

God Said vs. They Said

· **When people say “looks are everything,” understand that God says:**

“Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys on your very life” (Proverbs 6:25-26).

· **When you decide to hate others, understand why God told us to love:**

“Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs” (Proverbs 10:12).

· **When you start to slack, understand why God said to work hard:**

“Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth” for “the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are *fully*satisfied” (emphasis mine. (Proverbs 10:4, 13:4)).

· **When negative people approach you, understand why God said to choose friends wisely:**

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffer harm” and “as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 13:20, 27:17).

· **Before you talk about others, understand what God says about gossiping:**

“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret” (Proverbs 11:13).

· **When you decide not to help someone in need, understand why God says help them:**

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper” (Proverbs 11:24, 25a).

· **Don't be easily annoyed, understand what God says about the wise person:**

“A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent [wise] man overlooks an insult” (Proverbs 12:16).

· **Don't speak carelessly; understand what God says about words:**

“He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin” (Proverbs 13:3)

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· **Before you opt to give your heart to anyone, understand why God says to guard it:**

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

· **Just don't jump into plans, understand why God says seek advice:**

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed” (Proverbs 15:22).

· **When you find yourself upset, understand why God says joy is good for you:**

“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones” (Proverbs 15:30).

This article has covered Proverbs 1-15. Be on the lookout for our second article that will cover Proverbs 16-31!