

September 1

*“Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction  
and do not forsake your mother’s teaching” - 1:8.*

Teaching is best done in a family setting, whether the natural family or the Church. **Are you being true to what your parents and spiritual parents taught you? Whether or not they taught you, are you now teaching others, especially your own children and grandchildren?** Read [Proverbs 22:6](#) and [Psalm 78:2-6](#) and then get about the work of teaching the next generation in some capacity.

September 2

*“For the upright will live in the land,  
and the blameless will remain in it” - 2:21.*

God makes a place for the righteous. For some it is a place to live and thrive. For others, it is a place of purpose and meaning. For all who trust Him, it is a place of security in His love and saving grace. **Are you living to the fullest in your land today?** Read how Joshua and Caleb inherited their ‘land’ in [Numbers 14:21-24](#) and keep in mind that it was their faith that enabled them to live there.

September 3

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding” - 3:5.*

A spiritual lie tells you that God cannot be trusted, that you must take matters into your own hands. When you do that, it leads to anxiety, worry and stress. This verse *commands* you to trust the Lord with all your heart. **Do you? Where is there evidence that you are trusting him? In your finances? Relationships? Career?** Read [Hebrews 11:1-6](#) and be reminded that without trust and faith, it is impossible to please the Lord.

September 4

*“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding” - 4:7.*

There is a price to pay to get wisdom. Perhaps it is missing your favorite TV show, humbling yourself, or even going back to school. **What price are you willing to pay to get wisdom and understanding? Why do you desire them? What will you do with them once you get them?** Read [Matthew 16:24-25](#) and see that any spiritual benefit is going to cost you something.

September 5

*“I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.  
I have come to the brink of utter ruin. . .” - 5:13-14.*

If you are to grow, you must continue to learn. And if you are to learn, then someone must teach you. **Do you have a teachable spirit? Can you receive from others easily and with grace? Who are your favorite teachers who always seem to have a ‘word’ for you?** If you don't learn and grow, you are actually resisting God, who is the One teaching you through others. To verify that truth, read [Matthew 4:23](#) and [John 6:45](#).

September 6

*“When you sleep, they watch over you” - 6:22.*

When you sleep, God does not. When you cannot do anything for yourself but rest, God can take action on your behalf. **Why do you allow anxiety and worry to rob you of sleep?** Take comfort from [Psalm 127:1-2](#) and then study [Philippians 4:8-9](#) to see that your thoughts, which you can control with God's help, are the source of anxiety or of peace.

September 7

*“He was going down the street near her corner,  
walking along in the direction of her house. . .” - 7:8.*

The young man in this verse was heading to a place where he should not go. **Are there "places" you should not go, like television, the Internet, a neighbor's home or the mall?** If you have a weakness or perhaps even an addiction, then you must be especially careful to avoid any path that leads to your problem. Read [Matthew 5:29-30](#) and understand how ruthlessly you must deal with any source of temptation, whether it be person or place.

September 8

*“By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just” - 8:15.*

Wisdom equips you to be an effective leader. It enables you to make decisions today that are right for tomorrow. **What are you doing to increase your capacity to lead others? Do you desire to be a leader? Why or why not?** Note the wisdom that David and Solomon had as young leaders in [1 Samuel 17:26-37](#) and [2 Chronicles 1](#), and then follow their example of prayer and action in your own leadership style.

September 9

*“Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!” - 9:17.*

The problem with the "passing pleasure of sin" is that it is passing - it doesn't last. Secret sins always have a way of going public, so the best thing you can do is repent before they do. **Do you have any need of repentance from secret sins today?** In support of today's theme, read [Isaiah 30:12-15](#) and follow its directives.

September 10

*“The memory of the righteous will be a blessing” - 10:7.*

It is never too early to think about the legacy you would like to leave behind. Author Stephen Covey recommended you write your funeral eulogy *today* and then start earnestly doing what you want to be remembered for when you are gone. Read [Nehemiah 13](#) and see how many times Nehemiah asked the Lord to remember him for the work he did. **What legacy do you pray God will enable you to leave behind?**

September 11

*“The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead” - 11:8.*

This verse does not say that the righteous won't be in trouble; it says that God will rescue them when they are in trouble. What's more, encountering "trouble" does not indicate you have done something wrong or that God is displeased. Finally, the wicked are the ones who will encounter the ultimate and inescapable trouble, not you. There is no better example of this than Daniel in the lions' den as told in [Daniel 6](#).

