



*Seasons  
of  
Prudent Living*





# *The Seasons of Prudent Living*

## *Dedication*

Father, we dedicate this study time to you. Teach us; lead us; correct us; and refresh our spirit as we come to you each day.

Written By:  
Jeanette L. Wood and Connie J. Renfro





# *The Seasons of Prudent Living*

## *Introduction*

Greetings dear Sisters! As we come together to share, our focus will be on prudence.

The definition of prudence addresses wisdom, intelligent decision making, and being careful in providing for the future. We titled the study, *The Seasons of Prudent Living* since we are well aware that living prudently changes, becomes richer, throughout the variety of Seasons in our life.

We pray that you will not be discouraged thinking, 'I can't be all of these things'. Rather encouraged to learn, grow, and live prudently throughout each season of life!

When we completed a word search for "prudent" within the scriptures, 27 references were found using this word. However, there are many references that speak to us about prudence, but do not use the specific word "prudence". Prudence or being prudent can be referred to as cautious, sensible, practical, discreet, far-sighted, and practically wise. Let us begin our study time together with these synonyms in mind as we glean from the Word.

Keeping in mind this Holiday Season, my mother, Connie, and I have written this devotion, for you, as our gift to the Lord. You will find that we have broken this study of prudence into small daily devotions that you can expand upon and ponder throughout your busy days. Since prudence is the practical use of wisdom or what I like to call, wisdom put to use, we have included a section titled "Practical Application" that accompanies each devotion. Periodically, through the devotional you will also find "Prudent Tips" written as a reminder that we can not separate prudence from the wisdom of God. The prudent understand that it is God's wisdom living within in us that gives us direction for our days. I pray that these "Prudent Tips" give you some practical ways to apply His Word in your home in a creative way. Additional references have been given for you to look up. All Scripture, unless otherwise noted, is taken from the King James Bible.

As our hearts turn towards the Lord I am confident that He will open our eyes to practical ways to apply wisdom in our decision making, our relationships, even in our thinking. We invite you to write to us at anytime and share how God is working in your life. We are honored to pray for you as your Sisters in Christ.

If you would like to make copies of this e-book or share with friends please feel free to do so as long as it is given/copied in whole with all credits given to the proper parties.

Above all, may God be glorified and each of our lives transformed into His image as we seek to live prudently!

Because of His Amazing Grace,  
Mrs. Joseph Wood & Connie J. Renfro



# The Call to Prudent Living

NOVEMBER 26

## PASSAGE

*2 Peter 2:9-16, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the LORD's sake: whether it is to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."*

## DEVOTION

How can I be prudent in the midst of all that is going on in my life? With finances, deadlines, work, home life, responsibilities within the home and outside of the home, church commitments, family commitments and community commitments, where do I start? Does this sound like something you'd ask? I'm sure we've all been challenged in one or more of these moments of life, yet, we are called to be prudent according to God's Word. We are a chosen generation who are God's children and we have been bought with a price to be His servants. This passage gives us a mark to reach in our everyday occurrences; from reaching others to keeping ourselves from sin. We are called to Prudent living in all things.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Romans 12:1-3; John 15:6-8; Psalms 1:1-3; 2 John 1:5-6

## PRAYER

Father, lead us in wisdom; guide our footsteps; make us vigilant and consistent in our purpose to serve you. LORD, speak to our hearts when we serve ourselves and redirect us when our thoughts are about those things we should put aside. Give us eyes to see those who are in need; Give us ears to hear the fainthearted; and strengthen our hands to lift those to whom you direct our steps. LORD, change our hearts so that we become prudent and willing servants in your work. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Take inventory and measure your walk before the LORD. Prudent living depends on the strength of the LORD and not our own strength. It is the calling for each of us and it is our REASONABLE SERVICE. Brothers and Sisters, give your heart over to the LORD each day as you enter into your walk with Him; ask for His guidance to a prudent life. He will be faithful to supply all of your needs.

# The Character of the Prudent

NOVEMBER 27

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 16:21, "The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning."*

## DEVOTION

Prudence is a character of the saints. Before we begin our study we must understand our obligation to be prudent as a child of God. We are instructed in Galatians 5:21-23, that if we are walking in the Spirit we will have fruit produced in our lives that will be love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. This fruit of the spirit is the character we are to apply to our lives as we walk before Him. As we entrust our lives to Him and learn to be prudent, we will share the fruit the Holy Spirit develops within us. We must learn to be kind, put away jealousy, put others first, do not be irritable or keep record of being wronged, be diligent in our mission, never lose faith and always be hopeful and endure every circumstance with the prudence of a heart that has sweet offerings before our LORD.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Psalms 139; 1 Corinthians 12 & 13; John 15: 4-6; Matthew 28: 19-20

## PRAYER

Father, as we study your Word and apply it to our lives, help us to develop the character that ministers to those around us. Teach us to be teachers of your Word and teach us to develop the characters that are pleasing to you. Teach us more about joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

We can not separate prudence from the Word of God. If we desire to be prudent we must also desire His Word. We must study His Word as commanded in 2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth." I would encourage you to download a free Bible app for your computer or iPhone. Find an application that has many features including multiple commentaries, maps, dictionaries, notes, and several different translations of the Bible.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Come before the LORD this very moment and acknowledge your relationship with Him. Apply His Word to your heart and this day, ask Him to search you, because He knows you best. Commit yourself to Him to be used and to be worked through for His glory. Admit to Him that you can do nothing without Him and relinquish your hold on the future. Submit to His will for your life. Keep your heart pure before Him, for He knows even your thoughts before you do. Remember, that He is always with you; He is the unseen guest of every moment. Rejoice in Him that He is not finished with you yet and that you still have much to learn. Apply His Word to your daily living.

# A Prudent Wife

NOVEMBER 28

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 19:14 “House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.”*

## DEVOTION

Pondering this passage always makes me think of Proverbs 31:11, “The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil”. Have you ever felt like you just couldn’t get it right? No matter how hard you tried to balance the checkbook, train the children, or keep the house it just wasn’t good enough? I know I have. The feeling of failure has not come because of anything my dear Joe has said or done but because of my own expectations on myself. I see my shortcomings, I know my weaknesses and sometimes I feel completely inadequate. When I start examining my life and how I might be a blessing to my husband and therefore glorify my God, these two verses provide me with some practical ‘how to’ instruction. First, a prudent wife is from the LORD. It is nothing of my own making it is all because of His doing. Again in Proverbs 31:11, it is by God’s provision that her husband has no need of spoil. It is because of the work that God is faithful to complete in my life that my husband can safely trust me. It’s not because of my own strength. All that I must require of myself each day is to empty myself of selfishness and come before the LORD ready and willing to move, speak, and live all for His glory and nothing of my own.

