



# PROVERBS

## 16-17

*An Apostolic Pentecostal  
Expository through the Lens of  
the Apostolic Pentecostal  
Doctrine and The Rebbe & Sages*

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*Apostolic Pentecostal Preachers  
Pulpit Commentary – An Apostolic  
Pentecostal Expository through the  
Lens of the Apostolic Pentecostal  
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## Introduction: Hermeneutic Statement

My booklet approaches Proverbs 16–17 with a layered hermeneutic: (1) the plain/Proverbial sense as wisdom literature for life, (2) Apostolic Pentecostal typological The Lord Jesus Christ-centered reading that sees Jesus Christ is Jehovah of the Old Testament manifested in the flesh in the New Testament. Jesus is the Holy Ghost working in the hearts of men to bring them to Repentance, Water Baptism in Jesus Name and baptizes you with his spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, and Apostolic doctrine (repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, holiness, and the witness of the Spirit with the witness of speaking in tongues is the sign of the spirit of sonship) as the ultimate fulfillment of the Proverbs' wisdom, and (3) rabbinic midrashic resonance — insights drawn from Rashi and the classical Sages and Talmudic motifs — that illuminate the Hebrew mind and spiritual imagery. Where the Sages add poetic or ethical emphasis, I note it; where their world differs from Apostolic Doctrine. I draw distinctions but welcome the mutual illumination of Old Testament types and shadows and typology of Revelation.

Each verse is given a brief paraphrase, expository comment, rabbinic resonance, Apostolic Pentecostal New Testament Revelation from Old Testament, and

a practical Apostolic Pentecostal Preachers pulpit commentary and point of view.

## Proverbs 16

Verse 1 (paraphrase): A person plans his course, but the Lord Jesus Christ determines the outcome.

- Exposition: Human intention and planning are real and necessary; sovereign providence ultimately guides results.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages often stress Divine providence working through human choice — the idea that Jehovah decree does not annul human responsibility. Rashi emphasizes that “deliberations” are in the heart but Jehovah - Jesus word finalizes the matter.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: We preach repentance and plan evangelism, but we depend on God’s sovereign work by his holy spirit to bring conversion Acts 2:38. His holy spirit confirms Jehovah - Jesus decree in hearts (Acts 2; The Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the witness of speaking in tongues is the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost ).
- Pulpit point: Plan with wisdom; pray with humility. Commit your ministries to the Lord Jesus Christ and expect Jehovah - The Lord Jesus Christ to steer the outcome.

Verse 2: All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart.

- Exposition: External appearances or self-justification are insufficient; Jehovah - Jesus searches motives.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages repeatedly link “hearts” to interior truth. Rashi reads “weighs the heart” as Jehovah - Jesus intimate knowledge of motive and intention.
- Apostolic insight: Public orthodoxy without heart holiness is not acceptable. Apostolic Pentecostal preaching calls for inward repentance, sanctification of the heart, and water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues that follows true brokenness.
- Pulpit point: Examine motives before The Lord Jesus Christ . his spirit convicts the heart; let Jehovah- Jesus weigh you, not man.

Verse 3: Commit your works to the Lord; then your plans will succeed.

- Exposition: Surrender of agency secures Jehovah- Jesus blessing on endeavors.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages teach that dedicating acts to Jehovah - Jesus transforms them into offerings; an

act offered receives Divine support.

- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Ministry plans committed to Jesus' name and will be confirmed by his spirit. Baptism in Jesus' name and holy living align our works with God's purposes.
- Pulpit point: Before acting, consecrate your work. Pray, fast, and commit — then move in faith.

Verse 4: The Lord has made everything for His purposes, even the wicked for the day of judgment.

- Exposition: Jehovah - Jesus sovereign ordering includes justice; even rebellion fits within Divine purposes and faces judgment.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages hold that Jehovah - Jesus world allows free will but includes righteous judgment for the wicked.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Jehovah -Jesus uses all circumstances to fulfill redemptive aims. The reality of final judgment is a motive for evangelism and holy living.
- Pulpit point: Jehovah - Jesus sovereignty is a guardrail for hope and a motive for urgency in calling sinners to repentance.

Verse 5: Pride is detested; Jehovah- Jesus will oppose the proud.

