

June 1

*"For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools destroy them" - 1:32.*

Setting bold goals for personal growth is important for your success in the Lord. **What is your "elegant dream" for your life? What goals do you need to set to fulfill that dream? What do you see yourself doing in 5, 10 or 20 years? What can you do today to prepare for your vision of tomorrow?** Paul had bold goals, which were expressed in part in [Romans 15:20-21](#).

June 2

*"And if you look for it [wisdom] as for silver
and search for it [wisdom] as for hidden treasure" - 2:4.*

If you had a guarantee there was treasure buried on your property, how long and hard would you look for it? You have that promise concerning the treasure of wisdom in God's word for your life and the situations you face. **How hard and long are you willing to search and seek?** Read what Jesus had to say about paying the price for wisdom in [Matthew 13:44-46](#).

June 3

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine" -3:9-10.*

One of the best means to determine your trust level in God is your giving. **Is your current lack due to your stinginess? Would God say you are a generous person? Would others? Do you find it easy to trust the Lord where money is concerned?** You can read what Paul had to say to the Corinthian church about giving in [2 Corinthians 8:1-15](#).

June 4

*"The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day" - 4:18.*

Your path should be bright because you choose to walk in the light of His word. Therefore guidance should not be a challenge for you because God *wants* you to know and do His will. This is further explained by Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." **How bright is the light in your life?** John wrote about walking in the light in [John 1:1-9](#) and [1 John 1:5-9](#).

June 5

*"For the lips of an adulteress drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil" - 5:3.*

There are many causes, philosophies, political worldviews and people who try to beguile you with convincing arguments that are contrary to God and His Word. Don't be taken in by their appeals. Be true to him. **Can you identify any area of life where you have become friends with the world and thus an opponent of God?** James was concerned with this same issue and wrote about it in [James 4:4-5](#).

June 6

*"Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!" - 6:6.*

The ant's work ethic is legendary. **Is yours?** There is no substitute for hard work in an area you enjoy. **Do you look forward to your work or dread it?** The Bible has much to say about hard work, starting in [Genesis 1:28](#) and continuing through [Ecclesiastes 5:18](#), [Acts 20:34](#) and on to [1 Thessalonians 2:9](#)

June 7

*"Bind them [God's commands] on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart" - 7:3.*

There are many ways to assimilate God's commands, such as memorizing verses, reading the Word, journaling, preaching or teaching, listening to a version of the recorded Word, reading a devotional or even writing one! **What works best for you so that God's Word can be written on your heart's tablets?** To reinforce this truth, read [Ezekiel 11:18-20](#) and [Psalm 119:10-12](#) in light of today's topic.

June 8

*"Does not wisdom call out?
Does not understanding raise her voice?" - 8:1.*

Wisdom is always broadcasting. **Are you tuned to her channel? She is speaking, but are you listening? And what are you doing to record and remember what she says?** It is important that you put your faith not in your ability to hear God's voice but in His ability to 'speak' to you & answer your prayer for help. To reinforce this, the book of Revelation states that heaven spoke to John in a *loud* voice 21 times! (See [Revelation 1:10](#) and [5:12](#) for just two examples.)

June 9

*"If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you.
If you are a mocker, you alone will suffer" - 9:2.*

It is in your best interests to seek wisdom about your life's work and decisions. If you mock or scorn wisdom, you will suffer by continually making bad decisions, for which you and others will suffer. **If you asked others, would they say you are wise or do you ignore those who carry the wisdom you need?** You can see that God's wisdom was mocked by sinful men in [Psalm 89:50-51](#) and [Matthew 27:29-41](#). Make sure you are not numbered among those who do the same.

June 10

*"When words are many, sin is not absent,
but he who holds his tongue is wise" - 10:19.*

Do you sometimes talk too much? Do you at times regret saying what you said, especially to those closest to you? It is not necessary to speak your mind on every occasion. Determine to be a better listener and then use your words to encourage, not to injure, attack or show off. Read what James had to say about your tongue and speech in [James 3:5-10](#).