## PRAYER

LORD, help us hold our positions as wives with great respect . Open our eyes so that we might realize the position you have given us as wives and mothers. Let us set aside every selfish sin that might entangle us so that you might live through us . In Jesus Name I pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

It is easy for us to get caught in the selfishness of the moment. To believe that we have rights forgetting that we were bought with a price. I know the pain of surrendering all to Christ and I also know the freedom that complete surrender brings about. I encourage you to examine your life for areas that you need to surrender so that you can experience the freedom and joy that is found in being a prudent wife.

## ADDITIONAL READING

John 3: 30; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Psalms 26:1-3;  
Hebrews 12:1-3

# The Prudent Teach & Invest in Others

NOVEMBER 29

## PASSAGE

*Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."*

## DEVOTION

Prudent investing into the lives of those God has placed before us is our calling. Whether you have children, grandchildren or you are blessed to be the caretaker of elders; investing into lives will give you returns that are a lifetime of rewards. As we walk in our calling before God we are to be diligent in our focus to teach one another, offer hope to those who have no hope, and make provisions for the future. Those we minister to will remember how we handled the holiday and every day events. They will follow our example and they will make the same mistakes if we are not prudent in teaching them to be wise. During the holidays, we need to change our focus from how we celebrate to why we celebrate and make the time together a shared experience. During our daily events we need to keep our focus on glorifying God in all things. Consider how you can teach the members of your ministry their part in making the holidays and the every day events a memory that can be carried into their futures.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Colossians 3:15-17; 1 Samuel 12:22-24; Proverbs 6:6

## PRAYER

Father, help us to be prudent in our dealing when holidays are approaching. There is much surrounding this time of year that can draw our hearts and minds spent with you to a far and distant place. Draw us back to your throne daily so that we will be equipped to teach your people practical lessons from the Word which you have provided. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As we consider making provisions for the future how can we apply this to the holidays season? Of course, we can look to the example in scripture that ask us to consider the ways of the ant that do not wait for someone to tell them to get busy as winter approaches, but they labor none the less gathering their supplies for the winter months. They have no one laying out their day of activities, they simply apply their life's work to providing for the future. The future I'm asking you to consider this day is the distant future. In planning for the future, consider what you are putting into the hearts you minister to about the holidays. Are you teaching them the Holy purpose of this time of year? Are you establishing the Word of God into their lives? Are you ministering to them so they minister to others or are you teaching them that the holidays are the time when you spend too much money, you cook too much food, you spend too much time worrying about tomorrow, or sadly, that you can't wait until it's over?

# The Prudent are Consistent

NOVEMBER 30

## PASSAGE

*Daniel 6:4, "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him."*

## DEVOTION

Consistency with our walk before the LORD and those we minister to is a strong message. When we vacillate in our walk, is the very thing which is pointed to by others when we stand in the face of trials. Just as Daniel lived his life before others, the fruit of prudence in living consistently was all they could point to when they sought to bring him harm. So as you enter each day are you being consistent in your message or are you vacillating in your life in the world? Have you been distracted by what the world expects of you? Have you given into the newest craze? Have you been responsible and trustworthy with the resources the LORD has provided? Let us consider Daniel's prudence and walk a straight line that leads to Holy living. Let us not be caught up in the world's view. Let us be responsible in our daily walk and in our celebrations and let us be found trustworthy with our resources. Let us share the consistent message that Christ was born so that you and I could be free. Let us point the world to the Cross for our daily living and in our celebrations

## PRAYER

Father, remind us through your Word to be consistent in our walk before you. Father, you do not change and you do not compromise your promises or your grace and mercy. You are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Let the world see a consistent walk in our lives as we live prudently before you and them. Let us not give any cause that any fault can be found in how we served you during the holidays in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As you plan your events around holidays, be consistent in your message to your children, your family, and your neighbors. Is there conflict in your words when you speak of the Holiday? Do you get caught up in the rush for the latest fad? Set your heart on heavenly things and the things of this earth truly will grow dim. Put your focus on a Christ-Centered Holiday and make your message about the holiday consistent.

## ADDITIONAL READING

2 Timothy 2:14-16; 1 John 2:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 4

# The Prudent Tame the Tongue

DECEMBER 1

## PASSAGE

*Amos 5:13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time...*

## DEVOTION

Many times the holidays hold conflict. Conflict between family members, conflict of the calendar, conflict in our finances and so forth. While we can't change others, schedules, or our finances, we can have ourselves prudently so that we bring honor to the LORD even in the midst of conflict. Amos 5: 12 tells us that the "Prudent shall keep silence in that time" and it goes on to describe those times as evil. Finding silence in these busy times can be a challenge for all of us., keeping silent in conflict can be equally difficult. Let us remember to consider our words wisely and evaluate each word against His Word.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As we work with others let us remember to find quiet moments to refresh ourselves by His Word. Working with others closely can often lead to conflict. People can have communication problems, stress and allow careless words to flow freely from their lips. However, this is not so with the Prudent. We must be slow to speak, answer with a gentle word and let each word be seasoned with grace! In doing so, we will glorify the LORD and reap a good reward!

## ADDITIONAL READING

James 1: 19; Proverbs 15: 1; 1 Peter 3:10 ; James 1: 26; Col 4:6

## PRAYER

LORD, teach us to guard our mouths . We need your wisdom to know when to speak, how to speak and what to speak. We can do nothing good apart from you. Father, we pray that our words will be seasoned with salt and always minister grace to the hearer. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Our attitude as wives greatly influence the atmosphere in the home! I have learned to guard the peace of the home so that my home not only welcomes my family , but the weary saint, and the lost traveler. Having Scriptures placed throughout the house are helpful for keeping our attitude in line with His will. Consider writing scripture on index cards and placing them strategically throughout the house to give you that Word of encouragement at just the right moment. We've included a few at the end of this devotional for you to print, laminate, and use as needed.

# *The Expediency of the Prudent*

DECEMBER 2

## PASSAGE

*Isaiah 5:21, "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"*

## DEVOTION

When thinking on prudence, the words expediency, practicality, usefulness, feasibility and suitability come to mind. We are to be ever diligent to wait upon the LORD and consider His plans before we run out to make our plans. What we think might be the best way may, in fact, be the hardest way, the longest way and the wrong way. The LORD sees the beginning and the end to every detail and we must remind ourselves that He has already seen the future, yes, even the little details, and He knows the best path to follow or not to follow. When we consider only our plans and step out without His blessing, we fall into a pit of disappointment or even one of grief. We have many examples in scripture when people did not seek God's will in their plans; Balak, Saul, David, and Jonah, to list a few. Each one reaped the tragedies of a broken relationship with God and had to come to a point of repentance to restore their relationship. Some never took that step and died without restoration.

