

October 1

***"Then they will call on me but I will not answer;
they will look for me but will not find me" - 1:28.***

This only happens when God repeatedly calls to you but you don't respond. Then one day you call on Him and He doesn't respond. **Are your prayers being answered? Does it seem like God is far away? Could that in part be due to the principle in this verse at work in your life?** Read what the Lord said to Solomon in [1 Chronicles 28:9](#) and see if and how it applies to your life right now.

October 2

"And if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding . . ." 2:3.

If you want to find your purpose or the answer to a tough, complex life question, you must seek the Lord with enthusiasm, diligence and determination. **With what question(s) are you seeking the Lord? Are you journaling what you hear? How long are you willing to seek, and with what intensity, to get the answers you need?** To encourage you as you seek, read [Psalm 9:10](#) and [Psalm 34:10](#).

October 3

***"In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight" - 3:6.***

Guidance should not be a problem for you. God will make your path clear, but you must trust He is doing that as you ask and pray. Otherwise you passively wait for Him to 'speak' to you, when He has already put what He wants you to do in your heart. **Are you waiting for a 'confirmation' that will never come because you already sense what you are to do?** Read [Isaiah 41:12-14](#) and take courage today that God is leading you by the hand, whether you feel like that is happening or not.

October 4

***"Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding" - 4:1.***

Listen and pay attention - those are two admonitions you would do well to heed. **How well do you listen? Do you hear and retain the names of others? Do you hear and follow instructions? Why is this important?** It is critical because how you listen to others is indicative of how you hear the Lord when He speaks to you! Read [Isaiah 55:3](#) and then what

Paul wrote in [1 Corinthians 15:46](#) to see that first comes the natural and then the spiritual. If that's true, then 'natural' listening done well precedes 'spiritual' listening.

October 5

*"My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
listen well to my words of insight" - 5:1.*

Prayer should not be a one-way communication or exercise. Don't just make your petitions when you pray, but also pay attention with an expectation that you will hear something. God is always 'broadcasting.' **Are you attentive and listening? When you pray, do you talk or listen? And what do you do with what you hear? Do you at least write it down?** If you want a good example of this dynamic, read [Acts 10:9-23](#).

October 6

*"How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
When will you get up from your sleep" - 6:9.*

Achievement and success are never accidents. They are the result of dreaming, planning and diligence. Yet laziness is seldom the problem. Fear masked as laziness usually causes your inactivity. **What are you afraid of that is keeping you from fulfilling your dreams and goals?** Read [Numbers 13:21-33](#) and see how fear kept Israel from entering into the Land God promised them, and then determine if fear-induced laziness is keeping you from your own land of promise..

October 7

*"Keep my commands and you will live;
guard my teachings as the apple of your eye" - 7:2.*

God's commands are not burdensome. They are a joy and should be kept as such. **Where is your heart less than joyful in the service of and obedience to God? Are you giving, working, serving and worshiping as He would want you to do?** You can reinforce the lesson in this verse by reading [1 John 5:3](#) and Jesus' own words in [John 14:15-24](#).

October 8

*"Listen, for I have worthy things to say;
I open my lips to speak what is right" - 8:6.*

God is always 'broadcasting.' He is speaking to you through circumstances, His Word and other people. **Are you listening? Do you even expect to hear? When You hear, what do you do**

with what you have heard? Act or wait? Don't put your faith in your ability to hear; rather put it in God's ability and willingness to speak. This truth is also spelled out for you in [Hebrews 1:1-2](#).

October 9

"Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed" - 9:5.

God sets a table where you can eat and drink of His goodness to your heart's content. There is no limit or end to His grace and mercy. **Is there anything in your life right now that would keep you from enjoying this feast God has prepared just for you?** Read [Psalm 34:7-9](#) and the [Song of Solomon 2:3-5](#), which both speak about 'eating' God's goodness.

October 10

"The lips of the righteous nourish many . . ." - 10:21.

Whether teaching, preaching, writing, broadcasting, praying or encouraging, your words should touch many people for their good. Yet you can be paralyzed with the fear of what others may think or by being self-conscious as you scrutinize what you were about to say. When that happens, you miss opportunities to nourish others with your words. **Are you using the full power of your "lips" to bless other people all over the world, or at least all over your world?** Read [Matthew 10:26-28](#) and determine what obstacles exist that keep you speaking boldly.

