

## Proverbs 4:1

*Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;*

Pastor Chuck Swindoll is one of my favorite pastors who will be turning ninety this year. He also was the president of Dallas Theological Seminary, and he now serves as its Chancellor.

I was listening to one of Pastor Chuck's teaching, and he was addressing the new students at Dallas Theological Seminary. When he did, he gave them 15 things he learned in life over the past, almost 90 years. So, if you will, for today's devotional, I would like to give you that list of 15 things to meditate and think on, because in a sense, Pastor Chuck is fulfilling today's Proverb, which says: ***"Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding."*** Even though Pastor Chuck is not our father, yet they are words of wisdom that we need to learn to start doing again as adults, as well as teaching them to the younger generation, because it seems to be a lost art of bestowing wisdom on a younger generation that we have lost or don't really do anymore.

- 1) Tell people how you feel about them now, not later.
- 2) Things I am not even aware of are being noticed and remembered.
- 3) Being real is far better than being fake.
- 4) There is a huge difference in letting things flow, verses forcing it.
- 5) It is unwise to talk someone into, or out of, a big decision.
- 6) Some people are not going to change no matter what, it's not our responsibility to change them.
- 7) Saying less is always better than saying too much.
- 8) Perception overshadows reality.
- 9) Grace is worth the risk.
- 10) Stop saying "always" and "never" regarding the future.
- 11) Time spent with family is always an excellent investment.
- 12) Days of investment are far more than days of magnificence.
- 13) Forgiveness is essential.
- 14) Give credit where credit is due.
- 15) You cannot beat having fun. Where is the laughter, where is the fun?

So, this week, or this year, chew on these words of wisdom that Pastor Chuck Swindoll shared with this young group of people. But let's not just hold onto them for ourselves only, but let's teach them to this younger generation that is all confused, because the older generation is not teaching them these things. So let me include one final word of wisdom from King Solomon:

† **Ecclesiastes 12:12-14 (MSG)** *But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy. There's no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you're no good for anything else. The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what he tells you. And that's it. Eventually God will bring everything that we do out into the open and judge it according to its hidden intent, whether it's good or evil.*