

Priceless Pearls of Wisdom

from a proud & loving father...

to a true gift from God...

my SON

Griffin Alexander Pearson

Dear Griffin,

I love you! And while you will always be my “son,” today I want you to know that from this day forward, you will forever be a MAN in my eyes. Childhood is gone. Manhood is here... and praise God,

I know you are ready!

Even further, I recognize that the LORD has put more “potential” in you than I have ever known. Griffin, surrender ALL to Christ. Never “settle” when following Jesus... “BE” His disciplined warrior for the rest of your days... & never forget that I will always be here for you, prayerfully cheering you on every step of the way.

Forever!
Dad

June 8, 2012

God's Proverbial Pearls of Living Wisdom

1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;

Fools despise wisdom & instruction.

Griffin: everything begins with God's sovereign grace, followed by our Spirit-led surrender and subsequent embrace of a reverent fear of God... a fear that is grounded in His grace, greatness, and eternal goodness. Moreover, make no mistake, any and all who reject this truth are biblical "fools" – one who says in their heart that there is no God (Psalm 14:1).

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

And do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him & He will make your paths straight.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord & turn away from evil.

(Proverbs 3:5-7)

Griffin: these 3 verses say it all! I pray you will take to heart this passionate passage of "truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15) – noting the key words and their implications for each and every day of your life. Dig deep into this treasure trove of worshipful wisdom. Study both the individual words ("Trust," "LORD," "all," "heart," "do not," "lean on," "your own," "understanding," "all your ways," "acknowledge," "Him," "He will" (note certainty), "make your paths" (note plural paths), "straight" (note: "straight" affirms direction & destination but never promises short term ease or wide spread acceptance). Continuing on, verse 7 serves as God's exclamation mark... I pray you will heed these words from heaven by praying for the grace to live in humility, reverence, and prudent discernment – every day of your life, hour by hour, minute by minute. And remember, it is when you feel like saying: *"I've got this,"* that you will most need to revisit these verses from a prayerful place of Christ-like contemplation.

8:13a

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil...

Griffin: this verse is short and sweet on the sourness of sin. Leave no place in your life for evil. Make no excuses. Live with a God-honoring hatred of evil!

10:29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright,
but ruin to the workers of iniquity.

Griffin: stay on our Savior's "straight" path & know that His provision, promises, & power are with you at all times. By His grace, your biblical faith unlocks the doors of God's fortress in this world of spiritual warfare. Praise God (literally) for His eternal protection and pray for those who persecute you, they need it – for their "ruin" is eminent without Christ.

11:25 The generous man will be prosperous,
and he who waters will himself be watered.

Griffin: Here again God's Word is both simple and profound at the same time. Live your life committed to being poured out in Christ-likeness, and you will be perpetually poured into by the Holy Spirit. Note, however, that this reality is not an act of divine reciprocity, recognition, or reward. Instead, the blessed "watering" that comes to those who "water," serves as a form of provision and empowering for more pouring out – Amen!

11:30b ...he who is wise wins souls.

Griffin: biblical Christians live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8). Further, true Christ-followers are literally defined by Christ and His words in Matthew 22:37-40 ("the Great Commandments"). In short, missional-living by Spirit-led evangelists is wise, worshipful, & soul-winning – Amen!

13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm

Griffin: I cannot overstate the importance and impact of this truth. I have personally seen the positive AND negative affects that come with "affiliation" in life. Trust me, the pendulum swings to the extremes here. The "best" bring out the "best" of the best... And at the same time, sadly, fools follow fools who follow fools into free-falls of sinful folly. Light & darkness are not companions!

14:12 There is a way *which seems right* to a man,
but its end is the way of death.

Griffin: God's Word, the Bible, reveals the only truly trustworthy way to go in life (2 Timothy 3:16&17). Don't ever, in ANY aspect of your life, go against the letter or heart of God's Word & way. Those who refuse to heed God's loving Word of warning end up spiritually & eternally dead (Romans 3:23 & 6:23).

15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil & the good

Griffin: you are NEVER alone! God is *with* you (and *in* you) at ALL times!
When things appear to be out of control and the "bad guys" appear to be winning, rest assured, on the power and promise of God's Word, that NOTHING escapes the eye of the LORD, then remember Romans 8:28...
God is large and in-charge - at ALL times!

15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked,
but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Griffin: there will be times when it seems as if the entire world is lined up against you... The only reason it will feel that way is because it is true! Not to worry. He who is in you is greater than him who is in the world – Amen!
Remain committed to righteousness and live in the confidence of Christ's promises – not the least of which is included here. Creator God is loving and listening to you.

20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler
and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Griffin: I pray you will forever embrace the literal wisdom of this verse...Note how God's Word categorizes "wine" & "strong drink." Frankly, "mockers" & "brawlers" are descriptions of dangerous & detrimental characters. They are to be avoided. Even before the implications of becoming "intoxicated" is addressed, it is clear that God "recommends" we stay away from any and all attitude and/or mood alternating alcohol/substances.

Stay on guard Griffin... stand your God-honoring ground on this issue. The world will tell you that "abstaining" is a unnecessary... Just remember, what the world might call "unnecessary," God here declares to be "*wise*."

21:2 Every man's way is right in his own eyes,
but the Lord weighs the hearts.