October 11

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

You have the potential to bless an entire city with your words! **How are you using this tremendous power to make a positive impact on large groups of people where you live, work or worship? What is your plan from this point forward to do so?** Read [1 Kings 4:29-34](#) to see how Solomon fulfilled the potential described in today's verse in his lifetime.

October 12

"Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor" - 12:24.

There is one sure way to succeed and that is not to give up, no matter how difficult the goal may be, or how long it takes to accomplish. **Can people depend on you to do the job or does someone have to be assigned to you to make sure you follow through? Do you start well but finish poorly? Do you break promises to yourself and others concerning what you will**

achieve? For a good example of one who started well and finished even better, read about Caleb and his inheritance in [Joshua 14:6-15](#) and [15:13-16](#).

October 13

*"The sluggard craves and gets nothing,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied" - 13:4.*

Proverbs often extols the benefits of diligence, a trait that is always rewarded. Some people, however, see goal-setting as unspiritual. If you don't set goals, however, **then why do you need diligence? Do you set goals and then are you diligent to see them completed? What are your current goals? Are you making progress or stuck?** Read what Jesus had to say about diligence and goal-setting in [Luke 14:28-33](#) and then apply it to your life and walk.

October 14

". . . knowledge comes easily to the discerning" - 14:6.

When you have developed spiritual discernment, you have the ability to know and understand all kinds of things. Adam and Eve tried to take a shortcut to this knowledge by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You develop your discernment by learning from your life experience, listening to the voice of the Spirit, and by studying and trusting God's word. You can see two examples of spiritual discernment in [Acts 13:6-12](#) and [1 Kings 3:16-28](#).

October 15

*"The Lord is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous" - 15:29.*

What a privilege it is that God hears your prayers. **Are you making the most of the opportunity to commune with the God of the universe? If so, what you are talking about?** Ask God difficult questions and seek Him for great things! Read what Jesus said in [Matthew 18:18-20](#) and what Paul wrote in [Ephesians 6:18](#), and then apply what you read today!

October 16

*"In his heart a man plans his course,
but the Lord determines his steps" - 16:9.*

There is nothing wrong with planning as long as you allow the Lord to direct your steps as you carry out those plans. God is often directing your heart even during the planning process, whether or not you sense His presence, so don't be afraid to write down your dream and how you

think you can achieve it! **Do you avoid the planning process? Do you think it is unspiritual?** Read [Genesis 28:10-17](#) and meditate how it relates to today's verse.

October 17

*"A bribe is a charm to the one who gives it;
wherever he turns, he succeeds" - 17:8.*

People are always looking for shortcuts to long-term success, but there are none. Integrity, hard work and honesty are the highways that lead to lasting, meaningful results. **Are you willing to follow their path to success or are you looking for an easier way?** You can see an example of this temptation and Peter's response to it in [Acts 8:18-24](#).

October 18

*"From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled;
with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied" - 18:20.*

You should keep your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them! What's more, you should fill your mouth with talk of God and His word as often as possible. **If you had to live off the fruit of your mouth, would you thrive or have an upset stomach? If you had to live off speaking God's word, would you have enough to satisfy your hunger?** For an example of someone eating God's words and then feeding others, see [Ezekiel 3:2-4](#) and [Revelation 10:10-11](#).

October 19

*"He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;
he who cherishes understanding prospers" - 19:8.*

If you neglect the accumulation of wisdom and knowledge, you work against your own best interests. This may indicate you don't like who you are, which is basically telling the Lord He made a mistake when He made you as you are. **How has this personal hangup kept you from growing in the Lord?** It may be time to read and take to heart [Psalm 139:14-16](#) and then [Matthew 22:38-40](#), noticing how loving others depends on loving yourself.

October 20

*"Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure;
I am clean and without sin?'" - 20:9.*

The answer to the question is "No one!" You must be careful when confronting the sins of another, for you have plenty of your own. This is why Jesus spoke of taking the plank out of your own eye before tending to the speck in your brother's eye (see [Matthew 7:3-5](#)). **Have you**

become arrogant or upset toward someone else with a sin problem when you should be humbling yourself before God because of your own?

October 21

*"Better to live in a desert
than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife" - 21:19.*

This verse isn't endorsing desert-living. It is simply making a statement that living with someone who is contentious, complaining and angry is no fun. **What kind of partner are you in marriage, family, work or ministry? Are you a pain to live with or do you die to self to be a blessing to those closest to you?** Read what John wrote in [2 John 4-6](#) and see to it that you live up to his command to love.