- Exposition: Pride alienates us from Jehovah- Jesus ;

humility invites His favor.

- Rabbinic note: Humility is a central rabbinic virtue; Rashi and Midrash praise the humble as embraced by Jehovah- Jesus .
- Apostolic insight: Pentecostal life is marked by brokenness and humility, not pride. The baptism in water in Jesus Name for the remission of sins experience and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues the new birth of water and spirit John 3:3-8 and Acts 2:38 produces humility because the believer recognizes salvation as the work of his spirit.
- Pulpit point: If you desire Jehovah Jesus presence, pursue humility, his spirit lifts the humble.

Verse 6: Kindness and truth The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ atone for sin; fearing the Lord Jesus Christ brings lasting good.

- Exposition: Right relationships, mercy, and reverence for Jehovah - Jesus produce reconciliation and blessing.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages connect chesed (lovingkindness) with forgiveness. Rashi underscores ethical action as atonement.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Mercy and truth, empowered by his spirit, transform lives. The fear of the Lord drives holiness — leading into repentance and godly living, both prerequisites for baptism in

water in Jesus Name and Spirit-filled life.

- Pulpit point: Practice lovingkindness; let truth and mercy restore relationships and draw you nearer to Jehovah- Jesus .

Verse 7: When the Lord is pleased, even enemies are at peace with you.

- Exposition: Jehovah - Jesus favor brings reconciliation and relational blessing.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages note Divine favor as the source of peace and safety even amidst hostility.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: A consecrated life, filled with his spirit, becomes a channel of peace. Jehovah - Jesus presence breaks down barriers — miracle reconciliations happen.
- Pulpit point: Seek Jehovah - Jesus favor through holiness, and watch walls fall in families and communities.

Verse 8: Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

- Exposition: Integrity is preferable to ill-gotten abundance.
- Rabbinic note: Jewish ethics prize righteousness over wealth; the Talmud repeatedly warns against gains procured by sin.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Apostolic Pentecostal

teaching calls for holy living even if it means fewer material gains. The Kingdom values righteousness above prosperity.

- Pulpit point: Choose character over comfort; Jehovah -Jesus honors integrity.

Verse 9: The heart may plan its course, but the Lord directs the step.

- Exposition: Echo of verse 1; Divine guidance manifests in step-by-step direction.
- Rabbinic note: Rabbinic thought emphasizes walking in God's ways literally and morally.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Spirit-led living requires daily listening; the Lord Jesus Christ directs our steps through prayer and the witness of his spirit.
- Pulpit point: Maintain a posture of dependence so God can order each step.

Verse 10: The king's lips are like an oracle; his words require wisdom.

- Exposition: Leadership speech carries weight; counsel must be wise.
- Rabbinic note: Respect for leadership and the power of a ruler's utterance appears in rabbinic literature.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Church leaders must speak guardedly, led by his spirit. A leader's words can bless or curse.

- Pulpit point: Leaders, weigh your words; speak revelation, not impulse.

Verse 11: Honest scales are the Lord's delight; dishonest weights are abhorred.

- Exposition: Justice in commerce honors God; deception grieves Him.
- Rabbinic note: Justice in business is a major rabbinic concern; honest dealings are Torah-observance.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Kingdom commerce reflects God's character. Integrity in business is worship.
- Pulpit point: Be honest in all dealings; your commerce is your sermon.

Verse 12: Wickedness displeases rulers and displeases God.

- Exposition: Unrighteousness undermines governance and the Divine order.
- Rabbinic note: Rashi and the Sages stress that a leader's wickedness brings communal harm.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Apostolic Pentecostal message calls for holy leaders — civil and ecclesial — for Jehovah - Jesus blessing upon nations.
- Pulpit point: Fight for righteous leadership; hold leaders accountable to God's standards.

Verse 13: Righteous speech pleases kings and finds favor.

- Exposition: Right, truthful words bring favor and stability.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages esteem truth-telling as fundamental.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Let the pulpit and pew be governed by truth; Apostolic Pentecostal preaching must be faithful and Spirit-led.
- Pulpit point: Speak life; let your words honor The Lord Jesus Christ .

Verse 14: The wrath of a king is death; wise counsel can avert it.

