



# WISDOM AND THE INNER LIFE OF THE LEADERS

(Part 2)

PROVERBS 12:25; 13:12; 14:10,13,30; 15:4,13-14; 16:2; 18:14; 28:1

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## 1. The priority of the inner life

Proverbs 18:14 A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

OT spirit-wind the force the power the energy

Human spirit is analogous is the energy and passion to take on life.

A crushed spirit is to look at life and have no desire in it, no joy in it, cast down to the point of having no desire to live.

There is nothing more important than sustaining your inner life.

A crushed body can be sustained by a healthy inner life, but the healthiest body cannot sustain a crushed spirit.

How you process and address your circumstances has everything to do with how successful will be.

When Paul prays in the letters he wrote, he prays for their inner life. Ephesians that God will strengthen you in your inmost being.

Proverbs says if you don't believe this you are a fool.

Are you far more concerned to deposit grace in your inner life, than to deposit money in the bank, you are a fool.

## 2. The complexity—Why do we struggle so much? The biblical understanding is that it is complicated. The answers are complex.

a. It may have a physical aspect. 14:30 life to the flesh, passion makes the bones rot. The body has a relation to the emotions. Bodily weakness can lead to emotional unhealthiness. If you lose all desire to live, because of illness, you have a crushed spirit.

b. Emotional, relational cause of crushed spirit.

[25] Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. (Proverbs 12:25 ESV)

Not a trivial thought, sometimes we just need support.

## c. Moral aspect of a crushed spirit.

[1] The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion. (Proverbs 28:1)

ESV)

Guilt generalizes. You feel guilty not just what you've done, but about all manner of conscience distortion.

d. Existential aspect

14:13 [13] Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief.  
(Proverbs 14:13 ESV)

All joy comes to an end. This is absolute. Down deep you know that there is a ground note of sadness to everything in life.

If your origin is insignificant, and your destiny is insignificant, then everything in between is insignificant. If you are unable to deal with your idea of death, there is under everything else a crushed spirit.

e. Faith aspect 15:13 [13] A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. (Proverbs 15:13 ESV)

Heart is your core commitments, trust, love and hope in.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. 13:12

Longing more than a whim, what the heart at the deepest level most fundamental way is deferred, then the heart is sick. You won't even want to live.

Every aspect must be lived before God. He alone can be and fulfill the fundamental longing of your heart.

### 3. The solitude of your inner life.

Each heart knows its own bitterness, no one can share your joy.

No one will ever completely understand you. You are so unique, so hidden that you really do go through life alone. Don't be shocked by this. You don't even know yourself.

16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

If God is not a friend, a personal relation, putting his love in you, you are utterly alone in the world. Psalm 23

### 4. How to heal a crushed spirit? We must have a word from outside. How do you stop putting your heart in things that are not ultimate?

The answer is the tree of life

But a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. 13:12

A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

In everything we are looking for the tree of life.

An image of immortal life, it is also image of irretrievable loss, a longing for something that we remember but never had.

Seeking for a song that we remember but have never really heard.

Lewis: The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshipers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited."

Jesus died on a tree, over and over again, the NT says he died on a tree.  
God said to Adam, obey me about the tree  
God said to Jesus, obey me about the tree.  
He did it. Psalm 22:14 the crushed spirit  
Why? for us  
Tree of Death becomes the tree of life  
A foretaste of the tree of life—the eyes that can see to the bottom, love you to the sky.

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