## PRAYER

Father, as we come before you this day, help us to make the plans that you desire. Set before us those things that will bring glory and honor to your name. Guide our footsteps and help us to be mindful of your will in the midst of our daily events and in our celebrations. Thank you, LORD that you have seen the future and you are in every detail. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

## PRUDENT TIP

Listening to the Word of God while we drive, work, exercise or relax in our homes is always a great way to use our modern day technology to help us advance the gospel. If you would like to download a free mp3 version of the Bible you can do so by visiting [Audio Treasure](#). There you will find different versions of the entire Bible for you to download one book at a time. I enjoy listening to the King James Version and appreciate the musical accompaniment that they have included.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As you consider the many plans for your day or the holidays, ask God what He would have you do. Yes, even about the good things that you see no harm in doing. Remember His purpose is eternal. A prudent servant will work for eternity's prize, not the earthly rewards. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God!

## ADDITIONAL READING

Matthew 6; 1 Corinthians 9:23-25; 2 Samuel 11; 1 Samuel 28-31; Numbers 22; Jonah 1-4

# The Prudent are Cautious

DECEMBER 3

## PASSAGE

*Hosea 14:8-9, "Ephraim shall say, what have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found. Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? Prudent and he shall know them? For the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein."*

## DEVOTION

Idols. Do they exist today? Yes, my friends, they do. They are around us at every turn. For you see, an idol is anything that makes your eyes grow dull from the Word of God and your Focus on Christ. What idols do you have in your life? Where have you allowed time, money and possessions to creep in to take the place of your thoughts upon Christ? Consider your consuming thoughts and consider the many things that are offered daily to distract you from the purpose God has brought you here. Remember that your purpose is to glorify God in all that you do. He is the one who answers your prayers, cares for you, holds you up in times of need and understands your coming and your going.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Leviticus 26:1-3; Psalm 115:3-5;  
2 Corinthians 6:15-17

## PRAYER

LORD, as we consider those things that take our time away from you, make us mindful of our relationship with you and turn our hearts toward your Word. Thank you that we have such a rich supply of your blessings each day. All we need to do is stop and turn our attention to you. LORD, we thank you for all that you supply us. Help us to keep our focus on your plans and your purpose. Keep our hearts from seeking riches for riches' sake and keep our eyes from being tempted after those things that we do not need. Thank you that we can trust your will for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Let us be cautious in our thoughts and deeds as we come before Him each day. Seek out those things that cause your eyes to grow dull from His Word and replace them with time spent with Christ. Make a point of gathering your family at the beginning, middle or end of the day to focus your attention on God's work in your life. Plan together and seek God's wisdom in the choices that are made.

# The Prudent are Vigilant

DECEMBER 4

## PASSAGE

*1 Peter 5:7-9, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."*

## DEVOTION

Prudence works vigilance and vigilance is on the lookout for any pitfalls that may be ahead. A prudent servant is aware of those things that may be issues. They test the water, so to speak, to ensure that safety is ahead. Prudence is attentive to details and always ready to change if needed. A prudent servant will be heedful of advice given by those who have experience walking with God. We can give all of our cares and worries about this day and the tomorrows to God.

## ADDITIONAL READING

1 Corinthians 16:12-14; Psalms 111:7-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:14-16; Isaiah 40:13

## PRAYER

Father, the work of your hands is good and your commandments are trustworthy. You have paid a full ransom for your people; we trust in your will for our lives and we stand still to watch the work you plan before us. We glorify your name this day for your goodness. Thank you for your everlasting covenant with your people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

# The Humility of the Prudent

DECEMBER 5

## PASSAGE

*1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

## DEVOTION

I love the visual picture that this verse paints for me. As I prepare each day by getting physically dressed I must make sure that I have also dressed spiritually. In Eph. 6:11, we are told to put on the whole armor of God and here in Peter we are told to cloth ourselves in humility. As I consider these passages I realize that I am to dress each day as a humble warrior. A warrior who is humble to her King's command and valiant in battle. There are many references in Scripture that talk about humility. Take a look at Deuteronomy 8. As you read this passage you hear Moses remind the people that God allowed them to go through difficult conditions in order to humble them. He warns them that as they enter the land of promise, as they increase in number and increase in riches to not forget God and His commands. This is a warning we all need today. It is easy to humble ourselves before God when our circumstances prove we aren't strong enough, wise enough, or talented enough. However, when things are good we often forget to walk in His commands or our desperate need for God. To cloth ourselves in humility each day will keep us from raising ourselves up in pride against the LORD. It will also bestow upon us the blessing of grace that He holds for those that walk humbly before Him. Oh, the importance of daily clothing ourselves in humility!

## PRAYER

LORD, I thank you for your Word that is filled with wisdom on how we ought to live. I thank you that with each turn of the page I find a promise, a blessing and a purpose for those that obey your Commandments. Thank you for instructing us to put on the garment of humility so that we might be victorious as we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers and rulers of darkness in this world. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

We may be able to take advantage of the generic brands at the grocery store, the savings at our local warehouses, and discounts at the thrift shops however, when we dress spiritually only the real thing will do! Don't cut corners and dress yourself in a false humility that says you are of no value or little worth. True humility is when we realize our great worth is in Christ Jesus alone. It is acknowledging Him at work when we succeed, His blessings when we prosper, and His strength through each accomplishment. Don't go about your day pretending to be humble for that will never do. True humility leads others to see the beauty of the LORD. False humility will lead them to see us, pity us, and in the end reject the beautiful garment of humility for themselves.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Deuteronomy: 8: 3; Deuteronomy 8: 16; Micah 6: 8

# The Prudent Mentor Others

DECEMBER 6

## PASSAGE

Titus 2:4,

*“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children”*

## DEVOTION

The elements of prudence contain many attributes. One of these is being a mentor and example to others through our encounters with others. We need one another to edify and strengthen as we go about our journey. Mentoring one another is an expectation of the servants of God. Each of us has been given a talent of ministry. There are many gifts within one community or body of believers and we must not hide these skills no matter how many or few we have. All of the talents given are to build up the church and the body of Christ. Let us not be negligent of our abilities in serving and mentoring the believers and those God places in our journey. Let us be well prepared with His Word and His purpose for this season, for we never know when the Holy Spirit will call upon us to offer our gifts to mentor others. Let us remember the exhortation from Colossians 3:16-17, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the LORD. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

