

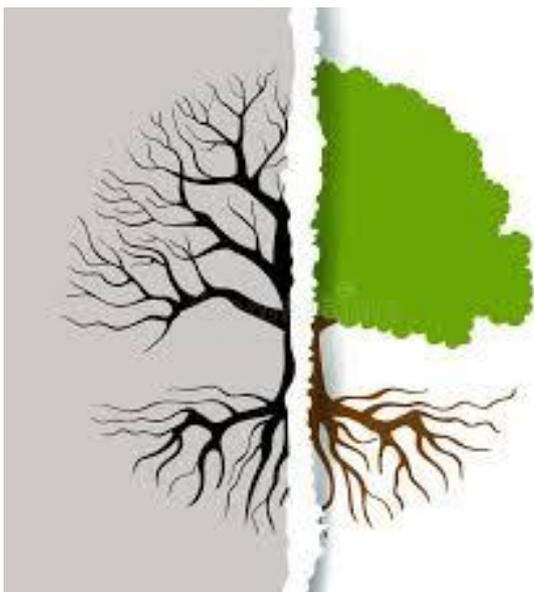
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## Fear ADONAI and Turn from Evil

### 3: 7-8

**A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.**

**Proverbs** says: **There is more hope for fools than for people who think they are wise (26:12)**. A spirit of self-assurance will destroy you and everyone you love. It *cannot* work! The universe will not cooperate with our arrogant self-centeredness. But **fearing ADONAI** and turning away from **evil** - calling sin sin and turning from it - is **healing** and refreshing. It's not just that you will avoid pain; you will enjoy **healing** and refreshment. Here is irony. The more you fear **God**, the less you **fear** other humans. The more dependent you are on **ADONAI**, the more independent you will be. The more you are **conformed to the image of Messiah (Romans 8:29)**, the more of an individual you will be. The more you obey **Him**, the freer you will be. You will be healed spiritually and refreshed.<sup>73</sup>



There is a difference between human **wisdom** and **wisdom** from above. Not all **wisdom** is godly, as we can see with **Solomon's** decline (see the commentary on [the Life of Solomon, to see link click Bx - Solomon's Wives](#)). **The wise father's call to his son: Don't be wise in your own eyes (3:7a NIV)**, is just a different way of saying: **don't depend on your own understanding (3:5b)**. If **the son** thinks **he** is **wise**, then **he** will try to do things with **his** own capabilities, which won't work. The opposite of being **wise in one's own eyes** is to **fear ADONAI** (see [Ai - The Fear of ADONAI is the Beginning of Wisdom](#)). The warning about being wise in one's own eyes may be found elsewhere in **Proverbs (3:5, 26:12, 27:1, 28:11 and 26)** as, of course, is the case with the warning to **fear YHVH (1:7, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:16 and 33, 16:6, 19:23, 31:30)** and turn away from **evil**.<sup>74</sup> This verse clearly shows the connection between **the fear of ADONAI** and humility, which is also made clear in **22:4**.

**The fear of ADONAI** put's one's own abilities and resources in proper perspective, and also leads to an aversion to **evil**. **Fear ADONAI and turn away from evil (3:7b NIV)**. Yes, it's a simple thing to say, but it's very hard to do. The Adversary is still alive and well. As a result of our sin nature (see the commentary on [Romans Bm - The Consequences of Adam](#)), we have a fatal disease that puts us on the road to death and are in need of **healing**. However, when we trust in **ADONAI**, which is intimately connected with turning from our persistent **evil**, we can find **healing** toward eternal life (see the commentary on [The Life of Christ Ms - The Eternal Security of the Believer](#)).

**This will bring healing to your body (3:8a BSB), and strength to your bones (3:8b NLV)**. This is not promoting a "prosperity doctrine" (see **3:2**). **Isaiah** tells us that **by Messiah's wounds we are healed** in a spiritual sense, not a physical sense (see the commentary on [Isaiah Jb - Yet We Considered Him Punished and Stricken by God](#)). Nevertheless, **the healing to [our] bodies** is generally true, all things being equal. It provides an incentive for doing the right thing. This reward surpasses any financial gain as a result of obedience (see [At - Honor ADONAI With Your Wealth](#)). **Health** is a holistic, not just a physical, word; it points to a thriving and radiant wellness (see the related noun in **4:22, 6:15, 12:18, 13:17, 14:30, 15:4, 16:24, 29:1**). The frequency of this concept is a key to the fact that, for **Proverbs**, "health" or "**healing**" are code words for the blessing that is **God's** gift to those who walk in the path of **wisdom**. It is like a cool drink to a thirsty traveler.

These ingredients of trust sound like an outline of a wedding ceremony.

*Commitment* is symbolized in the giving and receiving of rings and the endowing partner “with all worldly goods.” *Denial* is clearly voiced in “leaving all others, will you keep yourself only for her as long as you both shall live?” *Relationship* is not only in “to have and to hold from this day forward” but especially in “to love and cherish.” *Well-being* is promised in the blessing where **ADONAI** is called to **make His face to shine upon you, be gracious unto you, and give you shalom** (see the commentary on **Numbers Bb - The Aaronic Blessing**). Do we need special anniversary celebrations to renew our trust in **God** as we do our pledge to our partners?<sup>75</sup>

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** that **You** are such a wise, wonderful and perfect **father** and for the relationship **You** offer to always be right there to guide, love and to care for me! **For God Himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5c)**. Following **Your** guidance is always wisest. There will never be a time when **You** ever make a mistake, nor do you ever get **tired** or **sleepy**. **My help comes from ADONAI, Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. Your Keeper will not slumber. Behold, the Keeper of Isra’el neither slumbers nor sleeps. (Psalms 121:2-4)**. The result of keeping my eyes on **You** is a life full of peace and joy (**John 1:12**). **Your love, ADONAI, is in the heavens, Your faithfulness up to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God. Your judgments are like the great deep (Psalms 36:5-6)**. How sweet it is for me to rest in **You** with complete confidence that **You** made an eternal home in heaven (**John 14:2-3**) for those who believe **You** (**John 14:23**). **He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)**. **Your** guidance is always wrapped in **Your** steadfast love and infinite **wisdom**. In **Messiah Yeshua’s** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*