

# Experience Isn't Everything

## A Study of Proverbs: Proverbs 8-9

Movies try to keep you on the edge of your seat.

What are some aspects that make up a good movie?

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It seems like a good movie should have some element of surprise. You know – something that takes a twist or turn in the plot, something that throws you for a loop.

Why do we tend to enjoy these types of movies?

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It would seem that we get tired of hearing the same old story. If every movie had the same story, then no one would watch movies. We like to be surprised in some way whether it is through suspense, mystery, romance, sci-fi, war, horror, or any other way. The writers want us to walk away from a movie thinking there was a good twist. It is a good twist that tends to sell more movies.

Describe the last movie or story for that matter that had a good twist?

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We tend to remember it better than those movies with good special effects. Sure we may remember the special effects, but we don't remember the story.

What if we applied that same desire for a twist to the rest of life?

Here are a few things to think through:

- buying a car
- getting married
- buying a house
- taking a job
- having a child
- eating out

You may be wondering what I mean. Let's say you are buying a house. The realtor is working well with you and taking you through each house. Suddenly, he turns to you and says, "I want to thank you for

Wisdom says, "This is what you get. There is nothing that I am hiding – no surprises."

working with me. I have never done this before and it seems pretty easy." There's a twist. You are surprised, but still continue to look through houses. The realtor convinces you to buy a particular house.

When you sign the papers, he jumps for joy and hands you the keys. He says, "I have been waiting to sell this dump. I didn't want to have to pay for the termite damage and the police are still suspicious of the woods in back."

There's a twist.

Or maybe you are eating out with a special someone. The waiter brings you a plate of food and says that he would like you to try it and it will be on the house. You ask what it is. He says, "I'm not sure. It's a game we play in the kitchen. Someone is blindfolded and then crawls around the kitchen finding things to throw into a dish. We top it with cheese and send it out."

There's a twist.

So why don't we like to experience in real life what movies do?

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We want to know what's coming. We don't want any surprises. We want to be prepared for the next step.

Here in chapters 8 and 9 of Proverbs, we have an example of the movies and real life. Wisdom lays it all out. Wisdom says, "This is what you get. There is nothing that I am hiding – no surprises."

I wish the car salesman would claim that – and mean it!

Let's take a look through chapter eight in the context of buying a product. Wisdom is:

Crafty or prudent this is to say that wisdom works efficiently.

Understanding or works effectively.

True – wisdom does what it says it will do. Now that's a thought!

Just – it does the job completely – does not cut corners or take shortcuts.

Faultless – there are no cracks or concerns for recalls

Nothing can compare to wisdom – it has no copies or cheap imitations.

Power – It never runs out, it always keeps up.  
Time tested – wisdom has been around since creation and withstood the test of time.

Now just think through these descriptions of wisdom. If a product claimed this type of description, how would you feel about purchasing it?

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It seems to make sense to purchase something that has value and worth. Would you purchase something that had the following description?

Buy today and see how it will help you. The Guess 3000 is a must have in every home. Purchase this product and you will not regret owning it. It is a need for every home and your kids will love it. Your neighbors will be asking you where you found it. The cost is well worth the product and you will be happy the moment you have one. Can you tell me what the Guess 3000 is?

Someone would be crazy to purchase the Guess 3000, yet this is the exact thing that happens when it comes to wisdom and foolishness. Wisdom lays out what it has to offer and the blessings that will come. Foolishness says nothing.

In fact, chapter nine is the last warning before the book breaks into different sayings and proverbs. Up till now there has been a plea to follow wisdom and not be led astray.

Let's use our movie analogy again.

Maybe you have seen the movies where an unsuspecting person is approaching a dark cabin or room. He or she is slowly moving towards the door and everything in you cries out, "DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!!!!" The person has already passed signs that read, "DO NOT ENTER", "KEEP OUT", "DANGER", and "YOU WILL REGRET OPENING THE DOOR".

Chapter nine is that last cry to make the right decision. Notice verses 4 and 16. How are they the same?

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"Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.

~Proverbs 9:4

Why are they so different?

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In verse four, wisdom is making a plea and reminds the reader that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. Wisdom reminds the reader that life will be long and fulfilling.

In verse sixteen, folly tries to convince the reader that stolen water is sweet and stolen bread is good. These are both a reference to the previous chapter about drinking water from your own cistern (5:15-20) and working for your own food (1:11-14).

There is a banquet table for both. There is food and drink at both. The difference is that at the former there is life (vs. 11) and at the latter there is death (vs. 18).

The thought of sitting at a table with the dead is not appealing. Choose wisely!

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

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