October 22

*"A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge,
but the simple keep going and suffer for it" - 22:3.*

There is no room for being passive in your spiritual life. It is important to recognize and respond to potential dangers where your family, business, personal life and ministry are concerned. This requires courage and confidence. **What are the greatest threats you are facing right now and how are you dealing with them?** Read [Mark 9:22-24](#) and consider how to apply what Jesus said about dealing aggressively to problems and temptations your life, work and relationships.

October 23

*"Do not join those who drink too much wine
or gorge themselves on meat" - 23:20.*

It is possible to be a Christian and still be selfish. You can concentrate on taking care of yourself at the expense of others around you, actually becoming a spiritual glutton. **What are you doing to share your blessings or do you keep them all for and to yourself? What can you do today to "feed" someone else, instead of expecting to be fed?** Read what Paul wrote in [Philippians 3:17-19](#) and notice that he was writing about believers!

October 24

*"Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter" - 24:11.*

People who don't know the Lord are in danger of spending eternity out of God's presence and favor. You have the words of life that can rescue them from their dilemma. **Are you sharing**

those words of life with whomever will listen? Read [Ezekiel 22:30-31](#) and [Isaiah 59:15-16](#) to encourage you in this important work of sharing the truth with those who need it.

October 25

*"Like the coolness of snow at harvest time
is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him;
he refreshes the spirit of his masters" - 25:13.*

You have been entrusted with the message of life to give to others. **Are you being a faithful messenger of the good news you have received and live in?** If so, then you are not only a blessing to those who hear, but also to the One who gave you the message to deliver! To see an example of trustworthy messengers at work, take a look at [Acts 4:23-31](#).

October 26

*"The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth" - 26:15.*

What a silly picture of someone who puts food on his fork but doesn't bring it to his mouth! Yet if you start something and don't finish it, you can be just as foolish. **What you are putting off finishing and what is stopping you from doing it? Where is laziness controlling your life?** Read what [Hebrews 6:10-12](#) has to say about laziness, and then devise a plan to get over this trait that is keeping you from realizing your full potential God has assigned you.

October 27

*"Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,
give careful attention to your herds" - 27:23.*

This verse urges you to pay close attention to the things and people around you. **Are you in touch and walking in reality where your "world" is concerned? Are you assuming things are good but they are really otherwise? What about those closest to you? Do you notice when they are down, sad or angry?** To do so you must be interested and take the time to see things through the eyes of others. For two examples of this practice, look at [Nehemiah 2:1-5](#) and [Luke 5:17-20](#).

October 28

*"The wicked man flees though no one pursues,
but the righteous are as bold as a lion" 28:1.*

A lion is not timid, passive or easily intimidated. A lion goes where it wants, eats what it wants and sleeps when it wants. **What can you learn and apply from the lion's example today? How bold are you when it comes to your purpose and goals? How aggressive are you in evangelism and prayer?** Read [2 Corinthians 3:11-13](#) and [Hebrews 4:16](#) to better understand how to express this boldness in your spiritual life.

October 29

*"When the wicked thrive, so does sin,
but the righteous will see their downfall" - 29:16.*

This explains why you can turn the other cheek and bless those who treat you badly, as Jesus commanded. Either they will repent or God will bring justice for what they have done, so either way you 'win.' **Can you trust that God will eventually make all things right and judge the wicked, thus freeing you to do good to those who treat you badly?** Read [Revelation 7:9-17](#) and be reminded that God is control and will judge all living creatures with justice and equity.

October 30

*"I have not learned wisdom,
nor have I knowledge of the Holy One" - 30:3.*

The more you learn about God, the more you realize how little you know. It is important to walk in humility and have a proper assessment of your own spiritual poverty and God's grace toward you. **Is this what Jesus talked about when He mentioned, among other things, being poor in spirit in [Matthew 5:1-10](#)? Is so, do you have an accurate understanding of your spiritual poverty and need for God?**

October 31

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute" - 31:8.*

The poor and disenfranchised have no one to speak up and stand for them. Jesus was clear that addressing their needs must be part of your life and work. We know this because His disciples made this work an important part of their ongoing ministry after He ascended. **What are you doing to help those who cannot help themselves?** Read what James wrote about this activity in [James 1:27](#) and [James 2:1-4](#).