- Exposition: Leadership anger has serious consequences; prudent speech pacifies.
- Rabbinic note: Caution in speech before authority is a rabbinic motif.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Wisely timed words by his spirit can defuse volatile situations. Discernment matters.
- Pulpit point: When you stand before power, walk in wisdom and the fear of God.

Verse 15: In God's favor, a king rejoices and brings light to a land.

- Exposition: National blessing follows divine favor toward leaders.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages sometimes link the goodness of a king to the wellbeing of the people.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Pray for leaders; The Lord Jesus Christ blessing on leaders releases revival and harvest.
- Pulpit point: Intercede for authorities; God's blessing on them blesses nations.

Verse 16: Wisdom is better than gold; understanding is more valuable than silver.

- Exposition: Spiritual wisdom out values material wealth.
- Rabbinic note: The love of Torah over riches is a recurrent rabbinic theme.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: True Pentecostal riches are spiritual — the knowledge of The Lord Jesus Christ , the witness of his spirit, sanctification.
- Pulpit point: Pursue God's wisdom; invest in what endures.

Verse 17: The highway of the upright is to shun evil; the unrighteous fall into their own traps.

- Exposition: Righteous living protects from pitfalls; wickedness entraps itself.
- Rabbinic note: Ethical avoidance of snares is

recommended by the Sages.

- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Holiness keeps you from the snares of sin; the Spirit empowers avoidance.
- Pulpit point: Keep your path holy; avoid places and companions that lead to the snare.

Verse 18: Pride precedes destruction; humility precedes honor.

- Exposition: Causal moral principle: pride brings ruin.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages promote humility as the path to Divine favor.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Apostolic Pentecostal discipleship calls for the crucifying of pride for Spirit-filled advancement.
- Pulpit point: Humble yourself; Jehovah-Jesus will exalt you in His time.

Verse 19: Better to be humble with the lowly than to share spoils with the proud.

- Exposition: Company of the humble is preferred over fellowship with arrogance.
- Rabbinic note: The community of the meek is prized.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The Apostolic Pentecostal Church should prefer servants over status-seekers.

- Pulpit point: Build a culture of servanthood in your church.

Verse 20: He who heeds instruction attains good; blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

- Exposition: Teachability and trust are keys to blessing.
- Rabbinic note: Obedience to instruction (Torah/ mitzvot) brings blessing; Rashi highlights the moral emphasis.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Teachability to his spirit, and trust in The Lord Jesus Christ , opens doors to blessing and ministry fruitfulness.
- Pulpit point: Cultivate teachability and trust; they are the soil for God's blessing.

Verse 21: A wise heart gains favor and wins people; pleasant speech multiplies influence.

- Exposition: Inner wisdom produces gracious speech that draws others.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages value pleasant speech (meshalim) as a tool of influence.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit creates a winsome witness; evangelism is aided by gracious speech.
- Pulpit point: Let your speech be seasoned with grace; it opens hearts to the Gospel.

Verse 22: Understanding gives life; folly brings grief to the soul.

- Exposition: Wisdom is life-giving; foolishness leads to sorrow.
- Rabbinic note: Wisdom is equated with life in Jewish thought.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The fullness of life in The Lord Jesus Christ is the goal; His spirit replaces folly with discernment.
- Pulpit point: Seek spiritual understanding that leads to life.

Verse 23: The heart's joy is wisdom; counsel is sweeter than the taste of honey.

- Exposition: Wise counsel gratifies deeper than temporal pleasures.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages liken Torah's sweetness to honey — spiritual instruction delights the soul.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The revelation of The Lord Jesus Christ his spirit given counsel satisfies deeper than worldly joys.
- Pulpit point: Treasure spiritual counsel; it nourishes the life of faith.

Verse 24: Pleasant words are a honeycomb — sweet to the inner man and healing.

- Exposition: Words can bring healing and refreshment.
- Rabbinic note: Speech ethics is central to Jewish teaching; kind words heal strife.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Pastoral words carry the balm of his spirit; prophetic words heal brokenness.
- Pulpit point: Speak words of healing; your words may be instruments of God's restoration.

Verse 25: A wrong turn in one's heart causes ruin; a perverse person seeks crooked ways.

- Exposition: Willful perversion leads to destruction; there are paths that lead to ruin.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages warn about deviation from the straight path leading to ruin.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Apostolic Pentecostal faith insists on straight doctrine and holy living; deviations lead to spiritual harm.
- Pulpit point: Choose the straight path; don't be enticed by "creative" ways that contradict Scripture.