## PRAYER

Father, let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight as we celebrate with the body of Christ and our community. Show us from your Word what it is that we should share and how we should use the many gifts you’ve given each of us. LORD, teach us how to edify those you place in our lives. Help us to die to ourselves as we serve you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Make time during the busy holiday seasons to come alongside the younger families preparing their first holiday feast; offer your best recipes; give them celebration and decorating tips. Make time for the older men and women and provide a meal, or purchase a special gift. Make time for the elderly and visit the shut in. Make time for the widow or widower, the divorced, the singles and invite them to your celebrations or spend an afternoon with them. For those who have been given a gift of teaching, study, arts, song and organization; your contribution at church to adults or children is how your gift can be used to equip God’s people to do his work during this season. But above all of these offers of service, take the Word of God with you and use it as your focus for the mentoring and the visit. For without God as the center of our celebration, all is in vain.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Titus 2:3-5; Ephesians 4:11-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-12; Matthew 25; Colossians 3:16-17; Psalms 19:14

# The Prudent Mindset

DECEMBER 7

## PASSAGE

*Philippians 4:8, Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

## DEVOTION

Is the glass half full or half empty? This question is often used to determine if a person has a negative or positive take on life in general. People who look at life and the obstacles instead of the opportunities are many, especially during a season of celebration. It seems it should not be so, but the holidays have a way of bringing out the worst of character flaws. God has given us power over the spirit of depression; He has given us His love to encounter anger. He has given us a sound mind to equip us against the fiery darts of the enemy. We need to take hold of our testimony and stand firm when faced with these negative responses. Our mindset is important when entering this season and it is a character of the prudent servant who watches guard over our hearts and responses to those around us.

## ADDITIONAL READING

1 Timothy 1:6-8; Ephesians 6:10-18; Philippians 4:6-8; Psalms 17:7-8; Isaiah 26:2-4

## PRAYER

Father, your unfailing love is our hope; it is why we celebrate this season in your name, LORD, we are the apple of your eye and we can seek refuge under your wings during times of distress or confrontation. LORD, make us aware of the need to bring your Word into the lives of those who need you. Keep our minds focused on you. LORD, we trust in you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember:

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# Expectations of the Prudent

DECEMBER 8

## PASSAGE

*Psalm 62: 5 My Soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.*

## DEVOTION

The word ‘expectation’ in the above verse actually comes from the Hebrew word, “Tiqvah”, which literally means ‘a cord’. Figuratively it speaks of hope, or something that you long for. I find that when I am longing for something I am often tied to it. My thoughts, dreams, desires and hopes are wrapped up in whatever it might be that I am expecting. Have you ever had someone or something fail to meet your expectations? I know I have many times. As women we often put out expectations on our husbands, children and friends. It doesn’t take long to discover that people will let us down. People will fail to keep promises, make mistakes and disappoint us. However, if we are prudent we will direct our expectations toward Christ. When we wait upon the LORD we will never be disappointed or ashamed! The Prudent will seek out Knowledge with full confidence that our expectation will be fulfilled. This quest for knowledge must be a fervent quest indeed. For, we have a promise given to us in Proverbs 24:14 that if we seek out knowledge our expectation will not be cut off and we will find a reward. This is such a better outcome than the alternative of wrapping ourselves up in people or things don’t you agree?

## PRUDENT TIP

Get involved in an accountability group with other women who are putting the Lord first each morning. [Good Morning Girls](#) is a wonderful online bible study created for women to connect daily in the Word and with each other. They do several studies each year.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

At any time of year it is easy for us to set our expectations on temporal things. Let us guard our hearts and daily seek out His Wisdom setting our expectations on Him. Have you set aside daily time in the Word? If not, I encourage you to discover the depths of wisdom that awaits you. If you would do better having an accountability partner for your daily time in the word there are many resources available. One resource that I would like to recommend to you is the “Good Morning Girls” with our Sister, Courtney Joseph. I’ve included those details in today’s Prudent Tip. Enjoy!

## ADDITIONAL READING

Psalm 9:18; Philippians 1:19-21; Psalms 123: 1-2

## PRAYER

LORD keep our hearts forever fixed on you. Let us not be ashamed or disappointed. Keep us from falling into vain expectations in this world. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

# The Prudent Peacemaker

DECEMBER 9

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 12:16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.*

## DEVOTION

It's easy to point out the faults that others have by confronting their sins and shortcomings. In our frustration it's easy to share with others what someone did and our feelings about it, however, the LORD tells us that the prudent will cover shame. Consider Noah's son Ham. Ham had seen his father's nakedness and instead of covering his father up he exposed his sin to his brothers. Japheth and Shem were prudent and covered their father's nakedness and received a blessing for being prudent. Ham on the other hand, grieved God and was cursed for exposing the sin of his father. We would be wise to consider this example that has been given to us for our benefit. Covering the shame of our Brother or Sister in Christ will lead to a blessing despite how wrong they may have been at the moment. Exposing their sin will surely lead to a curse!

## PRAYER

LORD, it's not always easy keeping peace with others. There are times that we feel angry, hurt, and betrayed. Keep our hearts focused on the eternal fight LORD and not these earthly squabbles. Help us to walk in peace and cover our Brother or Sister's shame, give us the strength to pray for them fervently, and allow us the blessing of seeing them turn from their way and walk with you. Father, we trust that nothing can happen to us that your watchful eye does not see. We know that you will use even these moments of difficulty to transform us into your image. Thank you for the privilege to call you Father and be known by you as your children. In your Name we pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

I have learned much through my husband about being a peacemaker. He continually takes the "high road" and shows love when it is most difficult. At first I thought this was a weakness until I realized how strong it made him. I have seen relationships healed, and lives changed because we chose peace over justification, confrontation, or recognition. The Scriptures tell us that the peacemakers shall be called the children of God. Let each of us put aside our rights and cling to the LORD as our defender, refuge and Father.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Genesis 9:20-26; Matthew 5: 9; Mark 9: 50

# The Prudent Attain Knowledge

DECEMBER 10

## PASSAGE

*Romans 2:20, "An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law."*

## DEVOTION

God was admonishing the Jews about the Law in this passage. Reminding them that they think they are knowledgeable but letting them know in the remaining of this chapter that they are far from the knowledge the Law was bringing them. He reminds them and us that knowing the Law is not enough. We must check our own hearts before we instruct others. Just because we follow the Law doesn't ensure that we have complete knowledge. God is more interested in our hearts being right with Him! It is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit, then and only then, we hold the key of knowledge through His Word. Anyone who changes their heart does not boast about their knowledge but rather is humble and acknowledges it is God who is the author and teacher. So what is the key of knowledge? A heart that has been changed and depends on the Word in all matters. We are expected to share His knowledge by His leading and by His power. Remember, it is nothing of our own doing.