June 11

*"If the righteous receive their due on earth,
how much more the ungodly and the sinner" - 11:31.*

God is faithful to reward those who are diligent to do good. It may seem like He has forgotten but He has not. **Have you despaired of God's desire to bless you?** Just keep on doing what you know is right for He is watching. Check out these other passages that reinforce the message in today's verse at [Matthew 10:40-42](#), [Mark 10:29-31](#), and [Psalm 73](#).

June 12

*"A man cannot be established through wickedness,
but the righteous cannot be uprooted" - 12:3.*

There are some who try to establish themselves and put their confidence in their own abilities. They are trying to do the impossible. Others put their trust in Him and cannot be moved because God watches over them. **To which group do you belong?** To look at other verses on this issue, read [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#) and the short book of the prophet [Nahum](#).

June 13

*"A wise son heeds his father's instruction,
but a mocker does not listen to rebuke" - 13:1.*

You cannot get wisdom in isolation, for you need what others have to be complete. Ultimately, your heavenly Father oversees the process of your growth, and that may include a timely rebuke from Him or others. **Are you cooperating or resisting the process? Do you find reason to apply or dismiss what others have to say to you?** Read [Hebrews 12:4-13](#) to understand more about how and why God disciplines you.

June 14

*"All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty" - 14:23.*

Many talk about what they will do 'one day' and then wait. Others talk, set goals and work hard toward their desired end. **To which group do you belong?** Don't ever be satisfied with talk, for actions always speak louder than words. Paul addressed this principle simply in [1 Corinthians 4:20](#) and Jesus did as well in [Matthew 7:21-24](#).

June 15

*"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere,
keeping watch on the wicked and the good" - 15:3.*

Adam and Eve tried to hide from God in the Garden, which is futile behavior. The Lord notices the good and the evil done by all. When you do good to others, He counts that as doing something good for Him, and He never forgets. **Why not put on a show for God today by loving others and doing good?** You can read more about God's attentiveness in [Matthew 25:31-46](#) and [Revelation 4:7-8](#).

June 16

*"Better a patient man than a warrior,
a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city" - 16:32.*

Patience trumps power and skill in God's eyes. There is only one way to develop patience and that is to confront your impatience, confess it and learn to keep your peace in situations beyond your control. **When does your temper get the best of you? Is it time to repent and ask God's help?** You may also want to read [Ephesians 4:26-27](#), [Colossians 3:12](#) and [James 1:19-20](#) about patience and anger.

June 17

*"He who covers over an offense promotes love,
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends" - 17:9.*

It can be difficult to keep an offense to yourself, yet today's verse indicates that when you do, it is for the sake of love. **Are you willing to act right even while being wronged?**

Think of Joseph and how he treated the news of Mary's pregnancy as an example of this in [Matthew 1:18-19](#) and then also check out Peter's words of advice in [1 Peter 3:8-12](#).

June 18

*"An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city,
and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel!" - 18:19.*

This verse states a simple fact: Disputes between family and close friends can be intense and take a long time to reconcile. **Is there someone with whom you need to seek reconciliation?** It is not easy to achieve, so be patient. Remember Saul and Barnabas, whom God joined together but a dispute tore apart. If that happened to those two spiritual giants, it can easily happen in your world as well. You can read their story in [Acts 13:1-3](#) and [Acts 15:36-41](#).

June 19

*"Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" - 19:21.*

It is common to preface plans with the word 'maybe.' 'Maybe God wants me to do this or maybe go there.' God does not deal in 'maybes.' He is direct and specific. **God is talking; are you listening? Are you acting on what you hear?** The only way to cut through the hesitancy is to face your fears and engage your purpose! No more excuses! You can hear this truth in the words that Mordecai spoke to his cousin Esther in [Esther 4:12-14](#).

June 20

*"Many a man claims to have unfailing love,
but a faithful man who can find?" - 20:6.*

Not everyone has the same talent, but talent may or may not make you a valuable team member. If you are faithful to encourage, punctual, ready to serve and cheerful, and do those things day in and day out, you will be a cherished member of any team, whether at work or church. **Are you working on your talent or your faithfulness?** Read how Peter declared his commitment to Jesus in [John 13:37-38](#) and then faltered in faithfulness in [John 18:15-27](#).

June 21

"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty" - 21:5.