Verse 26: A worker's appetite drives him to labor; man's desire propels industry.

- Exposition: Human desire is the engine of action, rightly directed.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages speak of right desires

being channeled towards proper ends.

- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The desire for God should fuel holy labor; evangelism and holiness arise from Godly appetite.
- Pulpit point: Cultivate a holy hunger that leads to faithful work.

Verse 27: A wicked man digs a pit; trouble is in his lips; he seeks harm.

- Exposition: Deceptive speech and plots mark the wicked.
- Rabbinic note: Harmful speech is condemned across rabbinic literature.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Watch your speech; the tongue can wage spiritual warfare—either advancing God's Kingdom or Satan's work.
- Pulpit point: Mend your mouth; speak life.

Verse 28: A deceitful man sows contention; a whisperer separates close friends.

- Exposition: Gossip and sowing discord are destructive.
- Rabbinic note: Lashon hara (evil speech) is a grave sin in Jewish ethics; it damages community.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit-driven community forbids gossip; restore and reconcile rather than divide.

- Pulpit point: Do not be a plant of discord; be a peacemaker.

Verse 29: A violent man entices his neighbor, leading him on a destructive path.

- Exposition: Violence and intimidation draw others into sin.
- Rabbinic note: Coercion and violence are condemned.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Spiritual coercion is not Gospel; yet some lead others astray by example. True apostleship is persuasion by his spirit.
- Pulpit point: Lead with love, not force; the Spirit convicts, not compels.

Verse 30: One who shuts his eyes plots perversity; at the heart he prepares evil.

- Exposition: Willful blindness enables planned wickedness.
- Rabbinic note: Ignoring Torah's light leads to sin in rabbinic thought.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Do not ignore conviction. His spirit convicts; do not harden your heart.
- Pulpit point: Heed conviction promptly; do not allow evil to incubate.

Verse 31: A crown of glory is gray hair; it is found in the way of righteousness.

- Exposition: Age measured by righteous living brings honor.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages value old age when it is accompanied by wisdom and fear of God.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Mature saints, seasoned by his spirit, are crowns to the Apostolic Pentecostal Church; we honor godly elders.
- Pulpit point: Value spiritual maturity; invest in elder testimony.

Verse 32: Better to be patient than a warrior; controlling the spirit is better than taking a city.

- Exposition: Self-control and patience trump brute strength.
- Rabbinic note: Self-mastery is a great virtue in rabbinic ethics.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His holy spirit produces self-control; fruit of his spirit is more powerful than physical might.
- Pulpit point: Learn patience and temper your spirit — these win more battles than force.

Verse 33: The lot is cast into the lap, but final decisions belong to the Lord.

- Exposition: Human devices (chance) are subordinate to God's sovereign will.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages speak of Divine hand in human affairs, even where chance seems to rule.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: We may use means, but The Lord Jesus Christ ordains ends; trust Divine sovereignty in ministry outcomes.
- Pulpit point: Do your part; trust God for the outcomes.

## Proverbs 17

Verse 1: Better is a dry crust in peace than a house full with feasting and strife.

- Exposition: Peace and a humble home outweigh sumptuous living accompanied by conflict.
- Rabbinic note: Peace in the home is enormously prized by the Sages — a peaceful table is a sign of blessing.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Holiness and peace in a congregation are more precious than showy, but contentious, ministry. His spirit builds peace.
- Pulpit point: Pursue peace at home and in the church; it's worth more than lavish externals.

Verse 2: A wise servant who rules over a shameful son will be honored in a household.

- Exposition: Wisdom and character earn esteem even in difficult situations.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages respect servant-leaders with wisdom who maintain household harmony.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: spirit-filled servant leadership gains respect and ushers transformation even amid dysfunction.
- Pulpit point: Lead with servant wisdom; you will bring honor to God's house.

Verse 3: The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but a man is tested by the praise he receives.

- Exposition: Trials and praise both test a person; praise reveals character.
- Rabbinic note: Character testing is a recurring rabbinic motif; one's response to honor reveals inner condition.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit tests and purifies — both adversity and favor reveal our hearts. Beware of pride in praise.
- Pulpit point: Respond rightly to praise — with humility and gratitude, not pride.

