**Proverbs 9-12**

Invitations of Wisdom and Folly

**9**Wisdom has built her house;
    she has set up its seven pillars.
**2**She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine;
    she has also set her table.
**3**She has sent out her servants, and she calls
    from the highest point of the city,
**4**    “Let all who are simple come to my house!”
To those who have no sense she says,
**5**    “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.
**6**Leave your simple ways and you will live;
    walk in the way of insight.”

**7**Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;
    whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.
**8**Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you;
    rebuke the wise and they will love you.
**9**Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;
    teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

**10**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
    and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
**11**For through wisdom[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+9-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16650b)] your days will be many,
    and years will be added to your life.
**12**If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you;
    if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

**13**Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing.
**14**She sits at the door of her house,
    on a seat at the highest point of the city,
**15**calling out to those who pass by,
    who go straight on their way,
**16**    “Let all who are simple come to my house!”
To those who have no sense she says,
**17**    “Stolen water is sweet;
    food eaten in secret is delicious!”
**18**But little do they know that the dead are there,
    that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

Proverbs of Solomon

**10**The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son brings joy to his father,
    but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

**2**Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value,
    but righteousness delivers from death.

**3**The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry,
    but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

**4**Lazy hands make for poverty,
    but diligent hands bring wealth.

**5**He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son,
    but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

**6**Blessings crown the head of the righteous,
    but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.

**7**The name of the righteous is used in blessings,
    but the name of the wicked will rot.

**8**The wise in heart accept commands,
    but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

**9**Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
    but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

**10**Whoever winks maliciously causes grief,
    and a chattering fool comes to ruin.

**11**The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
    but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

**12**Hatred stirs up conflict,
    but love covers over all wrongs.

**13**Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning,
    but a rod is for the back of one who has no sense.

**14**The wise store up knowledge,
    but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.

**15**The wealth of the rich is their fortified city,
    but poverty is the ruin of the poor.

**16**The wages of the righteous is life,
    but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.

**17**Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life,
    but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

**18**Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips
    and spreads slander is a fool.

**19**Sin is not ended by multiplying words,
    but the prudent hold their tongues.

**20**The tongue of the righteous is choice silver,
    but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

**21**The lips of the righteous nourish many,
    but fools die for lack of sense.

**22**The blessing of the Lord brings wealth,
    without painful toil for it.

**23**A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes,
    but a person of understanding delights in wisdom.

**24**What the wicked dread will overtake them;
    what the righteous desire will be granted.

**25**When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone,
    but the righteous stand firm forever.

**26**As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
    so are sluggards to those who send them.

**27**The fear of the Lord adds length to life,
    but the years of the wicked are cut short.

**28**The prospect of the righteous is joy,
    but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing.

**29**The way of the Lord is a refuge for the blameless,
    but it is the ruin of those who do evil.

**30**The righteous will never be uprooted,
    but the wicked will not remain in the land.

**31**From the mouth of the righteous comes the fruit of wisdom,
    but a perverse tongue will be silenced.

**32**The lips of the righteous know what finds favor,
    but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.

**11**The Lord detests dishonest scales,
    but accurate weights find favor with him.

**2**When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
    but with humility comes wisdom.

**3**The integrity of the upright guides them,
    but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

**4**Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
    but righteousness delivers from death.

**5**The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight,
    but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

**6**The righteousness of the upright delivers them,
    but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

**7**Hopes placed in mortals die with them;
    all the promise of[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+9-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16696e)] their power comes to nothing.

**8**The righteous person is rescued from trouble,
    and it falls on the wicked instead.

**9**With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors,
    but through knowledge the righteous escape.

**10**When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices;
    when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.

**11**Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
    but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

**12**Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense,
    but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.

**13**A gossip betrays a confidence,
    but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

**14**For lack of guidance a nation falls,
    but victory is won through many advisers.

**15**Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer,
    but whoever refuses to shake hands in pledge is safe.

**16**A kindhearted woman gains honor,
    but ruthless men gain only wealth.

**17**Those who are kind benefit themselves,
    but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.

**18**A wicked person earns deceptive wages,
    but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

**19**Truly the righteous attain life,
    but whoever pursues evil finds death.

**20**The Lord detests those whose hearts are perverse,
    but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

**21**Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished,
    but those who are righteous will go free.

**22**Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout
    is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

**23**The desire of the righteous ends only in good,
    but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.

**24**One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
    another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

**25**A generous person will prosper;
    whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

**26**People curse the one who hoards grain,
    but they pray God’s blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

**27**Whoever seeks good finds favor,
    but evil comes to one who searches for it.

**28**Those who trust in their riches will fall,
    but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

**29**Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind,
    and the fool will be servant to the wise.

**30**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
    and the one who is wise saves lives.

**31**If the righteous receive their due on earth,
    how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

**12**Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
    but whoever hates correction is stupid.

**2**Good people obtain favor from the Lord,
    but he condemns those who devise wicked schemes.

**3**No one can be established through wickedness,
    but the righteous cannot be uprooted.

**4**A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown,
    but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

**5**The plans of the righteous are just,
    but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.

**6**The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
    but the speech of the upright rescues them.

**7**The wicked are overthrown and are no more,
    but the house of the righteous stands firm.

**8**A person is praised according to their prudence,
    and one with a warped mind is despised.

**9**Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant
    than pretend to be somebody and have no food.

**10**The righteous care for the needs of their animals,
    but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

**11**Those who work their land will have abundant food,
    but those who chase fantasies have no sense.

**12**The wicked desire the stronghold of evildoers,
    but the root of the righteous endures.

**13**Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk,
    and so the innocent escape trouble.

**14**From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things,
    and the work of their hands brings them reward.

**15**The way of fools seems right to them,
    but the wise listen to advice.

**16**Fools show their annoyance at once,
    but the prudent overlook an insult.

**17**An honest witness tells the truth,
    but a false witness tells lies.

**18**The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
    but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

**19**Truthful lips endure forever,
    but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

**20**Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil,
    but those who promote peace have joy.

**21**No harm overtakes the righteous,
    but the wicked have their fill of trouble.

**22**The Lord detests lying lips,
    but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

**23**The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves,
    but a fool’s heart blurts out folly.

**24**Diligent hands will rule,
    but laziness ends in forced labor.

**25**Anxiety weighs down the heart,
    but a kind word cheers it up.

**26**The righteous choose their friends carefully,
    but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**27**The lazy do not roast any game,
    but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.

**28**In the way of righteousness there is life;
    along that path is immortality.