

The Seven Pillars of Proverbs

by A. D. Power

1. **Understanding** - "Which can also be, and is, translated comprehend, 1:2; consider, 14:15; 29:7; pay attention, 29:7; sense, 7:7; and study, 16:21."
2. **Knowledge** - "Knowledge is the primary meaning of its counterpart in Hebrew. Its subsidiary ones are discernment, perception, and discrimination."
3. **Prudence** - "Can also mean insight, counsel, common -- or good -- sense. . . To look, to be knowing and hence to prosper (RBG); It designates, says he, the craft of the serpent."
4. **Shrewdness** - "It has the meaning of circumspection or being quick-witted."
5. **Instruction or Learning** - "Radically, 'to take'; has perhaps more shades of meaning than any other word in this group, for in Proverbs alone it can be translated learn, captivate, coax, heed, receive, sound doctrine, and by other words . . . As an attribute of Wisdom, 'culture' might well serve sometimes as its English equivalent."
6. **Discretion** - "Meaning to consider or purpose, is the root of a word which can also mean reflection or counsel, discretion (5 times), intention, 21:27; or inspection, 31:16; and in a bad sense machination, 10:23; 24:9; mischief (five times) or as a verb, to hatch a plot, 30:32. The primary meaning of another root is to instruct with or without punishment. It is also translated 'correct,' 10:17; 'chasten,' 13:24; 'control,' 19:18; and its root crops up again in 24:32 where the English equivalent is 'lesson,' and in 31:1 'admonition.' Its noun may be generally translated 'instruction' or 'discipline.'"
7. **Perception** - "Thoroughly tested and is translated 'make sure.' Circumspection, insight and judgment are other words which could be used as alternatives."

-- *The Proverbs of Solomon, p. 230*

Editor's Note: One cannot just *read* Proverbs and gain wisdom, nor can he just *pray* for it! It takes diligent, careful study, meditation, and application. These "pillars" alone prove that is the case.

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