

Carrying Fire and Walking on Hot Coals: Prov 6:27-28

Sunday, February 26, 2023
Covenant Church
Pastor Zack Phillips

Proverbs 2:1-8, 20-22

¹ **My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,**
² **making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;**
³ **if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;**
⁴ **if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—**
⁵ **then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.**
⁶ **For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;**
⁷ **he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,**
⁸ **guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.**
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²⁰ **Therefore walk in the way of the good,
and keep to the paths of the just.**
²¹ **For the upright will abide in the land,
and the innocent will remain in it;**
²² **but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.**

A. Introduction

What do we do when Scripture does not give us direct answers to our many questions?

B. We Are Differently Situated—and This Matters A Lot

1. Act-consequence model

- ²⁷ **Can fire be carried in the bosom
without burning one's clothes?**
²⁸ **Or can one walk on hot coals
without scorching the feet?**

An urban world completely uninvolved in and ignorant of agriculture is a quite new phenomenon. —Ellen Davis

2. Loss of cause-and-effect relationship; disenchantment

C. How, Then, Shall We Live?

1. Confess our hesitations and problems
2. Help rename the world

Genesis 2:18–20 18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” 19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

3. Seek knowledge—in a particular way
4. Learn our limits
5. Do not more harm than is necessary
6. Work on changing our habits
7. The smallest seed yields an enormous tree

Mark 4:30-32 ³⁰ He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?