## PRAYER

Father, give us your prudence and patience this day. Keep our hearts and minds focused on your knowledge and not the knowledge in our own minds or the mind of this world. LORD, teach us the perfect work of patience that we may be whole and entire lacking nothing. We ask for your Holy Spirit to guide us in our quest to serve you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

God has appointed each of us to be His knowledgeable servants. We must not neglect His instructions in anything our hand touches. We must remember that all that we have, all that we are, and all we hope to be, is because of God. It is nothing of our own doing or knowledge. The reverence of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge!

## ADDITIONAL READING

Romans 2: 17-28; Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 1: 17; James 1:3-5; Psalms 51:-9-11; Proverbs 18:15; Ephesians 4: 11-17

# The Prudent are Thoroughly Equipped

DECEMBER 11

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.*

## DEVOTION

It is wise to be cautious when we deal with people, events, and planning. Matthew Henry says, “The prudent man will try before he trusts”. This is hard for some of us that want to trust each person until they prove themselves otherwise. It sounds like the right thing to do to our human minds yet, the Scriptures tell us that the Prudent are cautious and carefully examine the testimony and the character of the witness before trusting. We will suffer unnecessary roughness if we fail to be cautious. In 2 Corinthians 13:5 tells us to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith, and to prove our own selves. Not only should we not believe every word we hear but we shouldn’t believe every thought we think. The prudent will carefully examine his goings along with those that entice him to follow. We must prove all things and hold fast only to that which is good! Matthew Henry reminds us that we must, “prove all things, and believe not every spirit.”

## PRAYER

LORD, we pray for wisdom. Open our minds and hearts to your Knowledge so that we might be able to prove that which is good and true according to your Word and not our own understanding. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

We must be careful that in our examination of our thoughts or of others we don’t become critical or judgmental. Examining, proving or judging the fruit in our own lives or the lives of others must never be done in haste, with pride, or with a pompous attitude. It must be a prayerful, humble, and cautious examination that comes from waiting on the LORD. Make sure that you take time each day to quiet yourself before the LORD. Bring him your thoughts, plans, or ideas and test them against the Scriptures through prayer. Don’t jump on any band wagon that drives you away from the Truth of Scripture.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Galatians 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:5;  
1 Thessalonians 5: 21; 2 Timothy 2:15

# The Prudent Love One Another

DECEMBER 12

## PASSAGE

*1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

## DEVOTION

The hallmark of a follower of Christ is not their wit, charm or strength rather it is their love. Our great commandment was that we love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, and mind. The second, was that we love our neighbor as ourselves. We can not accurately love others if we neglect to love our God with ever fiber of our being. The LORD has called His people to a love that is not based on emotions rather, on obedience to their King. This love does not display itself only when everything is agreeable. It is the kind of love that is steadfast and consistent even when it is least deserved. The passage for today reminds us of the power of Godly Love. Love, shall cover the multitude of sins. On December 9th we talked about being a peacemaker and the blessings to those that cover the shame of others. Today, we learn that the character that equips us to cover our brother or sister's sin is love. We must not err in only loving the loveable or only showing love when it is convenient. We must allow His love to manifest in us to the point that we can crucify our flesh and love at the most difficult times. When we commit to loving God with our whole heart, soul and mind we find the strength to love others. For Christ, in His great love for us, died while we were yet sinners. Let us therefore offer the world a love that is not based on conditions, rather, is given freely because of the Love we have freely received.

## PRAYER

LORD, thank you for loving us enough to give us opportunities to grow more in your image. Thank you for not leaving us in our sin or neglecting our discipline. Give us the courage and the strength to love others as you have loved us. Draw us into a relationship with you where we thirst for you and hunger for nothing else. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen!

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Do you have unlovable people or moments in your life? We all do at one time or another. Learning to love through all circumstances is something that the LORD gives me good practice in. When my mother and I talk about growing spiritually we will often tease saying, "you better get it right this time around or He'll give you more experiences to do so". I think the only thing more painful when growing spiritually is to resist that growth. I want to bear fruit in my life so that all the world may know that God lives within me. I can't do that if I am holding onto my selfish thoughts and desires. Let us each challenge ourselves to respond in love when our flesh wants to respond differently. When we show the world the love of God through our daily choices, speech, and responses we are living out the gospel so that His Name is glorified. Let us not shrink back from this call to love!

## ADDITIONAL READING

1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Corinthians 16:14;  
1 John 2: 27-29

# The Prudent Delight in the Word

DECEMBER 13

## PASSAGE

*Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

## DEVOTION

Are there areas in your life that sin seems to keep you captive? I'm confident that the simple yet, dedicated act of memorizing the Word of God can help us overcome any sin that tries to entrap us. The Scriptures tell us that His Word not only keeps us from sin but comforts, gives us strength and is where the prudent place their Hope. There are multiple passages that speak of not forgetting the Word of the LORD. In fact, we're told that the servants of the LORD love His Word and rejoice in it.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Psalm 119:16; Psalm 119:50; Psalm 119:140;  
Psalm 119:162

## PRAYER

Father, thank you for giving us your Word! Please open our minds to memorize your Word so that we might not sin against thee! Thank you for giving us the freedom to worship you and freely have your Word in our homes. Help us take your Word from off the shelf and put it into our hearts. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

To learn more about Mr. Richard Wurmbbrand's testimony visit [Voice of the Martyrs](#). There you will find a variety of resources and ways for you to help the persecuted Church. Additionally, the Voice of the Martyrs has a resource for children to help them get involved as well. I love teaching my children to have a heart for the hurting and have used the resources from Voice of the Martyrs for many years now. To receive a free copy of this book, visit [Tortured for Christ](#).

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Does your life display a love and joy in the Word? Do you take time each day to memorize the Word? If not, I encourage you to not only memorize individual verses but to commit to memorizing chapters and books of the Bible. In our home, each of us memorize different books of the Bible. We don't have any magic method to memorization. It is the simple discipline of making it a priority to hide His Word in our hearts. This may be a new idea to some of you. We don't often hear of individuals doing this in our culture nonetheless, the blessing of doing so is there for all of us that will not forget His Word. I often tell the children that people can take your Bibles but they'll never steal what you've laid up in your heart. I remember being encouraged as I read the testimony of Brother Wurmbbrand in, Tortured for Christ. He shared how he always had the Word of God to minister to Him through those dark days. Even when there came a time He could no longer recite the passages because of the mental torture he endured, His life had been transformed from those passages and he still knew and chose to love His enemies! The prudent don't have a head knowledge of God and His commands, they have a heart knowledge that flows into every area of their life.

