

Business Savvy: Wealth Wisdom, Planning, Wise Words  
by Ken Wilson Aug. 19-20

The difference between Wisdom and Law: we bow before the Law of God,  
we dance with Wisdom.

+ Wisdom tied to circumstance

+ Wisdom comes with experience ("Jesus grew in wisdom and stature")

We all need "business savvy Wisdom" because life is a business: resources to  
be managed, plans to be made, relationships to tend with words.

## WEALTH WISDOM

Three layers of wealth wisdom in Proverbs: practical, moral, spiritual  
(per Michael Machodo, The Wisdom of Words)

### Practical:

"The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the ruination of the lowly is their poverty" (10:15)

"Even by his neighbor the poor man is hated, but the friends of the rich are many!" (14:20)

"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave of the lender" (22:7)

"Bad, bad! says the buyer, but once he has gone his way, he boasts!" (20:14)

"Him who monopolizes grain, the people curse--but blessings upon the head of him who  
distributes it" (11:26)

"Wealth quickly gotten, dwindles away, but amassed little by little it grows" (13:11)

Sacred wisdom includes knowing how the world works!

### Moral:

"Ill gotten gain, profits nothing, but virtue saves from death" (10:2)

"Better a little with virtue, than a large income with injustice" (16:8)

"Varying weights, varying measures, are both an abomination to the Lord!"

"He who makes a fortune by a lying tongue is chasing a bubble over deadly snares" (21:6)

### Spiritual:

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns  
be filled with grain" (3:9)

"Wealth is useless on the day of wrath, but virtue saves from death" (11:4)

"He who has compassion on the poor, lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good  
deeds" (19:17)

## PLANNING

Heb. Mahsaba: to think, devise, plot. Thought, imagination, intention,  
purpose, plan. Used to denote artistic work, cunning invention.

Planning is a spiritual capacity, part of our being "in the image of God"

"He who plans a thing will be successful, happy is he who trust in the Lord" (16:20)

"The plans of the just are legitimate; the designs of the wicked are deceitful"(12:5)

"In his mind, a man plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps" (16:9)

"Man may make plans in his heart, but what the tongue utters is from the Lord" (16:1)

"Plans made after advice succeed, so with wise guidance wage your war" (20:18)

## WISE WORDS

"Life and death are in the power of the tongue" (18:21)

"Like a crazed archer scattering firebrands and deadly arrows is the man who deceives his neighbor and say, 'I was only joking!' (26:19)

"Where words are many, sin is not wanting; but he who restrains his lips does well." (10:19)

"Even a fool, if he keeps silent, is considered wise!" (17: 28)

"From the fruit of his mouth a man has his fill; with the yield of his lips he sates himself" (18:20)

"He who answers before he hears--his is the folly and the shame" (18:13)

"The start of strife is like the opening of a dam; therefore check a quarrel before it begins" (17:14)

"A mild answer calms wrath, but a harsh words stirs up anger" (15:1)

"He who winks at a fault causes trouble, but he who frankly reproves promotes peace" (10:10)

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The thread running through business savvy wisdom: *future lean*.

How do we embrace the future? (If we fear it, we won't lean into it!)

The Risen Jesus gives us a taste for the future, and hope for the future. He's the only one who comes from the future into our present, bearing the "powers of the age to come." To care deeply for him is to lean into the future he occupies.

The future is nothing to fear, nothing to dread because the Risen Lord, has gone ahead of us to occupy this land....

## Just For Fun

Which phrase applies to which proverb used above: early Bill Gates, late Bill Gates; Enron; Dot-Com Bubble; Why They Call it MasterCard; We Love to Hear Ourselves Talk!