Griffin: don't ever confuse "being right" with being "righteous." It is important to remember: You can be "right" & still be wrong – if you are not righteous. Stated differently, your motives (coupled with your commitment to truth in love) will be the true measure of your message & ministry. God weighs the heart... Give Him your "why" & He will bless your "who," "what," "where," & "when."

21:16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding,
will rest in the assembly of the dead.

Griffin: Jesus is the "way of understanding" (John 14:6). Stay the course! ALL other paths & options lead to the grave... Spiritual "wandering" is deadly.

23:4-5 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth,
Cease from your consideration of it.
When you set your eyes on it, it is gone.
For wealth certainly makes itself wings
Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

Griffin: this is one of those areas in life where my bad example & battle scars can, I pray, both protect & serve you. In short, please don't make the same mistakes I did. Don't chase the creature comforts and Christ-less currencies of this world. Trust me, money is no answer to the right questions of life. Money and materialism only answer the wrong questions of life... and even then, trust me, you are left wanting more and more... because the God-shaped hole in every heart can only be filled by Him. Don't be blinded by bling...

23:15 My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart also will be glad...

Griffin: love seeks and shares love... In much the same way, wisdom seeks and shares wisdom. Together, love and wisdom, empowered by the Spirit of God, can change both your life and the world around you. Know this... as you embrace God's knowledge and live it out with grace-filled understanding, your mom & dad will be rejoicing in the Lord over the wisdom in your heart.

25:16 Have you found honey? Eat *only* what you need,
 that you not have it in excess and vomit it.

Griffin: once again I offer you a painful but powerful example from the trenches of my life. While championing “moderation” can, at times, cloak calls for compromise (where compromise can kill...), this proverb identifies where and how moderation truly is a virtue. Join me in praying that the LORD will protect and deliver you from the vice of “excess” – be it in regards to food, fun, or faithless living. Remember: too much of anything is “too much.”

25:26 Like a trampled spring and a polluted well
 is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

Griffin: hold to God’s holy ground... no matter what! As sad as it is to see this wicked world fall further and further into the hands of the God-hating hellions, nothing is more disheartening than watching the faithful fall. Pray that the Spirit of God will grace you with the gift of *steel in your spine* and *Christ-like courage* throughout your life. Ask God to prevent pollution from penetrating your purpose & passions... Stand firm in Christ – no matter what!

26:4-5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
 or you will also be like him.
 Answer a fool as his folly *deserves*,
 that he not be wise in his own eyes.

Griffin: many people read these two proverbs and assume that the Bible is contradicting itself. Not so... On the contrary, a right understanding of these verses will point you to and through the value and necessity of “discernment.” Simply put, there are no formulas to plug in when dealing with difficult people... You will need to apply God’s guiding principles, through the spiritual gift of discernment – recognizing all the while that every situation is unique, every person is an individual, and every challenge is to be handled through the cross of Christ!

27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed.
Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Griffin: be the loving leader & faith-filled friend that God has called & created you to be... At the same time, beware any and all disingenuous deceivers (Matthew 10:16). Let the mantra of "truth in love" be your method of measure, your message & your ministry. Settle for nothing less - to the glory of God!

27:17 Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Griffin: I pray you will be surrounded by God's "iron-men." Even more, I thank God that He has equipped you to BE an iron-man for other brothers in-Christ. I pray that the LORD will forever be refining your edge...

27:21 The crucible is for silver & the furnace for gold,
And each *is tested* by the praise accorded him.

Griffin: most people assume that the real test of a man is found in the midst of his adversities. In reality, the better measure of a man can be seen in how he handles attention, accolades and acclaim. You see, *everyone* wants to get up when they have been knocked down... but not many want to bend down when the world wants to lift them up. The Christian's model & measure is a modest Messiah. Please, let John 3:30 be your life-long prayer and heart-felt desire.

27:23 Know well the condition of your flocks, pay attention to your herds...

Griffin: every spiritual leader, regardless of their vocation, title, or role, must learn to accept & appreciate their *privileged "responsibility"* to invite, inform, and inspire others on God's behalf. To that end, we cannot effectively meet or minister to the needs of people if we are not in tune with the troubles they face and the truths they fear. Remember... good shepherds smell like their sheep.

29:25 The fear of man brings a snare,
but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

Griffin: Jesus said that we are not to fear those who can only kill our flesh...
but rather, that we should have a reverent fear of God (and God alone), who is
sovereign over our eternal soul. Consequently, to tremble at the prospects of
what others may or may not do, say, or think about us is a snare sent from hell.

30:6 Do not add to His words or He will reprove you,
and you will be proved a liar.

Griffin: be careful to limit & align your words to His Word! No more, no less.

30:12 There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes,
yet is not washed from his filthiness.

Griffin: do not be deceived! Jesus told us that His followers would be
recognized by their “fruit,” and their “love for one another.” He went even
further than this proverb in Matthew 7:21-23 – a passage that few professing
Christians are ready to honestly read and internalize. Be an ambassador of
truth in love... first working out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
and then, lovingly... helping others to do the same, by the *grace* of God.

31:8 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate.

Griffin: you have a wonderful track record of standing up for (and along side of)
those who cannot stand up for themselves. Praise God! Don't ever stop...
“Those to whom much has been given, much will be expected.” - Jesus Christ

31:30 Charm is deceitful & beauty is vain...
a woman who fears the Lord, shall be praised

Griffin: seek without settling & pray for a Proverbs 31 woman *like your mother!*