

Connection to Proverbs 31:10-16,23-31

In order to demonstrate God's wisdom within our lives, we must ask Him to search us, know us, and lead us. As He answers this prayer, we strive to walk in His everlasting ways. This is the path to becoming a person as described in Proverbs 31.

Introduction/Opening

In Proverbs 31, we find a portrait of a faithful wife and mom. She is honored and revered by her husband, family, and community. Most of us would love to have a reputation like the one carried by the Proverbs 31 wife.

She honored God by faithfully demonstrating His wisdom in her life. In order to honor Him, a person needs to be in tune with His will and His ways. In order for this to happen, we need to ask Him to search us, know us, and lead us.

David, who is described as a man after God's own heart, provides a short prayer as our model. Even in David's faults, he honored God in this prayer and in his life.

Outline

1. Search Me, God (v. 23).
 - a) If we take time to listen to someone's prayers or even our own prayers, we will quickly see that we tend to pray for everyone else. We might pray for their health, personal struggles, or a host of other issues. While these prayers are noble, David's prayer is focused on his personal journey with the Father. He used seven personal pronouns in two sentences.
 - b) His first request was that God would search him. This is not a request for God to learn something new about David, as he admitted that God knew his words before they were spoken (v. 4). Instead, this is a prayer for David to submit himself to God and reveal areas within his life that might need to change.

2. Know Me, God (v. 23).
 - a) We serve a God who is all-knowing and all-loving. God was fully aware of David's past transgressions of adultery and murder. He is also fully aware of our transgressions, whatever they might be. David is honoring in his prayer because he is asking God to know him for who he truly is and not just as the people he leads might perceive him to be.
 - b) David asked God to know his heart. He didn't ask him to know his mind or his actions. These things are coming. God wants our hearts first and foremost. When we ask God to search us and know our hearts, this is his starting point of a God honoring prayer, and it can serve as a starting point for us too.

3. Correct and Lead Me, God (v. 24).
 - a) Most of us have done something offensive to someone. While we might not have intended to be offensive, this was the end result. David did offensive things in this lifetime. He committed adultery and then conspired to murder to cover it up. Yet, he asked God to see if there was any offensive way in him. David acknowledged the offensive nature of his actions and asked God to show these to him so that he might avoid them in the future.
 - b) He concluded his prayer by asking God to lead him in the everlasting way. This was another way of asking God to lead him in God's ways. David knew that his heart could be off and therefore his actions could be off. But, he didn't make excuses. He submitted himself to God and asked God to search him, know him, correct him, and lead him. This prayer honors God as it is asking for His wisdom and guidance.

Conclusion

As one who knows Jesus as Lord, God's wisdom will be desired. We find His wisdom in and through a relationship with Him. This relationship is enhanced when we ask Him to search us, know us, and lead us in His ways. This is a personal prayer that should be embraced by those of us who know Jesus.

This is also a prayer that can be embraced by those who do not know Jesus as Lord. What would it look like if the non-Christian began to ask God to search them, know them, and lead them? What would it look like if this same non-Christian began to listen to the answers that God provides when this personal prayer is offered up?

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