

Life is a continuum of graduations. We start as little and as helpless as a hayseed where we are protected by our mother and everyone else who loves us. From birth we move into babyhood where still we are cared for by good parents and relatives. But, we are being observed by all to see what kind of decisions we make. So let us see this growth process via the Proverbs the Book of Wisdom.

### HELPLESS TO DECISION MAKERS (a decision)

1. 28:26 "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered."
2. 25:28 "Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls." See Judges 17:6 the people did what was right in their own eyes.
3. 20:11 "Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right."
4. 16:1 "The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD."
5. 15:1, 2 "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness." 'I don't know' is a child's answer.
6. 13:1 "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."
7. 12:1 "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid."
8. 10: "A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother."
9. 29:15 "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

### DECISION MAKING TO CREATIVITY – GOOD OR BAD - (a pattern)

1. 27: 5, 6 "Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed."
2. 26:11, 12 "As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly, do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." Observe decision making and become wise. Who are you going to believe-- a broken life or the Word of God.
3. 29:27-20:1 "Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge. A disreputable witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity. Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the back of fools, Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."
4. 17:27-28 "He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive."

### CREATION TO MULTIPLICATION (a life style)

1. 24:30-34 "I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction; a little sleep, a little slumber, and little folding the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man."

2. 22:29 “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.”
3. 29:18 “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.”

**THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER:**

1 Corinthians 13: 11-13 “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things, For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”