

PRUDENCE

MORNING DEW - 26 MAY 2024

What is Prudence?

- Prudence comes from the Latin word prudentia, which means "foresight, discernment, or keen perception."
- Prudence is the ability to exercise sound judgment and careful decision-making.
- It involves considering the potential consequences of one's actions and making wise choices.
- Prudence is a virtue that enables individuals to act with caution, foresight, and discretion.
- In summary, a prudent person is the one who, fore-seeing the outcome, chooses not for the present, short-term gain, but for the future, long-term reward.

Why Prudence?

- Prudence helps us avoid reckless or impulsive behavior that could lead to negative outcomes.
- It promotes careful planning, risk management, and effective problem-solving.
- Prudent individuals are more likely to make well-informed decisions and achieve long-term success.

Some Lessons from Proverbs about Prudence

Proverbs 10:5 NIV says, "He who gathers crops in summer is a **prudent** son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."

Make hay while the sun shines. Laziness sleeps and ignores hard work, a person who is prudent is faithful, loyal, and puts in the effort.

Proverbs 10:19 ESV says, "When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is **prudent**."

Prudence is being slow to speak and process through before sharing. The wise measure their words.

Some Lessons from Proverbs about Prudence

Proverbs 12:16 MSG says, "Fools have short fuses and explode quickly; the prudent quietly shrug off insults."

A prudent person receives an insult but allows it to roll off because it does not stand true for who he or she is, this person is confident in his or her identity in Christ.

Proverbs 14:8 NIV says, "The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception."

A foolish person acts without thinking, a prudent person thinks about decisions before making them. A prudent person is discerning.

Some Lessons from Proverbs about Prudence

Proverbs 14:15 NIV says, "The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps."

Prudence means that we do not believe everything that we hear. We are wise and test every spirit and every word. Listen to wise counsel

Proverbs 14:18 NIV says, "The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge."

A prudent man is knowledgeable. We must invest in acquiring knowledge.

Some Lessons from Proverbs about Prudence

Proverbs 22:3 and Proverbs 27:12 say, "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty."

Someone who is prudent recognizes red flags. They know when to back away or flee. However, unwise individuals keep going and ignore warning signs to their own destruction. A prudent man is a risk manager

Characteristics of a Prudent Person

- They gather and analyze relevant information before making decisions.
- They consider multiple perspectives and potential outcomes.
- They exercise self-control and resist impulsive or emotional reactions.
- They learn from past experiences and adapt their behavior accordingly.

Prudent Characters in the Bible

- Joseph - His prudent planning saved Egypt and surrounding nations from starvation.
- Solomon - His wise and discerning action to divide the Baby revealed the real mother and showcased his prudence in judgment.
- Esther - She was not hasty to appear before the King but carefully planned how to reveal Haman's plans
- Daniel - He tactfully handled his refusal to defile himself with the King's food, proposing a test of diet that ultimately proved beneficial and gained him favor
- Nehemiah - Before beginning the construction, he conducted a careful inspection of the walls and organized the workers efficiently.

Cultivating Prudence

- Work hard
- Planning and budgeting
- Slow to Speak. Practice mindfulness and self-awareness.
- Do not be easily angered
- Thinking Before Action. Exercise patience and avoid hasty decisions.
- Acquire Knowledge
- Seek wisdom and guidance from experienced mentors or advisors.
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Embrace humility and be willing to learn from mistakes.

Conclusion

- Prudence guides wise decision-making and responsible behavior, enabling us to navigate life's challenges with foresight and sound judgment.
- Let us embrace prudence as a guiding principle, for it is the foundation of wisdom and a path to personal and professional fulfillment.



Thank You