

Before Honor is Humility

“The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom, And before honor [is] humility.” (Proverbs 15:31-33 NKJV)

Life is an excellent teacher for those who seek to learn from it. It is especially so when a believer realizes that God often uses life as a refiner’s fire.

The proverb mentions that those who will abide among the wise are those who hear the rebukes of life. A person may be rebuked many times and never hear the message, or learn the lesson as the word use is intended.

Failing to live with your ears tuned to hear the Divine is to despise your own soul. Rebukes are part of life. Choosing to heed them will gain a believer understanding. However, to hear these rebukes a person must be humble.

The arrogant man simply bears down in his rebellion and pushes through the difficulty to the harm of his own soul, and often the harm of those loved ones around him. He cannot learn because he will not admit he has made a mistake.

God forgive us when we do not walk humbly before you. Truly, pride is a root sin that generates all manner of related sins. We desire to hear your instruction. We have so much more than the saints of old, but we long sometimes to hear as they heard with such clarity. Help us to learn from you as we read and meditate upon your Word. Give us understanding beyond human reason. Glorify yourself in our lives. How will the world see your glory if you leave us to wander in the desert of confusion? We need you Oh God, hour by hour we need you, amen.