

## Thoughts for Young People.

## The Getting of Wisdom.

1. *The roughest roads sometimes lead most directly to the treasures of wisdom.* It is astonishing how many of the great and good of earth have come up "out of great tribulation." He who has learned that the woes of life are chastisements of God sent to train him for heavenly endeavors has already begun to acquire wisdom.

2. *Silver, gold, and all earthly treasure are not to be compared with wisdom.* Not simply because treasures of a high type out-value those that are lower, but because the truest way to secure the lower treasures is to seek the higher ones.

3. *The wise man is the happy man.* Pleasantness and peace are found on the roads which he takes in his search for wisdom.

4. *The use of the name of the Lord* in this long passage concerning wisdom is proof of the high destiny which he has arranged for each of us. Even Jehovah needed this wisdom to enable him to do his great creative work.

## Lesson Word-Pictures.

It is the hour of chastening of one of God's followers. His name is Trust-in-the-Lord. He lies upon a bed of agony. Each day is a succession of pain-throbs. At night sleep is driven from his eyes, and alone he confronts the darkness. But what unseen Friend sits by his bed and holds by the hand. Trust-in-the-Lord? Who in the darkness whispers peace and comforts him with a song in the night?

It is the Lord, one that sticketh closer than a brother.

Trust-in-the-Lord is well.

He takes up his daily duties at home. He goes back to his business in his shop. It is scantily stored, for sickness has invaded its resources. How slender the stock compared with that of Trust-in-Self over the way! What satisfaction Trust-in-Self takes as he contemplates merchandise of gold and silver and precious stones on the shelves!

Cross the street to the shop of Trust-in-the-Lord. The stock seems still smaller now. "How empty the place looks," you say. No glitter of gold, no luster of silver, no dazzle of diamonds. But look sharper if you would see all in his place. What presence is here, brighter than gold from the refiner? It is the Lord. What treasures are his! And he will give to his followers.

And now Trust-in-the-Lord is going out to work in the field. It is the month sweet with the breath of budding spring. It is May. The leaves are opening on the trees like wings. The winds convey through the sky fleets of fair white clouds.

Trust-in-the-Lord takes a footpath winding through the fields. The birds of God sing in triumph around him. Field after field stretches out in its emerald beauty about him.

O, pleasant picture of Trust-in-the-Lord's life, restful with God's peace, tuneful with gratitude, budding and blossoming with the promises of Jehovah.

Come again in the time of fruitage. It is the same Trust-in-the-Lord walking amid the fields. He hears some thrifty tree, some stately, fruitful palm. He stands under its stretching boughs. He plucks its pulpy fruit. He rejoices in its beauty, its shade, its fruitage. It is an emblem of that Tree of Life, Wisdom.

It is now another hour in Trust-in-the-Lord's happy life. He looks out from his window. He lifts his eyes to the stretching heavens. The sky is blackening. The thunder is rumbling. He looks down and thinks of earth's deep foundations.

Wind and rain are making their assault. He sees the great depths broken up. The storm passes away. It is evening, the hour of stillness, of the distilling of the dew. All this is the manifestation of his Heavenly Father's greatness and goodness.

Trust-in-the-Lord is now taking to his heart the teachings of the divine wisdom. He wears them about his neck like jewels. They lead him ever as guides. How they hold him up in the way! He is now lying down, and like guards they surround him. How soft his rest! How peaceful his slumber!

## Orientalisms of the Lesson.

Prov. 3. 14: The "merchandise of silver" is a common thing in all the oriental world. The most ancient gold and silver coinage was in the form of rings, which were not stamped with their value, and hence had to be weighed to find their worth. Each successive sovereign strikes coins of different value. Many, of the older ones in particular, are scraped or their value diminished by a strong solution of *aqua fortis*. The determination of their value is difficult; hence there has arisen a class of money dealers known as "sarafs," who are found at fairs and in the markets. There are merchants in silver and gold. Van Lennep illustrates their great wealth gained as lenders and dealers in money by one Armenian, whose wealth was represented by his sleeping on a bedstead that cost five thousand dollars, and who owned a country seat on the Bosphorus which cost fifteen million dollars, and hired the "customs" for two million five hundred thousand dollars, cash down.

Verse 23. "Thou shalt walk in thy way safely" indicates a security not often known in any oriental