Verse 4: An evildoer listens to wicked lips; a liar pays heed to a wicked tongue.

- Exposition: Corrupt hearts are attracted to corrupt speech.

- Rabbinic note: Evil companions and corrupt speech are warned against by the Sages.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Guard your ears and your associations; the enemy uses words to seduce.
- Pulpit point: Choose companions wisely; protect your hearing.

Verse 5: He who mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who rejoices in calamity will not go unpunished.

- Exposition: Mocking the needy is an affront to Jehovah- Jesus ; rejoicing in others' misfortune brings judgment.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages repeatedly command care for the poor and compassion.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Apostolic Pentecostal teaching calls us to compassion — assist the needy, and mourning and mercy characterize the Church.
- Pulpit point: Serve the poor; your treatment of them is your theology in practice.

Verse 6: Grandchildren are a crown to the aged; children are a glory to their parents.

- Exposition: Family legacy is a blessing.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages teach the blessing of progeny as continuity of Torah.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Raise godly children and spiritual heirs; invest in generational faith.

- Pulpit point: Build for generations; disciple your children and grandchildren.

Verse 7: Fine speech befits a noble; coarse speech is a disgrace.

- Exposition: Speech reflects character and status.
- Rabbinic note: Proper speech and eloquence are praised.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The pulpit must cultivate refined, Spirit-led speech; coarse words dishonor The Lord Jesus Christ .
- Pulpit point: Speak with reverence, clarity, and love.

Verse 8: A bribe opens the way to the heart of the giver and subverts justice.

- Exposition: Bribery corrupts justice; it manipulates the heart.
- Rabbinic note: The Talmud condemns bribery that perverts justice.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Kingdom justice is incorruptible; resist temptation to compromise.
- Pulpit point: Uphold justice; refuse bribes (literal and metaphorical).

Verse 9: He who covers an offense seeks love; he who repeats the matter separates friends.

- Exposition: Forgiveness preserves relationships; gossip destroys them.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages exalt “covering over” (slicing the wrong) as a virtue leading to peace.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The gospel covers sins through The Lord Jesus Christ blood ; as His people, we practice forbearance and reconciliation.
- Pulpit point: Cover offenses when possible; be quick to forgive.

Verse 10: A rebuke may be severe; a discerning person knows when to rebuke.

- Exposition: Wise correction is proportionate and timely.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages instruct on proper rebuke — done in love and timing.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The Apostolic Pentecostal Church discipline must be spirit-led, restorative, and discerning.
- Pulpit point: Rebuke with wisdom and love; aim for restoration.

Verse 11: An evil man seeks only rebellion; a messenger of calamity lurks for wickedness.

- Exposition: The wicked are movers of ruin and rebellion.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages discuss the persistent

nature of the impenitent.

- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Unrepentant hearts become engines of destruction; urgent repentance is the remedy.
- Pulpit point: Preach repentance with urgency; the unrepentant endanger communities.

Verse 12: Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly.

- Exposition: Foolishness is dangerous; encountering it brings ruin.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages warn of the dangers of folly.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Foolish theology and practice can cause more harm than external dangers; maintain doctrinal sobriety.
- Pulpit point: Protect your congregation from folly with sound doctrine.

Verse 13: Whoever rewards evil for good will have evil not depart from his home.

- Exposition: Recompensing good with evil brings continual trouble.
- Rabbinic note: The ethic of returning good for good is lofty in rabbinic teaching.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Kingdom stewardship returns blessing when we respond rightly; vengeance

is for the Lord.

- Pulpit point: Reward good with good; refuse to repay evil.

Verse 14: Beginning anger causes strife; prolonged wrath escalates disputes.

- Exposition: Anger sparks conflict; unresolved anger worsens it.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages stress controlling anger as a key to peace.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit produces long-suffering; remove anger by confession and reconciliation.
- Pulpit point: Deal with anger quickly; don't let it root.

Verse 15: A truly just person is delighted with truth; the upright despise guilt.

- Exposition: Righteous hearts cherish truth and hate iniquity.
- Rabbinic note: Torah lovers rejoice in truth; truth is a value.
- Apostolic insight: Apostolic holiness delights in truth — doctrinal fidelity and moral rectitude.
- Pulpit point: Love truth; teach and model it.

