

GODLY WISDOM

A young candidate for **Mighty Men** status asked for help in the battle between fleshly lust and spiritual morality. The Lord brought to mind the emphasis in Proverbs about sexual immorality—one of the most destructive sins we must deal with because of its destructive powers. In this battle one of our strongest weapons is our fear of the Lord, which is the beginning—or foundation—of knowledge and wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7 says: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”* **Proverbs 9:10** and **Psalms 111:10** say: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”*. And **Psalms 112: 1** says: *“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights in His commandments.”* There are other references, but these will show that we need to live our lives with respect for Who God is, and the wisdom of doing things that please Him: for when our life on earth ends, He alone will determine our eternal destiny—He is the final judge. Remember—while He determines our eternal destiny, and He has the final word when we come before His throne; He created man with the freedom of choice. We choose to serve God Who represents all that is good, honest, moral and holy; or we choose to serve Satan who represents living for our own pleasure—which is disobedience and rebellion against God and the purpose for which man was created. Let us look at a few passages in **Proverbs** to see what this Book teaches about why we should fear and obey God.

This word for fear does not mean terror, rather it means to have awe and respect for God—knowing that He is Creator and He does what He wants (**Psalms 135:6**). He knows everything about everyone and He has the first and the last word. He has the attributes of both mercy and justice, and **Psalms 101:1** says: *“I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O Lord, I will sing praises.”* Because of His love for mankind He is merciful to sinners who repent and accept redemption through the shed blood of Jesus; and because He is just therefore He must punish those who do not repent or accept redemption purchased via Jesus death on the cross. It also means that we should want to obey God to both please Him and have His favor and blessing; and also to escape the just punishment and rejection for not submitting to God's Lordship.

Proverbs chap. 2 thru 4 speak a lot about true godly wisdom—knowing and doing what is right. Tucked in the middle of chapter 2 are **vs 16 to 20** which warn us to avoid immoral women and tempting situations.

Chap. 3 tells us that God's laws and virtues will guide, teach, warn and strengthen us.

Chaps. 5 thru 9—particularly 5:3—23; 6:20—35; all of chap 7; and chap 9:13—18 tell us to avoid the immoral woman.

Galatians 5:16—26 is a companion NT passage contrasting the fleshly works and the Spiritual fruit. In my early conversion years the Holy Spirit urged me to make a list of the works of the flesh and the fruit of the spirit for daily review and prayer. I reviewed this list daily until I had conquered them one by one. It worked well for me, and it may work for you.

Romans 12:2+, tells us that victory comes when we control, focus, and change our minds to comply with what pleases God and results in His favor. As I age and realize that my days are numbered, I find myself spending more time thinking of how I can do things that will please my heavenly Father. I hope these Scriptures in **Proverbs, Psalms, Romans and Galatians**—among others—will help fortify your determination to defeat all the works of the flesh through the exercise of spiritual gift empowerment and mind renewal. I plan to enlarge on these suggestions, and add others, in the days ahead. One suggestion that I have used through the years, if and when sexual enticements or fantasies come my way, is to picture the Lord in my mind and sing worship choruses. This tactic shuts the door to lustful thoughts every time. **Mighty man**—God has a work for you to do and He will work with you in the transforming process to prepare you for that work. Rejoice!

This might be a good place to list the prominent names for God so you can understand that He is both all powerful and yet tender; both Creative and merciful; both everywhere and yet personal; that we have the freedom of choice in this life, but not in the next; that Satan is our constant adversary and Jesus is our only redeemer, savior, righteousness and defender when we stand before God's throne of judgment. Our choice should be obvious. Make it carefully and guarantee your reservation in heaven.

The Names of God

This could be the start of a daily prayer: *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. May your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless Your holy name. I love you and make known to You my adoration and gratitude today.”* There are many names for God in the Bible, but we will list here the most referred to names. These names represent God's benefits for those who believe, and relate to most of our life-time needs.

Elohim (El-o-*heem*) The Creator of heaven and earth, who was in the beginning. It is Elohim Who crowns us with glory and honor. Elohim is the God of might and strength.

El-Shaddai The almighty God of blessings. El-Shaddai is the one who nourishes and supplies. He is the all sufficient one who is more than enough in any and every situation.

Adonai our Lord and Master. Adonai is Jehovah: the completely self-existing one. He is always present, and revealed in Jesus who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Jehovah-M'Kaddesh the Lord our sanctifier. Jehovah-M'Kaddesh set us apart for Himself.

Jehovah-Shalom the Lord our peace. Jehovah-Shalom gives us a peace that transcends all understanding, which mounts guard over our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Jehovah-Tsidkenu (Sid-kanu) our righteousness. Jehovah-Tsidkenu became our sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

Jehovah-Rohi our shepherd. Jehovah-Rohi watches over us like a shepherd watches over the flock and protects it from all danger—hungry wild beasts and natural dangers, or satanic-inspired attacks.

Jehovah-Rapha our healer. Jehovah-Rafa is the God of **Exodus 15:6 and Psalm 103** who heals all our diseases. Healing is a benefit provided in the atonement (**1 Peter 2:24**).

Jehovah-Shamma the ever-present God who will never leave or forsake. Jehovah-Shamma is our helper and therefore we have no need to fear what men can do to harm us—comforting indeed.

El-Elyon **the most high God.** He is the first cause of everything; the possessor of the heavens and the earth. El-Elyon is the everlasting God, the great God, the living God, the merciful God, the faithful God and the almighty God. He is the God of truth, justice, righteousness and perfection. El-Elyon is the highest sovereign of heaven and earth.

We could add that our God is known by the names of all blessings and provisions available to mankind. Review the above names for the **Almighty God**, and meditate upon His greatness and superiority over any man-made idol or ideology. Nothing can compare to the God of the Bible; the God who interacts in our lives; the God who answers prayer and often meets our needs before we pray; the God whose very Spirit dwells within the believer bearing witness that we are in fellowship. He has charged His Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, instruct and guide us through life, and give us joy in times of sorrow and trouble. O, **Mighty Man** of faith and action, in whatever stage of life you may be, God gives oversight and fulfillment.