# The Prudent Search for Wisdom

DECEMBER 14

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 8:12, "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions."*

## DEVOTION

Wisdom is far greater wealth than rubies; nothing can compare! Do you have good judgement and discernment? You are rich indeed! Wisdom is something that comes with experience and we cannot expect a child to make judgments that are best for them. We need to be like Solomon who admitted his weakness before the LORD and beg God for wisdom in all that we do. Prudence delivers good sense in times of nonsense; it offers stability in times of instability; and it offers strength to the weak. When we study God's Word and seek His face, wisdom is our reward.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Take the time to write out those things that are wise choices, wise thoughts and wise deeds; use these each day as a focus of your prayer time as you ask God for Wisdom. Bring these things to your family time and discuss how each of you can be wise during this time of the year.

## ADDITIONAL READING

1 Kings 3:16-28; James 1:5; Proverbs 8:12-21;  
Jeremiah 29: 12-13

## PRAYER

Make us wise LORD, not in our own eyes, but in your eyes. Teach us more about you and how you would have us to abide more closely. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Prudent have a Teachable Spirit

DECEMBER 15

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 15:5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*

## DEVOTION

The trademark of a fool is someone who won't hear instruction, someone who will only listen when it's what they want to hear, and someone who rejects the wisdom offered to him. The opposite is true with the prudent. The prudent pay careful attention to the correction and instruction given. The prudent know that the LORD only corrects those He loves. While that correction may be painful at times, the prudent find joy in knowing they are called children of God.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Consider how you respond to correction through your husband, work place, pastor and/or friends. If you find yourself wanting to justify your actions, reject the instruction or become angry at their words of advice, prayerfully consider if the LORD is exposing a lack of prudence to you. It's important to remember that if we are to have a teachable spirit we must have a humble heart that is willing to examine and prove all that is spoken by the Word of God.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Hebrews 12:6; Proverbs 3:12

## PRAYER

LORD, thank you for loving us enough to correct us. Thank you for others who you've allowed to cross our paths that offer us correction, wisdom, and instruction. Humble our hearts to hear so that we might glorify you and walk in prudence. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Prudent are Intuitive

DECEMBER 16

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 14:14-16, "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself. The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident."*

## DEVOTION

Be ever watchful! Consider your going out and coming in! These are phrases that need to be in your mind as you go about your busy days. We need to be sensitive to the needs of others, be ever watchful for those things that demand our time and be perceptive to the unexpected. A prudent servant is shrewd in their financial dealings and with the time used each day. There is an innate mindset to watch, listen and watch again for any needs that arise. Rest and Peace are found at the hand of the prudent for they know how to avoid the things that trip up the foolish man. God's Word is the prudent man's handbook, while the foolish man seeks his own knowledge.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Romans 8:26-28; 1 Corinthians 2:15-16;  
Matthew 25: 34-45

## PRAYER

LORD, make us aware of those who need our help. Make us sensitive to the needs that you have equipped us to meet. Father, we want to serve; prepare our hearts to receive your voice and help us to respond as you call and teach us to love as you love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hospitality of the Prudent

DECEMBER 17

## PASSAGE

*1 Peter 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

## DEVOTION

While the word, hospitality, is only mentioned four times in the new testament, God continually tells his people to care for others. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines hospitality as, "the act or practice of receiving and entertaining strangers or guests without reward, or with kind and generous liberality." God desires for the prudent to esteem others better than ourselves and to care for the stranger, widow, and fatherless. In Leviticus God reminds His people to care for the strange remembering that they too were once strangers. Notice that it mentions the stranger. Often we want to show hospitality to the lovely, the popular, or those that we have the most in common with however God desires that we show hospitality toward those that are different than ourselves. Hospitality presents the Gospel in a tangible form. Much like the King of Kings came to earth as man and washed the feet of his disciples, ate with the sinner and died for all sinners. Our hospitality can minister to those that have yet to discover His amazing grace! The prudent know that hospitality isn't simply a good idea, it's a command!.

## PRUDENT TIP

As women, we can often get excited about having guests over. Make sure that you wait for your husbands leading in this area. The prudent carefully consider our husband's wisdom and instruction in the area of Hospitality. If he doesn't want you to do a certain something that's okay, it will not be held against you. God desires that we submit ourselves to our husbands

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What are some practical ways that God is leading you to be given to hospitality? According to Alexander Strauch's presentation on CD titled, Hospitality the Biblical Commands, hospitality has been used throughout History in times of great times of revival. The correlation between revival and hospitality is no coincidence. In 1 Timothy 3: 2, we are told that to be a leader in the Church you must be a lover of hospitality. Hospitality and the spreading of the Gospel must go hand in hand. As members of the Body of Christ we too are to be given to hospitality and without grudging.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Leviticus 19:34; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:

## PRAYER

LORD, keep our eyes open to the needs around us. This life is so full of distractions you know how easy it is for us to get wrapped up in our own activity. We pray that you will open our eyes to opportunities of Hospitality! In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

# Diligence of the Prudent

DECEMBER 18

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

## DEVOTION

The prudent are diligent. Diligent in business and diligent in both the small and great duties alike. Most importantly the prudent are diligent about keeping their heart steadfast, fixed, on Christ! The prudent guard their heart from subtle sin that would try to rob their heart's attention from the LORD. As we live prudently, we must guard our heart as if we were guarding a precious jewel. The LORD tell us that it is not what comes out of our mouth that defiles us rather what comes out of our heart. Living a prudent life doesn't happen by chance or carelessly, you aren't born prudent. Prudent living is the diligent and purposeful act of following His commands.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Matthew 15:17-19; Proverbs 12:24; Proverbs 12:27;  
2 Peter 3:14

## PRAYER

LORD, we ask that you would keep us ever aware of the importance of guarding our hearts. As we listen to those around us, give us courage to not let gossip enter our ears, strife to enter our hearts or vain thoughts to be entertained. Teach us to diligently keep our hearts steadfast, fixed upon you. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Search of the Prudent

DECEMBER 19

## PASSAGE

*Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding*

## DEVOTION

In Proverbs 2 we're told that if we seek out wisdom, apply our heart to understanding, and cry after knowledge as one that seeks hidden treasures, then, and only then, will we find the knowledge of God. Matthew Henry states, "Heavenly wisdom is better than worldly wealth, and to be preferred before it. Grace is more valuable than gold." We must consider what it is we spend our time and energy searching for and make sure it is only that which is eternal. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. This isn't the fear that brings fright rather, it is an act of awe and respect. The type of awe for the LORD that makes me ask if what I'm doing, thinking, planning or speaking would grieve the LORD or not. It's the type of awe that keeps us from sinning. Not because we fear His wrath but because we love His communion with us. There is a confidence that comes to those that find Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding for in their search they find God. When we know that the LORD is with us we have full confidence that none can stand against us.