September 12

*“The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood . . .” - 12:6.*

There is an evil being in the world who doesn't just want to hurt you, he wants to destroy you, as Jesus warned. Don't underestimate the powers arrayed against you or their hatred of God, and don't ignore the fact that you need to trust in the Lord if you are going to survive their evil designs against you! **Where in your life are you encountering an attack of the enemy? What must you do to be delivered?** Read [1 Peter 5:8-9](#) and do what it says.

September 13

*“Righteousness guards the man of integrity . . .” - 13:6.*

Integrity is consistently doing what is in line with unselfish and God-honoring personal values. **Have you thought and written out your values? Do you have a network of ethics that guides and guards you in the affairs of life, especially when you are tempted to take a moral shortcut?** For an example of one man with integrity and one without, read [1 Samuel 11](#).

September 14

*"When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down,  
but even in death the righteous have a refuge" - 14:32.*

You have hope no matter how bad your situation is because you have a place to go in times of trouble. What's more, death is not the end; it is only a transition if you know the Lord. **Are you living in hope? If not, why not? If so, with whom can you share your hope today?** Perhaps Jesus' words in [Luke 12:4-7](#) will serve to boost your hope today. Then you can talk yourself out of depression or hopelessness as David did in [Psalm 42](#).

September 15

*"The cheerful heart has a continual feast" - 15:5.*

Joy is both a decision and a gift. The Holy Spirit gives joy but you must choose to be joyful in the midst of all circumstances. Today's verse tells you this joy provides you with many benefits, like a feast for the soul. **Would others say that you are a joyful person?** Don't let grumbling or anxiety rob you of your joy today. To read more about joy, look at [Galatians 5:22-23](#) and [John 15:11](#).

September 16

*"The Lord has made everything for its own purpose,  
even the wicked for the day of evil" - 16:4.*

God is a God of purpose. He has assigned something for you to do only you can do, something for you to be only you can be. **Do you know your purpose? What price are you willing to pay to discover it? If you know it, are you fulfilling it to the max?** Look at some men of purpose as described in [Exodus 9:15-17](#) and [Galatians 2:6-8](#) to see what you can learn.

September 17

*"A rebuke impresses a man of discernment  
more than a hundred lashes a fool" - 17:10.*

An old saying states, "A word to the wise is sufficient." **How well do you take correction from others? How many people are close enough to you to deliver a meaningful rebuke? Do you have feedback systems set up in your life so you know how well you are doing?** Read how David handled his rebuke from Nathan the prophet in [2 Samuel 12:1-14](#) and see what you can learn and apply to your own life.

September 18

*"The name of the Lord is a strong tower;  
the righteous run into it and are safe" - 18:10.*

You are not to take the Lord's name in vain, which doesn't refer to swearing or cursing. Rather you are to take and use it for His purpose and glory through right deeds and behavior. **What are you doing with and in the name of the Lord? Is it a refuge and tower, or only something you mention as you conclude your blessing over food?** Take some time to read what the apostles did with and in the name of the Lord in [Acts 3:16](#) and [Acts 4:7-12](#).

September 19

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,  
and he will reward him for what he has done" - 19:17.*

When you give to those who cannot repay, it is like you are giving to God Himself! He keeps a record and repays you in due time with interest. **What more can you do for the poor not only today but on an ongoing basis?** To see example of God watching and rewarding a generous person, read about the impact of one man's regular giving to the poor in [Acts 10:1-6](#).

September 20

*"A sluggard does not plow in season;  
so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing" - 20:4.*

If you want to reach a goal, you must employ dreaming, planning and diligence. If you break down in any one of those three, you will not see the end result of your goal. **Which of those three do you need to engage today? Where is the breakdown in your attempt to set and achieve a goal?** Read [Habakkuk 2:1-4](#) to further understand both the proper way to set and the steps required to achieve any goal.

