

PRINCIPLES or PROMISES?

Principles:

- General truths: Principles are statements of _____ that describe how life often works according to God's established order.
- Guidance for living: They offer _____ a wise and godly life, emphasizing the importance of values like love, justice, forgiveness, and humility.
- Not absolute guarantees: While principles are wise to follow, they are not absolute guarantees of _____. There can be exceptions based on many things including temperament, personality traits, or unforeseen circumstances.

Promises:

- Declarations from God: Promises are declarations from God that _____ will happen.
- Always fulfilled: Promises from God are always fulfilled because of God's _____.
- Basis for expectation: Promises give believers the right to have an expectation of God's action.
- Often relate to God's character and work: Many promises focus on who God is or how He is working in believers' lives, rather than _____.

Examples:

- God promises to give wisdom if you ask (James 1:5).
- God promises to provide a way out of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- God promises to never leave or forsake believers (Hebrews 13:5).

In summary:

- _____ are general truths that guide behavior but aren't _____.
- _____ are decrees from God that are _____ to be _____ in His timing and way.

PROVERBS 22:6 (promise or principle?)

Common Misunderstanding:

- Many people interpret Proverbs 22:6 as saying that if parents raise their children "the right way," the children will always stay on that path.
- This leads to guilt and self-doubt for parents when children stray from what was taught, even if the parents made a genuine effort to raise them well.

More Accurate Interpretation:

- The Hebrew wording suggests a warning: "Train up a child in the way he should go [his own way/natural inclinations] and even when he is old he will not depart from it."
- This implies that if a child is allowed to develop bad habits or pursue selfish desires without correction, those patterns are likely to continue.
- The verse is not a guarantee but a caution against neglecting a child's upbringing and allowing them to follow their own flawed instincts.
- It emphasizes the importance of parental guidance in shaping a child's character and directing them away from harmful tendencies.

Key Points:

- **Not a Promise:**

Proverbs 22:6 is not a guarantee of a child's future behavior, but a warning about the potential consequences of neglecting their upbringing.

- **Warning, Not a Guarantee:**

It highlights the importance of guiding children towards positive paths and away from negative ones.

- **Need for Discernment:**

Parents should be discerning and proactive in addressing negative tendencies in their children, understanding that these patterns can become ingrained.
