in your own eyes*, but instead do two things. Do you see those in verse 7? Number one, *fear the Lord, and shun evil*.

*Shun evil* means stay away from the bad stuff. Stay away from those things. The evil thing for you may be different than someone else. There are some things that are evil for all of us. But there are some evil things that maybe you need to stay away from that thing because it's wrong for you. Shun evil, stay away from it because it's going to lead you to all kinds of problems.

Have I said it enough times? Stay away from evil. It's a problem. If you don't stay away from evil you're going to get into trouble.

The other thing it says is *fear the Lord*. Fear the Lord. Remember we already talked about this, emphasized heavily in chapter 1. Fear the Lord is to be aware that God is working and be committed to live under His leadership. That's what the fear of the Lord is – to be aware that He is working always and to submit or be committed to live under His leadership. That's the fear of the Lord.

Now if you're wise in your eyes – “Oh I think I got this. I can take care of this. I don't have to listen to my mom. I don't have to listen to my dad. I don't have to listen to these people. I don't have to listen to the police. I can just do whatever I want. I can get away with this” – then you're in trouble. *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil* and this is going to *bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones*. Interesting passage.

Alright. One more now. I want to talk about this last one in verse 9, which talks about honoring God with your money. Let's go right into the passage there. Verse 9 says, *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops*.

Do you know the difference between wealth and income? Wealth is what you own already, maybe your clothes, house, car, bank account, whatever. Income is what you're receiving every week or every month when you get paid or whatever. That's income that comes in.

So *honor the LORD with your wealth*. That's what he's talking about there with what you have already. In everything that you have, in all your money, you want to honor God. And then he says in the next part *with the firstfruits of all your crops*. So when you have income you want to honor the Lord with the firstfruits of this.

The illustration is a farming one. So if you're a farmer and you plant your grain and then when it starts to come up when the first part is being harvested, you go out there and harvest the first part and you go out and give it to the Lord. That's the firstfruits of your giving, firstfruits of your crops. Or sometimes it means taking the best and giving it to the Lord. Not saying, “Well Lord, here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to give you the leftovers.”

I want you to know that when you plowed a field the leftovers were also important. If you had a square field then you would harvest it in a circle, and the leftovers were left for welfare for the people who would come along and need some food. They could come and eat on the corners. If your farm was a circle, you would plow it in a square so that the poor people could come eat on the other part. So there is room for the leftovers in your life. That's a good thing to be thinking of, but that's not what he's talking about here.

If you want to honor the Lord (which we're going to talk about in a moment with your wealth), you're going to do it with your firstfruits of your crops. That's what he's saying. So you're saying, “I am going to make a commitment to the Lord in my finances no matter what happens in the rest of my money. I'm going to dedicate this much to the Lord and I'm going to give it to Him.” That's what it's talking about there.

Verse 10 – *then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.* In other words, if you want to be financially successful, you’re going to honor the Lord in your money. If you want to be financially successful you’re going to please the Lord with your money.

Notice the word Yahweh is used there. *Honor the LORD with your wealth.* We’re not just talking about financial giving here. We’re talking about all the way you handle your finances. How you spend your money.

I was thinking today maybe I ought to change my amazon.com password because I buy a lot on amazon.com. I ought to change my password to “honor Yahweh.” Maybe that ought to be my password to get onto amazon.com so every time I go shopping on amazon.com I’m reminded to honor God. Maybe you ought to write on your credit card. When you pull it out it ought to say right on your credit card “Yahweh” so that you’re reminded that every bit of your finances, the way that you manage your money is done with God in a way that you’re honoring God.

Let’s talk about that word *honor*. That’s the sixth Hebrew word that I want to share with you. That word is the word *kavod* which means heavy and is translated honor. It means to trust someone or something else in the highest regard.

Joanne Miller and I wrote a book about this whole subject. It’s so important, we believe, that we wrote a book about this for family life published by WaterBrook Press. This book really shows how honor changes people. Just the way they think. Because honor means treating people as special. It changes a family. So every family needs to embrace this concept of honor. It changes an individual. It changes who that person is.

It’s all based on this word *kavod* which means heavy. Because if you start thinking about other people instead of thinking about yourself, it changes you. It changes who you are.

It’s a strategic concept, obviously really valuable in my life. I spent a lot of time studying it. Did you know there are nine commands in the Bible that use the word honor? I probably told you that before, but there’s nine of them that we draw attention to in the Bible that uses this word honor. It’s used in the Ten Commandments by the way. *Honor your father and mother.* Why? Eight times it talks about *honor your father and mother* because that’s where it’s learned. If you can learn honor at home then you’ll be able to apply it in all these different areas.

We take that idea of honor and treating someone as special, whether you’re honoring your parents or you’re honoring others in life, and bring it back into our passage now. Take the verse back in there. It says *honor Yahweh with all your wealth.* You’re treating Him valuably. You’re making Him special in your life. And when you do that, when you treat Him special, that’s when you have this blessing that takes place in your life. It’s an important concept that God would have for every one of us so that we can deal with this issue of finance. Finances are going to be an important part of wisdom, knowing how to respond, knowing how to deal with the challenges that we face in our money.

One more idea and then we'll go on next week to some other things. But I want to go back to the word *derekh* here. I just want you to think about this. This is a proverb from Proverbs 16:25. *There is a way* (that is, there is a way of living) *that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.* Proverbs 16:25.

That could mean a lot of different things, but if you're talking about the manner of living, you say, "She did this, therefore I'm justified in my anger to yell at her," or you say, "Wow, what an opportunity. I'm going to go in debt in order to take advantage of this opportunity," or "I'm going to do this..." sometimes it's a path you take in life. You've got to be really careful because sometimes the way, the options that you have, sometimes the way seems like it's a good thing. That's why it's so important to be taking on the instructions of God. It's so important for us to be understanding of what God has for us, to study His word.

We're going to see the whole treasure map. It's coming. I'm building a treasure map. You will see it soon. It's a beautiful treasure map that says all the different ways from the book of Proverbs that we can move toward wisdom in your life. You want to be hunting for it, you want to be searching for it because that wisdom will protect you, it will lead you, it will guide you in the ways that will help you to be most successful in life.

By the way, we don't do all of these things just so we can have a good reputation or we can be prosperous or healthy. We don't do them for that reason. Those are results. The reason we do these things is because they're the right thing to do. We obey God because it's the right thing to do. That's what we do and as a result there are these other blessings.

This is holistic. This is the best. Whatever kind of holistic thing you're attracted to in your life, this is the best. It will help you to be healthy in so many different ways and I believe that's what God wants us to be working on.

I'm going to be sharing with you several more principles next week, several more Hebrew words. So this is Part 1 of a two-part lesson. I just felt like giving it all to you in one week would probably be overwhelming. It's overwhelming to me and I'm enjoying the study so much we're going to slow it down just a little bit as we move forward.

I want to suggest that your relationship with Christ is the most important thing. If you're here today and you've never trusted in Jesus Christ then you can make that decision today to invite Christ to come into your heart, to have that personal relationship with Him. That's what He desires for each of us. That's the starting place, the fear of the Lord.

Let's stand and worship the Lord together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we are coming before you now just thanking you for your word and the power that it has to change us. I pray that in the midst of all these different words and different principles in your word we ask that you would give each of us something that we can walk away with today that will change us, to help us be more wise, help us follow you and your path. So Lord, now we ask that you would work in that secret place of our hearts, that you would teach us, that you would lead us and guide us each one of us. Now as we worship you, as we

honor you in our hearts that we would just be lifted up in the innermost part of our being to acknowledge you and worship you in everything that we do. In Jesus' name, amen.