September 21

*"A wise man attacks the city of the mighty  
and pulls down strongholds in which they trust" - 21:22.*

You are involved in a spiritual war and must not take a passive role. **Is your prayer life making a difference in your community, family and world around you? Are you praying only for personal protection or are you pushing back forces of evil with which you come in contact?** You can see an example of this in [Acts 16:16-19](#) and then read more about aggressive prayer in [Colossians 4:2-4](#).

September 22

*"The sluggard says, 'There is a lion outside!' or 'I will be murdered in the streets!'" -22:13.*

A lazy person's creativity is often channeled into excuse-making. Yet his or her laziness is often rooted in nothing more than fear. **What are you afraid of that is keeping you from taking steps to achieve your dreams and purpose? What creative excuses are you offering to justify your inactivity?** Read what Jesus said about excuses in [Matthew 8:18-22](#) and then confront yours to overcome your sluggardly ways.

September 23

*"Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless" - 23:10.*

This verse urges you to maintain integrity in the affairs of life, for God is watching. Respect others' property as your own, whether you know them or not. Especially don't take advantage of the weak or the poor for your own personal or business gain. For an example of someone who did not heed the warning in this verse, read [1 Kings 21](#) and see how he was punished for his theft.

September 24

*"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established" - 24:3.*

Proverbs explains that wisdom is to fear the Lord and understanding is how that fear applies to daily living. If you want to build something - a business, ministry, or family - you will do well to put God first and keep Him there, not just on Sunday but every day of the week. Take a look at what Jesus had to say about 'building' in [Matthew 7:24-29](#) and then assess what kind of foundation you have laid for your life and work.

September 25

*"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" - 25:11.*

What a word picture this verse paints! When you the right thing in the right setting, it's like precious metals grandly displayed. **Are you a source of discouragement or encouragement for others?** Your uplifting words hold tremendous riches for others. Think of some folks you can write, call or visit today to give them an encouraging word! Read what Paul had to say about your words (among other things) in [Ephesians 5:3-5](#) and take it to heart!

September 26

*"Like a lame man's legs that hang limp  
is a proverb in the mouth of a fool" - 26:7.*

If you don't have the character or integrity to go with your wise words, you lack moral authority. If you don't know when or how to say something, you can say right things, but they won't be effective. **How influential do you want to be?** Let your life be your message and your words will have added power and influence. Read [Leviticus 2:13](#) and [Colossians 4:6](#) and meditate on what it means to have your life and words 'salted.'

September 27

*"Better is open rebuke than hidden love" - 27:5.*

If love is really love, it cannot be hidden. It will act to benefit the one who is loved. You cannot say you love God but not love His people. In other words, you cannot be a loner Christian, which means you will be part of a church fellowship, where honesty may be part of the love that is expressed. **What are you doing to show your love for God's people?** John wrote something important about loving God and His people in [1 John 2:9-11](#), which you will do well to read and apply.

September 28

*"He who rebukes a man will in the end  
gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue" - 28:23.*

Yesterday you saw that hidden love is no love at all. Today you see that lovingly confronting someone in the wrong can be a long-term strategy to win their favor and respect. **Is it fair to say that those who love will be those who rebuke and correct because they care?** Read [Ezekiel 33:1-6](#), which describes the need to "blow the trumpet" for those who are in spiritual danger, and then apply what you read to your life and work.

September 29

*"A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes  
will suddenly be destroyed - without remedy" - 29:1.*

There are limits to God's patience. If you continually ignore His warnings about your behavior or attitude, you run the risk of humiliation. Better to humble yourself than to be humiliated! **Is there any area of your life in which you have been resisting changes?** Read [1 Peter 5:5-7](#) and [Matthew 21:44](#) and then get about the business of loosening up that stick neck of yours!

September 30

*"I am the most ignorant of men;  
I do not have a man's understanding" - 30:2.*

It is good to be realistic and know what you have, what you know and who you are by God's grace. If you don't, then you can be arrogant and rash, ignoring your limitations and weaknesses. **Do you understand God is the source of your life and success? Do you have a good idea of your strengths and weaknesses?** Read what Paul wrote about this topic in [Romans 12:3-8](#) and then be about the business of being who you are, who God made you to be.