

## Proverbs 3:1-4, "Celebrate"

- ↪ To celebrate victory in life, keep God as the closest person in your life! Your "Victory Celebration" depends on it.
- ✓ Proverbs 3:1-4 shows us how to live in victory. "My son do not forget My teaching, but keep My commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life for many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
  - ✓ God's Word teaches us to keep God's Word in our hearts and minds.
  - ✓ Proverbs 3:1, Teachings, and commands equal the application of these teachings, bringing rewards. What percentage of compliance are you aiming for, and what percentage of reward? Do they match? Not just the behavior commands, but the attitude of the heart commands. What they are: the very words of God. What are we to do with them:
    - Do not forget. We do not live in a "simple" time, and neither did they. Most of their skills and chores were geared toward staying alive. Growing, preserving, building, and trading goods and services. Government and taxes! We have a host of technologies: phones, the internet, passwords, keycodes, and banking protocols. It is hard not to forget some things! But how do we not forget?
    - Most, if not all, of the common people didn't have written copies of God's Word. Read the Bible daily to activate safeguards! Set timers or write it down. Keep it in your heart. Gathering, hoarding, and collecting. How do you do that? We keep bumping into them on purpose! Try saying, "Yes, God, you're right about this." Do this before you read! In your Bible, write, highlight, dot, dash...
    - The heart and mind have only so much room. Keeping the right things in there also keeps out the things that don't belong: the wrong and insignificant things that often fill our lives. Contrast and compare. What I hear God saying is: "Spend time with Me," not "Just follow my rules."
    - The Bible is a cool book. You can go to <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/mclean/niv/prov.3> and in 3 and a half minutes, you will have heard all of Proverbs 3.
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- ↪ Scriptures can refresh your palate. Are you feeling anxious, tired, or frustrated? Take a scripture break!
- Studying is to be worked at. But let's face it, we are often lazy.
  - Psalms 119:11, I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
  - Psalms 45:1a, My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king;
  - Create a list of your favorite verses or get some from the internet. Spend time with the Word. Spend time with God, the Boss, the Master Planner.
- ↪ Proverbs 3:2, time with God in His Word produces benefits and provisions.
- They come from being with Him and obeying HIS teachings/commands. As we look at the benefits, let us not make the mistake of assigning individual tasks, singular behaviors with specific results. We most often, but with some exceptions, we find that they are accumulative.
  - Prosperity is something you can't take it with you. Pay it forward, send it ahead. Having enough, not excess, and not working to stockpile your possessions.
- ↪ 1 Timothy 6:6, But godliness with contentment is a great gain.
- ✓ Nothing says contentment like always needing new trinkets, junk, and gadgets that will end up in drawers and garages... Eventually sold at garage sales, given away, or tossed in the dumpster.
    - Example to all when we give God credit for the blessings and His peace!
    - Investment = faith in God. In the big picture, growth will be slow, but steady. God controlled mutual funds vs. IPOs. Ups and downs, from our perspective, are no big deal. This is not salvation, but for the faith community.
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## Proverbs 3:1-4, "Celebrate"

- ↪ Proverbs 3:3 Love & faithfulness. To whom? To God, to righteousness.
    - ✓ Your devotion to GOD will spill out onto others (and then back to you). But the entire plan is to be devoted to God, not to be devoted it benefits. Motive matters, and God knows. The benefits are sure, but they are secondary. Make sure they don't become your God.
  - ↪ Psalm 23:3, He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
    - ✓ Shout out to people whose kindness isn't a strategy, but a way of life! Wear it around your neck, every turn of the head, it will be noticed. Bind, as in teach, talk, observe, and review.
  - ↪ Deuteronomy 6:6-8, These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
    - ✓ These acts are not to be fake, superstitious, ritualistic, or manipulative (Now, you owe me!), but from the heart. They are written on our hearts, and visible in our daily lives. His teachings are to never leave you, not for a moment, not for a second. Your love and faithfulness are to be ever present, on purpose, ever visible, on purpose, and ever evident, which then makes a difference. Does your calendar say, "I love and am faithful to my God"? Does the time you spend on and with people say that? Does your spreadsheet (the bankbook) say, "I love and am faithful to my God"?
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- ↪ Proverbs 3:4: Benefits of Saturation, favor! GOD and man makes a good name.
    - ✓ Question, Does God's provision come mostly through miracles or favor? The miracle of favor!
      - I believe, God is saying, "Be with Me, and you're going to kill it out there!" Proverbs 3:1 and verse 3 show God's desire for you. Not perfection, but progress and growth.
      - Proverbs 3:2 & 4, Then you will reap God's conditional blessings. Are you blaming God for being emotionally broke? Are you spending your best and first energy on "Not God" things? Are you blaming God for being financially broke? Overpriced fast food, drink, entertainment, vices, trinkets, gadgets, bling... without consulting God on any of it? Then we claim the "Widow's Mite" situation to be our own and just throw God the leftovers?
    - ✓ How does God often bless you? Through your good name? Past performance is what often opens the gates of opportunity. As you are faithful to God, you will be faithful to others. That pleases God. You serve Him when you serve those He loves. Be an encourager, the world has plenty of critics already. Gain the favor of others by having a good character and being in service to Him. When you take time to be with God, you'll be more like God.
    - ✓ Favor of God: God Himself will give victory & celebrate you and your faithfulness! These ongoing celebrations are the natural spiritual consequences of being with God.
      - Example:: My 8 year old said in the car today: "Do you want me to throw the confetti in my pocket?"
      - Me: "No, not in the car! Why do you have confetti in your pocket?"
      - 8 year old: "It's my emergency confetti, I carry it in case there is good news."
    - ✓ When we bask in the presence of the Lord, there will always be good news and victories. There is always something to cheer about. There is always someone to celebrate, and there is always a reason to celebrate the Giver and His Gifts! Victory Confetti comes when we honor and revere God's Word. Love and be faithful.
      - Debbie: We would make great friends if you had some confetti in your pocket.
      - Tammy: Pocket confetti is friendship at the highest level.
    - ✓ God promises to celebrate you if you prioritize HIM. I pray that you receive many "confetti celebrations" from God this week, and that you provide some to others as well!
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