



## MOTHER-WIT: HELP! I LOST THE LORD!

Pastor Daren L. Barron | May 14, 2023

### moth·er wit

- noun: mother wit
- natural ability to cope with everyday matters; common sense. Used in a sentence, "with mother wit you'll sidestep these hazards"
- Common sense (or simply sense) is sound, practical judgment concerning everyday matters, or a basic ability to perceive, understand, and judge in a manner that is shared by (i.e., "common to") nearly all people. A collective intelligence.

### Common sense is not so common anymore

#### Proverbs 14:12-13 New Living Translation

12 **There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.** 13 Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains.

#### Proverbs 14:12-13 The Message

12-13 **There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again**—it leads straight to hell. Sure, those people appear to be having a good time, but all that laughter will end in heartbreak.

### The needle of common sense has definitely shifted from being biblically based to being secular based.

- The number of U.S. adults who read the Bible saw an "unprecedented drop" in early 2022, according to the State of the Bible 2022 report published by the American Bible Society on April 6.
- While 77% of U.S. adults have a Bible, the percentage of adults who are "Bible Users" – people who read the Bible on their own outside of a church setting at least 3-4 times a year – dropped 11 percentage points to 39% in 2022.
- This represents a 25-million-person decline to 103 million Bible Users since last year. The needle of common sense has definitely shifted from being biblically based to being secular based.

### The lack of God's Word causes social problems affecting our society

- Examples of social problems: Poverty, unemployment, unequal opportunity, racism, malnutrition, substandard housing, homelessness, employment discrimination, mass-murders, child abuse and neglect, crime and substance abuse, increased divisions.

#### Romans 1:28-31 Amplified Bible

28 **And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or consider Him worth knowing [as their Creator], God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do things which are improper and repulsive,** 29 until they were filled (permeated, saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice and mean-spiritedness. They are gossips [spreading rumors], 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors [of new forms] of evil, disobedient and disrespectful to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful [without pity].

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- A survey from 2021 found that 11 percent of Americans read the Bible daily. Trends in reading habits over four years showed that the majority of Americans never read the Bible, however in 2021 this number dropped to 29 percent of respondents.
- Bible readership demographics: Bible readership varies across each demographic, with Millennials most likely to have never read the Bible, whereas the most frequent readers were those aged over 70 years old. Looking at the preferences of the older readers, traditional books were favored, with 91 percent opting for a print version of the Bible to read over other formats.
- Although figures show that fewer people are reading the Bible, there is still a genuine desire to read the Bible amongst the American population, with 56 percent of those asked in 2019 expressing a wish to read it. Changes in attitudes have not been drastic, but rather it seems that disengagement with the Christian scripture has been a gradual process.

## The Word of God WORKS!

**A mother's training is only as good as the training they receive.**

### Hebrews 4:12 Easy-to-Read Version

12 **God's word is alive and working.** It is sharper than the sharpest sword and cuts all the way into us. It cuts deep to the place where the soul and the spirit are joined. God's word cuts to the center of our joints and our bones. It judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts.

### Proverbs 22:6 Amplified Bible

6 Train up a child in the way they should go [teaching him/her to seek God's wisdom and will for their abilities and talents],

## The foundation of Mother-Wit

### Proverbs 3:5-6 New King James Version

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

### Proverbs 3:5-6 Easy-to-Read Version

5 Trust the Lord completely, and don't depend on your own knowledge. 6 With every step you take, think about what he wants, and he will help you go the right way.

## Biblical Mother-Wit can stay alive!

### Titus 2:3-5 Easy-to-Read Version

3 Also, **teach the older women to live the way those who serve the Lord should live.** They should not go around saying bad things about others or be in the habit of drinking too much. **They should teach what is good.** 4 **By doing this they will teach the younger women** to love their husbands and children. 5 They will teach them to be wise and pure, to take care of their homes, to be kind, and to be willing to serve their husbands. **Then no one will be able to criticize the teaching God gave us.**

## Mother-Wit

**HELP! I LOST THE LORD!**

### **Luke 2:41-52 GOD'S WORD Translation**

41 Every year Jesus' parents would go to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 When he was 12 years old, they went as usual. 43 When the festival was over, they left for home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. 44 They thought that he was with the others who were traveling with them. After traveling for a day, they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 Three days later, they found him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions. 47 His understanding and his answers stunned everyone who heard him. 48 When his parents saw him, they were shocked. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been worried sick looking for you!" 49 Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you realize that I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he meant. 51 Then he returned with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 Jesus grew in wisdom and maturity. He gained favor from God and people.

### **God is ready to help! Are you ready to receive?**

#### **Hebrews 13:5-6 The Message**

5-6 Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "**I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,**" we can boldly quote,

God is there, ready to help;  
I'm fearless no matter what.  
Who or what can get to me?