

Summary Page The Wisdom of Thinking Twice

Proverbs 3:26 "for the LORD will be your confidence (at your side) and will keep your foot from being snared." 1) the LORD will be at the side of the righteous 2) the wicked unintentionally spread a net for their own feet. **They create and entangle themselves in chaos.**

James 1:13-15 God does not tempt anyone. "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire he is dragged away (lured) and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death."

Proverbs 25:28 "Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control." One who practices patience and self-control receives far less attention and acclaim than a warrior who takes a city, **he accomplishes better things.**

1Peter 5:8 "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Satan has a way of getting people to blame each other or God for their suffering. **Keep the blame where it belongs.** Satan is like a half-starved lion with a restless hunger to find, defeat, and devour God's children, especially in times of suffering.

Proverbs 23:20 "Do not join those who drink too much wine and gorge themselves on meat." This is typical of those who tempt and influence someone with good morals to do wrong; **being lead into addictive or detrimental habits should be avoided at all costs.**

1Corinthians 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me but beneficial. But I will not be mastered by anything." Such freedom of action may not benefit the Christian. **You may become enslaved to those actions in which you "freely" indulge.**

Luke 22:46 "Get up and pray so you will not fall into temptation."

Genesis 39:7-12 Flee those who would draw you into sin against God." **All sin is against God.**

1Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bare. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it." **Temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted. (Matt. 4:1-11) Yeilding to the temptation is sin. God enables us to stand up under it.**

Proverbs 23:29, 32,35 "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?" **V32** "In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper". **V35** "When will I wake up so I can find another drink." People who are given to drunkenness often find other excesses and negative habits cropping up in their lives such as poverty, misery, immorality, or instability. (20:1; 31:4,5) Perpetually anesthetizing oneself will destroy a person's life, undermining confidence, and respect, desensitizing them to others, creating a black hole of despair.

Wisdom of Thinking Twice Lesson 9: p1 See above p2 20:1 "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is lead astray by them is not wise." **23:31** "...when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smooth." **v33** "Your mind will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine strange things." **v34** "You will be like one sleeping on the high seas..." **p3 See Scripture above.**

The root of temptation is a lack of trust and confidence in God.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:26 “for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.”

What **warning** (information to help us know right from wrong) did God show us? James 1:13-15 God does not _____ anyone. “..each one is _____ when, by his own _____ he is dragged away and _____...after _____ is conceived, it gives birth to _____; and sin..gives birth to _____. Pr 25:28 “Like a city whose walls are _____ down is a man who lacks _____. 1Peter 5:8 “...your enemy the _____ prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to _____.”

What **instruction** (actions we should take) did God give to us. Proverbs 23:20 “Do not join those who drink too much wine..” 1 Corinthians 6:12 “Everything is _____ for me but not everything is _____. ..but I will not be _____ by anything.”

What **benefits** (the results of choosing wisely) did God tell us about? Luke 22:46 “Get up and _____ so that you will not fall into _____.” Genesis 39:7-12 Flee those who would draw you into a _____. 1 Corinthians 10:13 “God is faithful he will not let you be _____ beyond what you can _____...he will provide _____.”

What are the **consequences** (results) for not choosing God’s wisdom? Pr.23:29 “Who has _____? Who has _____? Who has _____? Who has _____. Who has needless _____? Who has bloodshot _____? v32 “..it _____ like a snake and _____ like a viper. v35 “When will I wake up so I can _____

Word Study:

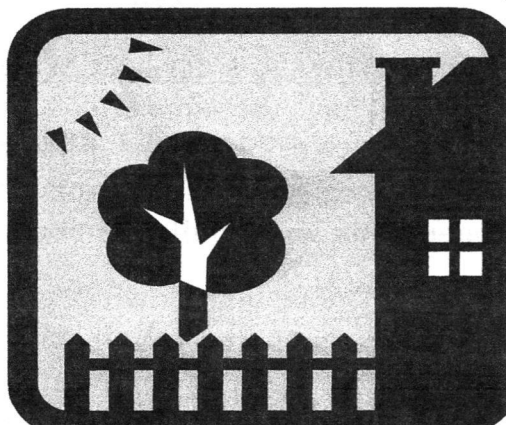
- 1) captives: a prisoner. The family became captives in their own home.
- 2) excessive: going further than what is usual, necessary or proper limit. Excessive drinking is a problem in many homes, holding family members captive.
- 3) fortified: to protect or strengthen against attack or force. To make stronger. They fortified their self-control in Christ to overcome many temptations.
- 4) Influence: to have the power or ability to cause consequences on the actions, behavior or opinions of others. Her influence brought improved understanding.
- 5) self restraint: self-control. To put on oneself control or restrictions to guard actions or language that is not undesirable . Poor self restraint leads to sin against God.
- 6) temptation: an invitation or appeal to do or say something. Often to do evil.

Think of your home. Picture it in your mind. Put a fence around it, a big Texas sized fence. This is your castle. You feel safe here from outside harm.

We say **YES** to what comes into our homes and **NO** to what we don't want in our homes. If it is good, right and healthy we let it in and if it is not we say NO don't come in here! You're not welcome you might cause harm or bring a bad **influence**. Our homes are **fortified** or strengthened by the roof and the fence and the door to keep any unwanted bad things from coming into the safety of our homes.

