

- **In the kingdom of God, it is not how much you _____; it is what you place your _____ in.**

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)

Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing. Proverbs 20:4 (NIV)

Food gained by fraud tastes sweet, but one ends up with a mouth full of gravel. Proverbs 20:17 (NIV)

Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered. Proverbs 21:13 (NIV)

Whoever loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and olive oil will never be rich. Proverbs 21:17 (NIV)

...everything that does not come from faith is sin. Romans 14:23b (NIV)

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.
¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV)

My/Our Story – How Does This Apply Today?

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.
I Corinthians 1:30 (NIV)

❖ Finish _____.

...et us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1b-2a (NIV)

❖ Ask God For _____.

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-6(NIV)

❖ Invite _____.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

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When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ²“I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man, ³and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go ⁴and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’
I Kings 2:1-4 (NIV)

The LOWER Story – What Happened In History?

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” ⁶Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷“Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” ¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.
I Kings 3:5-10 (NIV)

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. ³⁰Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹He was wiser than anyone else...And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. ³²He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. ³³He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. ³⁴From all nations people came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.
I Kings 4:29-34 (NIV)

The UPPER Story – What Is God Doing?

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.
Proverbs 14:12 & Proverbs 16:25 (NIV)

• Be aware of the danger of pursuing _____ over God's _____.

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.
¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV)

The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.
¹⁰ Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command.
¹¹ So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates."
¹² Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
¹³ Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."
I Kings 11:9-13 (NIV)

• Be aware of the danger of _____.

1. Solomon was totally committed _____.

Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.
1 Kings 3:3 (NIV)

2. Solomon thought he could keep _____ at a safe _____. II Chronicles 8:11

3. Solomon ignored _____ discipline.

I Kings 11:9-10

4. Solomon _____ walked away from God.

I Kings 11:4-6

The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy. - ²⁵ During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, everyone under their own vine and under their own fig tree. ²⁶ Solomon had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses.
I Kings 4:20,25-26 (NIV)

When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the LORD, he rose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven. ⁵⁵ He stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying: ⁵⁶ "Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. ⁵⁷ May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us. ⁵⁸ May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees and laws he gave our ancestors. ⁵⁹ And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need, ⁶⁰ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is no other. ⁶¹ And may your hearts be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time."
I Kings 8:54-61 (NIV)

The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv. ³⁸ In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it. ¹ It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace.
I Kings 6:37-38; 7:1 (NIV)

Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the LORD has entered are holy."
II Chronicles 8:11 (NIV)

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ² They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. ⁵ He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.
I Kings 11:1-6 (NIV)