## PRUDENT TIP

If someone told you that there was a precious and hidden treasure in your backyard what would you do? You wouldn't just sit there and look out over the backyard wondering where it was would you? You would probably get some tools, equipment maybe even invite some friends to join you and you'd go on a desperate search. What keeps you then from picking up your Bible study tools, setting aside time for prayer and joining others in a Study of His Word? Consider searching for wisdom as you would a hidden treasure, I promise you won't return empty handed.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

I love to go shopping with my mother! I don't have to be buying anything, just the act of searching and conversation is something that I could count as one of my top favorite activities. There are times that I find shopping a chore. Times that I dread going back out again. I guess it's the same way in my spiritual life. I have moments where searching for wisdom is exciting and other times that it's simply out of obedience. I have learned that if I press forward I'll never be disappointed. Unlike my physical shopping experience, I'll never return empty handed. What are you shopping for today? I pray that whatever it is, you've not neglected getting wisdom, understanding, and knowledge.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 3:13; Proverbs 16:16

## PRAYER

LORD give us hearts that hunger to know you. Hearts to that desire to search out wisdom and come into a personal relationship with you. LORD, keep us from finding satisfaction in anything that is apart from you. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

# The Patience of the Prudent

DECEMBER 20

## PASSAGE

*Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

## DEVOTION

There are many times that God calls us to wait patiently for what we know is True yet our eyes can not see. The prudent are faithful to wait for His timing in all things. Romans five tells us that tribulation worketh patience and patience, experience and experience, hope! If we apply both the passage in chapter five and the verse here in chapter eight we see that patience eventually leads to hope and hope leads us back to more patience. Patience is a cycle in our life; not the end of our destination. Christ is constantly calling the Prudent to display His character! Consider the great patience of our LORD who is not slack concerning His promised return but is longsuffering toward us, willing that none should perish but that we would come to repentance. While patience may not always feel like an enjoyable experience it will produce a joyful work in us. .

## PRAYER

LORD we thank you for the perfect work that you are accomplishing in our lives as we patiently wait on you. As we go through uncomfortable situations and painful experiences keep our hearts fixed on the knowledge that all things will bring forth good for your people and glorify your Name. Thank you for setting the perfect example for us and showing us your longsuffering love toward us. Thank you for waiting for us as you called us to yourself. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What are the experiences in your life that need the application of patience? While I know few people that truly celebrate the season of patience everyone I know can testify of its perfect work. James tells us that if we neglect to let patience have her perfect work we will be found wanting. Patience is a fruit of the spirit that we must all learn to bear. 2 Timothy tell us that the servant of the LORD must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach patience. As Paul tells us, experiences bring about patience and while we would most often like to skip the experience we must cling to the Hope that it will bring about patience.

## ADDITIONAL READING

James 1: 4; Romans 5: 3-4; 2 Peter 3:9

# The Search of the Prudent

DECEMBER 21

## PASSAGE

*Psalm 21:13 Be exalted, LORD, in thine own strength; so we will sing and praise thy power.*

## DEVOTION

Praise is a duty that should be done with the utmost affection toward God. It is when our soul sings out with Joy because He alone is worthy not because all is right in our world. There are times that to even utter a song of praise is painful, yet we are told to offer up the sacrifice of praise in the house of the LORD. The Prudent are filled with praise not because life is free of hardship but because God is Holy and remains unchanged. Praise should be done with affection, in sincerity, joyfully and continually.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Hebrews 13:15; Jeremiah 33:11; Psalm 42:4;  
Psalm 30:5

## PRAYER

LORD, we praise you for you alone are worthy of all praise. When the troubles of the world keep us from knowing how to praise thee we ask that you would fill our mouths with a joyful noise to praise you for who you are. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Putting praise music on in the house can be a blessing to all that hear. Consider playing hymns or other worship music throughout the day. In the Scriptures we can see multiple benefits to music, especially when we offer up praise to Him! [Scripture Songs](#) will allow you to download some of my favorite songs.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Do you limit your praise to God to specific places or times? 1 Chronicles 22:30 tells us to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD and to do likewise every evening. Psalm 40:3 we are told that He will put a new song in our mouth. Psalm 42 we're told praise can quiet our weary and worried souls. Psalm 30 we are told that joy will come in the morning. Praise is a practical tool of the prudent that is not limited to times or places. Don't neglect praising God today!

# The Prudent are Thankful

DECEMBER 22

## PASSAGE

*Psalms 95:2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.*

## DEVOTION

The prudent desire to enter into the presence of the LORD. Like David, we say that one day in His courts is better than a thousand days elsewhere. Thanksgiving allows us passage into His presence. In Psalm 100: 4 We are told to enter into his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. In order to give thanks to the LORD the flesh must let go of all that we lack and instead embrace all that He is! Our God is never lacking, His hand is never short, He is worthy of all our praise. We can give thanks with confidence when we offer Him our requests knowing full well that He alone is able! Once we commit ourselves to giving thanks, praise will flow from our hearts and lips toward the LORD. We will enter into His courts where we are refreshed, encouraged and strengthened for all that lays ahead of us.

## PRAYER

LORD, we have much to give thanks for. You have given us the ultimate gift through your Son, Jesus. We pray for hearts that will continually give thanks despite the storms of this life. We thank you for your work in our lives and your faithfulness to complete that work. Thank you for your promised return and your unending love. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What make some people more thankful than others? The Scriptures tell us to do all things without murmuring or complaining and to give thanks continually! Next time you are tempted to complain or grumble about your situation or somebody give thanks instead. It may take some practice but if you do this each time complaining creeps up you'll find that soon you'll not be complaining or murmuring like you used to. Let us be prudent and set our attention toward giving thanks continually.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Psalm 84:10; Hebrews 13:15; Philippians 4:6;  
Philippians 2:14

# The Meekness of the Prudent

DECEMBER 23

## PASSAGE

*The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.*

## DEVOTION

The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is found in the life of the prudent. The prudent know the worth of meekness in the sight of God is of great value. Therefore, they work on the issues of the heart where meekness inhabits. Learning the judgments and ways of the LORD increases the meekness of the prudent. The prudent know that learning the judgments of God also brings about joy. It is the LORD that will lift up the meek and takes pleasure in His people. Meekness is not a weakness rather it is a strength that can hold back the fury of anxious thoughts that try to invade our minds. Meekness keeps pride and strife from developing in our relationships so that we can walk in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Meekness must be displayed in the life of the prudent. Ephesians 4:2 instructs us to walk worthy of our calling in all lowliness, meekness with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. The body of Christ would be much more effective if we learned to live in meekness.

## PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for your Word that instructs us how we ought to live. Thank you for your compassion toward us, for considering our great need for salvation and for humbling yourself and taking on the penalty of sin on our behalf. Let us walk in meekness toward others and lay down our lives as you have done for us. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As an ornament graces the tree at Christmas time so meekness graces the prudent through this world. Let us each consider others above ourselves so that Christ might be seen no matter how dark this world becomes. How can you display meekness today?

## ADDITIONAL READING

Psalm 149:4; Psalm 147:6; Isaiah 29:19; 1 Peter 3:4

# The Prudent Give Freely

DECEMBER 24

## PASSAGE

*John 3: 16 For God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life*

## DEVOTION

For God so loved... that He gave! We know that love is the hallmark of a follower of Christ. When the fruit of love bears witness in our lives we will cover a multitude of sin, chose to live as peace makers, and we'll also be known as giving. During holiday celebrations there is a lot of talk about giving, however, this really should be evident in our lives on a daily basis. We have multiple opportunities to die to our self and our own desires and instead give our energy to our family, church body and community. It is a shame to only give when we feel the person deserves it, to limit our giving to a Season or attach any other strings to our giving. Did you realize that when we limit our giving we are limiting our blessings? Consider Luke 3: 8 we are told that it will be given to us as we gave. Matthew 10:8 tells us that we are to give freely because He gave freely to us!

## PRAYER

LORD, thank you for your faithful example to us of giving all we have when others least deserve it. Thank you for loving us and dying for us when we were yet sinners. Keep us ever aware of our desperate need for your unending love and ultimate gift toward us. Let each of us honor you in all of our giving that is motivated by genuine love. In Jesus Name, Amen!

## PRUDENT TIP

Write your own prudent tip to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Let us give freely to others as the LORD gives us the resources. It won't always be tangible things that we have to give toward others. Giving of ourselves in time, prayer and love takes a very personal and dedicated act. There are times that God calls us to give in tangible ways however, I've learned that most often He has me giving in a very real and personal way. By giving of my time, my prayer, and my friendship. We must remind ourselves to openly give in these areas of our life and not be too busy to invest in the lives of others.

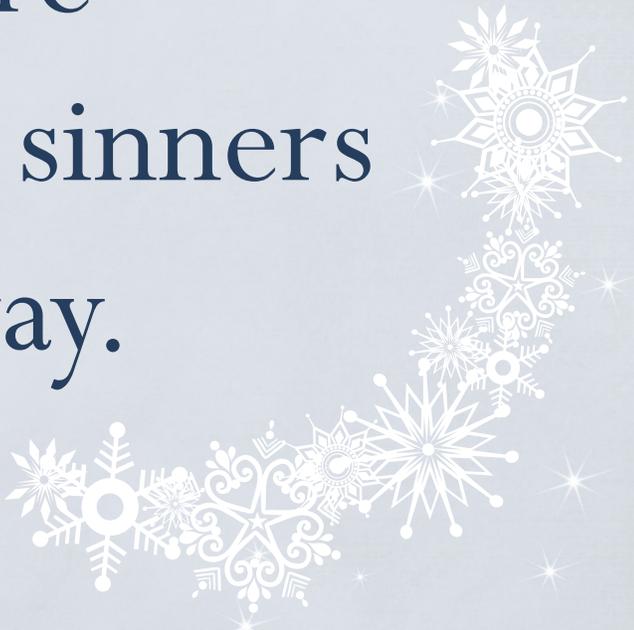
## ADDITIONAL READING

Matthew 10:8; Luke 3:8; Gal 5:22



*Psalm 25:8*

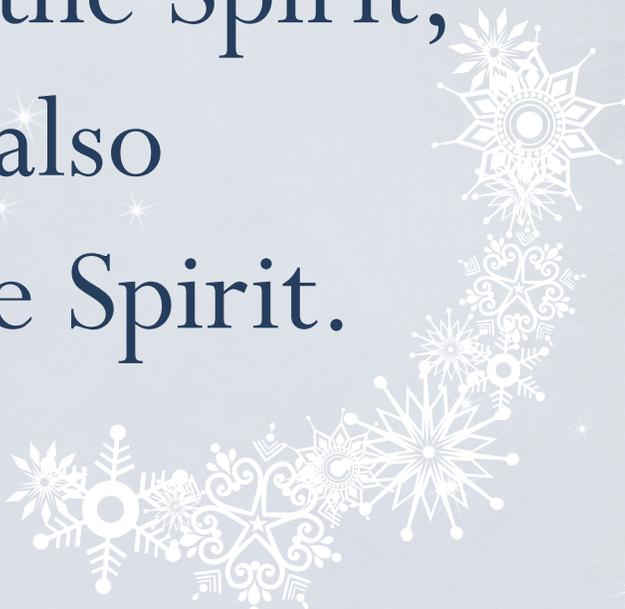
Good and upright  
is the LORD:  
therefore  
will he teach sinners  
in the way.





*Galatians 5:25*

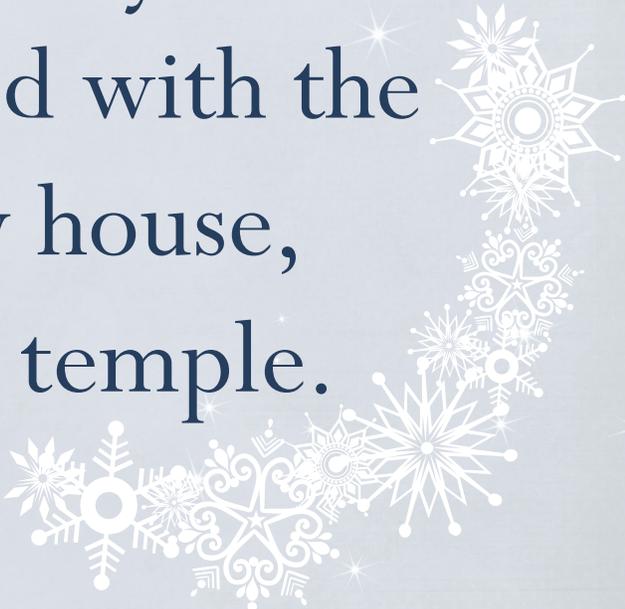
If we live in the Spirit,  
let us also  
walk in the Spirit.





*Psalm 65:4*

Blessed is the man  
whom thou choosest,  
and causest to approach unto thee,  
that he may dwell in thy courts:  
we shall be satisfied with the  
goodness of thy house,  
even of thy holy temple.



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*Psalm 132:7*

We will go into his tabernacles:  
we will worship at his footstool.

Taste of the LORD and see  
that he is good.

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*Romans 15:11*

And again,  
Praise the Lord,  
all ye Gentiles;  
and laud him,  
all ye people.

