

A TIME OF GUIDED PRAYER

PROVERBS AS WISDOM FOR CHURCH AND NATION



FOR PREPARATION

[O Come and Mourn with me Awhile](#)

Words: Frederick William Faber (1849) / Music: Eric Ashley (1999)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Thomas Cranmer (1662)

AS OUR FOUNDATION

[Proverbs 31:10-31 \(NIV\)](#)

TO KEEP IN MIND

You know, my Grandma Bertha didn't see herself as any different from the next person. She wouldn't have called herself a Proverbs 31 woman. And she certainly didn't know the cultural term "working mother." But she did see herself through the lens of being a follower of Christ. And it was through this lens, she did her work, her chores, her responsibilities towards others. She was simply called to live all of her life in service to others.

- Cheryl Bachelder

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Proverbs 31 describes a person surrendered to God, with a heart to serve those entrusted to their care. And that is the aim of Christ's message to all of us – men and women alike.
- We are to surrender ourselves to God – live our lives in service to others – without whining, anxiety, or fuss. We are to work hard in our homes, in our jobs, in our churches, in our communities – as if we are working for God, not for mankind.
- We can't do everything – but we can do so much for so many.
- May the words of Proverbs 31 challenge you today – may you see yourself as a leader who fears the Lord and has been called to follow Christ in all aspects of your life, with a view of service towards others. And may you find yourself fresh, ready and energized by this call on your life -- for the days to come.
- I want to read back to you a few lines of this proverb – inserting the word leader – instead of woman or wife. I've come to see this scripture as one of the key old testament teachings on servant leadership – in my mind, the title could have easily been "The leader who fears the Lord." Hear these words afresh as I paraphrase these dozen verses of the Proverb:

The Leader Who Fears the Lord

- ¹⁰ An excellent leader who can find?
They are far more precious than jewels.
- ¹¹ They are trusted,
and they will have no lack of gain.
- ¹² They do good, and not harm,
all the days of their life.
- ¹³ They work with willing hands.
- ¹⁵ They rise while it is yet night
and provide food for the household
and portions for those in need.

- ¹⁶ They consider a field and buy it;
with the fruit of their hands they plant a vineyard.
- ¹⁷ They are dressed in strength
and their arms are strong.
- ¹⁸ They perceive that the merchandise is profitable.
Their lamp does not go out at night.
- ²⁰ They open their hand to the poor
and reach out their hands to the needy.
- ²⁵ Strength and dignity are their clothing,
and they laugh at the time to come.
- ²⁶ They open their mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on their tongue.
- ²⁷ They look well to the ways of the household
and do not eat the bread of idleness.
- ³⁰ A leader who fears the Lord is to be praised.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PRAY AND LIVE THIS WEEK

- *May we all be co-laborers with you – for your purposes, not our own.*
- *May we see each of your children as people you created, and people of value and dignity – may we serve them accordingly.*
- *Give us wisdom that aligns our character and our understanding of reality with your design for our wholeness and flourishing.*
- *Let us never tire of work that's done in calling to your name.*
- *May everything we do bring glory to you.*

BENEDICTION

- *Closing Prayer*

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Thomas Cranmer (1662)

- *Closing Worship*

- [*My Song is Love Unknown*](#) – Samual Crossman (1664)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Cherylbatchelder.com
- [Dare to Serve: How to Drive Superior Results by Serving Others](#)– Cheryl Batchelder
- [Colson Center's National Time of Guided Prayer](#)
- [The Colson Center for Christian Worldview](#)
- [BreakPoint](#)
- [Wilberforce Weekend '21](#)
- [Josh Bales](#)



*True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance.
It is far deeper than that. It is spiritual transaction with
the Creator of Heaven and Earth. - Charles Spurgeon*