Diligence is the trait of following through on your commitments, promises and goals, regardless of how long it takes or what obstacles you encounter. Haste involves looking

for shortcuts to success, of which there are none. **Are you a talker or a doer? Diligent or impatient?** Read [Hebrews 10:35-39](#) and determine if you are looking for shortcuts or ready to endure for the long haul.

June 22

*"Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge
or puts up security for debts.
If you lack the means to pay,
your very bed will be snatched from under you" - 22:26-27.*

You cannot want something for others more than they do. Don't try to cover others' debts, whether natural or spiritual, even if they are family. If they are irresponsible, you can easily lose your money, your peace or both! Stop fretting, let their problem go, and focus on your own. **Are you minding your own business or straying into that of others?** Read [Galatians 6:1-5](#) and see how it relates to today's passage.

June 23

*"Do not wear yourself out to get rich;
have the wisdom to show restraint" - 23:4.*

You need money, and God promises to provide it. Therefore you work to extend God's kingdom, not to amass riches or to meet your needs, for God can provide without your job.. Perhaps it's time to ask: **Do you own your stuff or does your stuff own you? Do you work for money or does your money work for you?** This truth is reiterated throughout the Bible, including [Deuteronomy 6:10-12](#) and [Deuteronomy 8:16-18](#).

June 24

*"For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again,
but the wicked are brought down by calamity" - 24:16*

Failure and setbacks are part of every believer's life. They do not indicate you have done something wrong, but are opportunities for God to prove His faithfulness to you. If circumstances have you down right now, be encouraged, for you will rise again! Read how Paul encouraged the saints with this truth in [Acts 14:21-22](#) and take it to heart today!

June 25

*"Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among great men:
it is better for him to say to you, 'Come up here,'
than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman" -25:6-7.*

How do you feel when you are overlooked for a promotion, raise or project you would like to work on? Have you put your career and future in His hands, trusting Him for the progress? Read [Psalm 75:6-7](#) and the story of Joseph and his promotion in Egypt in Genesis 37 through 50. If you don't have time for all that, then at least read [Genesis 50:15-21](#).

June 26

*"Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him" - 26:12.*

All of us are smarter than one of us. If you want excellence, you need to expand your team of workers, advisers and consultants so you can draw from a larger variety of life experience and viewpoints. **Do you consult with others as you plan your work or ministry, or does insecurity and pride make you a one-person team? How well do you collaborate with others as you carry out your work?** You can see the scope of Paul's network when you read [Romans 16:1-16](#).

June 27

*"Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming,
but who can stand before jealousy?" - 27:4.*

It is all too easy to gossip, backbite or be sarcastic because you are jealous of someone's looks, gifts or popularity. Joseph's brothers were jealous of his coat and the Jewish leaders were jealous of Jesus' ministry success. **Is jealousy having an affect on your behavior in any way? Is another's jealousy having an impact on your own life or work?** You can read some comments on and effects of jealousy in [Acts 7:9-10](#), [Acts 17:5](#), and [Galatians 5:19-21](#).

June 28

*"Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord,
but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble" - 28:14.*

You can harden your heart or keep it pliable and tender toward the Lord. **If you are 'in trouble' right now, maybe it's time to stop looking 'out there' for the reason and instead look inside your own heart for the source of the problem?** You can find out what Jesus said about this matter in [Mark 7:20-23](#).

June 29

*"Fear of man will prove to be a snare,
but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe" - 29:25.*

Fear of others' disapproval or criticism is a great hindrance to a productive life. **What could you do if you were not afraid of what others may say? How much time do you spend trying to figure out what someone may think or say if you do something? Is that really the way you want to live your life?** Jesus also had something to say about this in [John 5:41-44](#).

June 30

*"Every word of God is flawless,
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Do not add to his words,
or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar" - 30:5-6.*

It's important you know God's Word and not be casual toward its interpretation. **What are you doing to increase your knowledge and understanding of God's Word? How much time do you invest in reading and studying the Bible? Are you doing any extra reading or taking any classes? As you learn, are you teaching it to someone else?** Read what Peter and Paul had to say about God's Word in [2 Peter 1:19-21](#) and [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#).