Verse 16: Acquiring wisdom and understanding is

better than silver and gold.

- Exposition: Echo of previous theme — spiritual gain surpasses material wealth.
- Rabbinic note: Seek wisdom like treasure is a common rabbinic admonition.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: his spirit's gifts, sanctification, and knowledge of Christ are supreme riches.
- Pulpit point: Invest in your spiritual education and character.

Verse 17: A friend loves at all times; a brother is born for adversity.

- Exposition: True friendship is steadfast, particularly in trouble.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages praise loyal friends and brothers who stand by in testing times.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The fellowship in his spirit is steadfast; the Apostolic Pentecostal Church bears one another's burdens.
- Pulpit point: Be a friend who stands in hardship; be a spiritual brother.

Verse 18: A man lacking sense starts quarrels; a fool stirs up strife.

- Exposition: Folly produces contention.

- Rabbinic note: Sensible living avoids strife.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit guards against needless controversy — prioritize unity.
- Pulpit point: Refuse to be a troublestarter; call for peace.

Verse 19: Better to be lowly and serve than to share spoils with the proud.

- Exposition: Reiteration: humility and service preferred to corrupt advantage.
- Rabbinic note: See 16:19; humility is preferred.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Apostolic Pentecostal communities embrace servant hearts; boastful reward structures undermine holiness.
- Pulpit point: Choose service; shun prideful gain.

Verse 20: He who keeps intuition and follows discretion finds good.

- Exposition: Thoughtfulness and discretion yield blessings.
- Rabbinic note: Discernment is prized in rabbinic ethics.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: his spirit grants discernment that secures spiritual benefit.
- Pulpit point: Practice discernment; it protects and prospers.

Verse 21: A wise person's heart brings him favor; an amiable tongue multiplies influence.

- Exposition: Wisdom and gracious speech win favor.
- Rabbinic note: Eloquence used rightly is praised.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: spirit-given wisdom and grace in speech open hearts to the Gospel.
- Pulpit point: Cultivate a winsome spirit and faithful speech.

Verse 22: A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

- Exposition: Inner cheer sustains life; despair destroys.
- Rabbinic note: Joy and hope are therapeutic in Jewish texts.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: The joy of the Lord Jesus Christ is our strength (Nehemiah 8; Paul's epistles). His spirit provides sustaining joy even in trials.
- Pulpit point: Seek the joy of the Lord; it heals and sustains.

Verse 23: The heart plans his answer, but the mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart.

- Exposition: Inner counsel shapes outward speech.
- Rabbinic note: The Sages stress the necessity of

cultivating the heart to produce proper speech.

- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: To change speech, change the heart; the Spirit transforms both.
- Pulpit point: Guard the heart; life and words flow from it.

Verse 24: Pleasant words are honeycomb — sweet to the soul and healing to the body.

- Exposition: Reiteration — gracious words are curative.
- Rabbinic note: See 16:24 — Torah is sweet like honey.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Pastoral and prophetic words, when spirit-led, bring restoration.
- Pulpit point: Speak benediction and healing.

Verse 25: A fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel becomes wise.

- Exposition: Self-deception is common; teachability makes wisdom possible.
- Rabbinic note: Humility before instruction leads to Torah growth.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Submit to his spirit's correction and to godly counsel; it forms saints.
- Pulpit point: Be teachable; resist self-justification.

Verse 26: One who labors with the mouth lures his

neighbor and destroys him with words.

- Exposition: Manipulative speech is destructive.
- Rabbinic note: Manipulative rhetoric is censured.
- Apostolic insight: Beware those who use speech to seduce to sin. The pulpit must expose these tactics.
- Pulpit point: Expose manipulation; protect the flock.

Verse 27: A man of violence plans deceit; a troubled mind produces unrest.

- Exposition: Violence and deceit mask inner disturbance.
- Rabbinic note: Inner disorder produces outer harm — a theme in rabbinic teaching.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit brings inner peace; unrest is a sign to seek God's restoration.
- Pulpit point: Attend to spiritual health — unrest indicates need for prayer and counsel.

Verse 28: A perverse tongue sows discord; a whisperer separates close associates.