For those
4:30 tells
He has
to us. We
speech.

Today
fortified
selves



who are Christians Ephesians 1:13 and us we are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit. ownership over us and provides protection are not to grieve him by our actions or Keep this firmly in mind.

let's begin by looking at ways our and strengthened protection around our can be penetrated from the outside.

Let's read Proverbs 25:28. In the KJV it reads "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls." In ancient times if a city had no walls they had no defense. If we look at our own walls, our self control, where is it hardest to say NO? We are temples of the Holy Spirit and our walls are fortified with self-control. But where is our discipline, our **self-restraint**, *out of control*? Where is our wall of defense *down*?

The enemy may not be able to get in your house but he can get in your yard. He can get in where your fence is weak or falling down or a latch is broken.

The Evil One prowls around looking for ways to bring harm to us.(1Peter 5:8-9) Our eyes are the windows to our soul. What are we looking at? Our eyes are open to what we are looking at. The enemy can look through our eyes to where our vision is looking. He has been watching people for thousands of years and he's really good at it. He's looking for where our wall of restraint is down. Our self-control is weak.

What are some areas where you need to fortify or *think twice* about self-control?

List some. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

Read Proverbs 23:20a. This scripture is about **excessive** drinking. Let's look at it closely.

How many of you have been affected by excessive drinking? There is a loved one with Fetal Alcohol syndrome, a parent, husband or sibling with a drinking problem, a drunk driver issue? Let's search His Word for a better understanding of this difficult issue.

Proverbs 23:29-35

It creates _____ v29a. Compare Proverbs 20:1

It takes a _____ v29b

The effects of alcohol are: irritability, anxiety, and restlessness for beer, wine, or hard liquor. All are fermented from grain or the grape. All have the same effect. Drinkers love to fight and to pick a fight.. because of guilt in excessive drinking..the drinker is mad at everyone and that becomes an excuse to drink..they *need everyone* to be mad at them. A lot of fights are picked to keep this circle of anger going with family members and others.

It deceives and betrays as it appears to _____ and goes down _____. v31
It lowers the social inhibitions and speech becomes free and outgoing, making it seem like a stimulant, but it isn't. It affects the portions of the brain that control judgment and depresses self-control. It slows down brain activity allowing us to make a mockery of ourselves in our actions and our speech.

It _____ like a snake and poisons like a _____. v32 Your eyes will see _____ sights and your _____ imagine confusing things. v33 You will be like one sleeping on the _____, lying on top of the rigging. v34

The drinker drinks to feel better but simply further depresses themselves. When she drinks to excess she may "love" anyone "more than anyone else in the world". How would you know? There is no freedom to love when you are drunk!

Your emotions are out of control and what you see in one another is seen through the eyes of a viper! You can't even remember what you said or did. Thinking "Did I sleep with him or not?! I can't remember." You may not even be able to remember what the other person looked like!

When you are sober with eyes wide open, you probably won't even like each other. There is something wrong with this. We don't have to be socially, financially and sexually taken advantage of because of excessive drinking. We've made a choice here.

Many spouse's will even mix the drink for the drinker because they are easier to deal with, they're calmer. This is called an enabler, someone who makes it easier for the drinker to have and use drink. They often lie and make excuses for the drinker because of the embarrassing behavior and bad language they use. They live in humiliation.

v35 shows us the deep desire for the drinker to "feel" something even if it's bad. Write the key words here. _____. And then it starts all over again so _____. Is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome wisdom? Or *serious* foolishness.

If someone says "I think there's a problem". Seek God and seek help. An excessive drinker is the last one to think they have a problem. Don't ask your drinking buddies if you have a problem! Find some new friends. Make a commitment to wholeness and healthy living for yourself and those you love. Don't try to do it alone, get help.

No judgmental attitude here. As pastor John Bradford said "But for the grace of God, there go I." The Scripture tells us do not be drunk on wine but filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 5:18). "When I am awake I will seek Him yet again." 1 Corinthians 6:12 tells us what is permissible is not always what is beneficial for us to do.

How can we be a stumbling stone to ourselves and to others by doing permissible things?

What is temptation anyway? It is an act that looks desirable to you. It is a normal part of life- it is not a sin. But giving in to temptation can be a sin. Let's read James 1:13-15.

Our inward desire (Matthew 4:1), lack of self control (1 Corinthians 7:5) and influence by the world (James 1:27, 4:4) are the reasons for our giving in to temptation that leads to sin in our life. There are many temptations in our lives. What is hardest for you?

What can we do to overcome temptation? Here are some Scripture to help us know that.

- 1) Genesis 39:7-12 Flee those who would draw you into a sinful snare.
- 2) Psalm 119:11 Hide the Word in my heart that I might not sin against God.
- 3) Luke 22:46 Pray so that you will not fall into nor give into temptation.
- 4) 1 Corinthians 10:13 God may not remove us from the situation but will give us a way to stand up under it.
- 5) James 4:7-8 Submit to God. Purify your hearts and the devil will flee.

Giving in to temptation affects your *future*, your *family*, and your *faith*. When tempted *Stop, Drop and Pray!* You always lose when you give in. Our best defense, God's Word.