- Exposition: Repeat on the evils of gossip and perverse speech.
- Rabbinic note: Lashon hara causes community fracture; the Sages teach against it.
- Apostolic insight: Church unity is destroyed by

gossip; holiness includes restraint of speech.

- Pulpit point: Take a stand against gossip; institute restorative practices.

Verse 29: An angry man stirs conflict, and a violent man entices his neighbor.

- Exposition: Repetition of violence yielding enticement to evil.
- Rabbinic note: Anger management is ethical teaching.
- Apostolic insight: Spirit-led leaders model gentleness to avert contagion of wrath.
- Pulpit point: Practice gentleness; tame the tongue.

Verse 30: He who closes his eyes schemes perversity; he who compresses his lips plots evil.

- Exposition: Deceptive concealment precedes wrongdoing.
- Rabbinic note: Sly behavior indicates moral failure.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Do not hide sin; confession and repentance disarm the enemy.
- Pulpit point: Bring hidden sins to light within the community of faith.

Verse 31: Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness.

- Exposition: Reprise of 16:31 — honorable old age stems from righteous living.
- Rabbinic note: See earlier note; elders carry crown when righteous.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Honor your elders; their righteousness is a blessing to the The Apostolic Pentecostal Church.
- Pulpit point: Elevate and cherish godly elders.

Verse 32: Better to be patient than a warrior; one who rules his spirit conquers more.

- Exposition: Reprise of 16:32 — self-mastery wins over brute force.
- Rabbinic note: Self-control is praised.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: His spirit produces self-rule; this is the Apostolic Pentecostal path to power.
- Pulpit point: Seek mastery of the spirit through the Holy Ghost.

Verse 33: The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

- Exposition: Reprise of 16:33 — God's sovereignty acts even in chance.
- Rabbinic note: Divine providence in all things.
- Apostolic Pentecostal insight: Trust God in apparent randomness; He rules all.

- Pulpit point: Rest in God's sovereign care.

## Closing Exhortation and Application

- Jew and Gentile echoes: Proverbs carries a wisdom ethic common to the God-fearing Israelite world. Rashi and the rabbinic tradition underline the moral seriousness of speech, humility, charity, and reverence for God. These themes match Apostolic Pentecostal insistence on inward holiness expressed outwardly, on the sovereignty of God combined with human responsibility, and on the Spirit's enabling of righteous living.
- Christological note: Where Proverbs speaks of wisdom, understanding, righteousness, and the Lord's pleasure, we point to Jesus Christ as the Wisdom and Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30). The gospel is the fulfillment of the moral and spiritual yearnings of Proverbs: inward transformation by the Spirit produces the fruits commended by Solomon and elucidated by the Sages.
- Pastoral challenge: Preach repentance for inner reformation; call for baptism in Jesus' name and the witness of his holy spirit is the means by which The Jesus Christ's wisdom fills the heart and controls the tongue. Teach the flock to love mercy, practice humility, maintain integrity in business and speech, honor elders, and pursue peace. Resist gossip, pride, and violence, and prize the wisdom that comes from

fearing the Lord.

## Selected “Gems, Diamonds, and Rubies” (Key Pearls to Preach On)

- The heart is the tribunal: God weighs motives (16:2). Preach internal holiness.
- Humility over ambition (16:18–19; 17:24, 31): model servant leadership.
- Power of speech (16:24; 17:22): words heal or destroy — train tongues.
- Providence and planning (16:1, 9, 33; 17:33): plan in prayer; expect God to order your steps.
- Peace as supreme gain (17:1): better a humble peace than opulent strife.
- The crown of righteous age (16:31; 17:6, 31): invest in generational faith and honor elders.

### A Final Prayer (for use in sermons or meetings)

Lord Jesus, You are our Wisdom. Fill us with Your spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues that our hearts may be rightly ordered, our tongues controlled, our homes peaceful, and our ministries righteous. Grant us humility to be teachable, courage to repent, and boldness to proclaim Your name. Let Your wisdom be more precious to us than silver and gold, and may our lives reflect the counsel of the Sages and the revelation of The Lord Jesus Christ. In

Jesus' name, amen.

## Acknowledgements and Sources

This booklet synthesizes classical wisdom from Proverbs, rabbinic motifs associated with Rashi and the Sages, and Apostolic Pentecostal theological emphases (repentance, baptism in water in Jesus' name, baptized with his spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

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