

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#163) The Proverbs of Solomon 23:15-16- Learning or Losing?

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 23:15-16:

My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice-indeed, I myself; Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things.

True success in education is seen when the pupil has learned to “speak right things,” that is, by giving right answers (**Luke 10:27-28**), speaking truth in love (**Ephesians 4:14-15**), and “hungering and thirsting after righteousness” (**Matthew 5:6**). The teacher is rewarded, not by government salary set by union standards, but by personal, internal rejoicing, a feeling of accomplishment, being satisfied to see another soul determined to know what is best.

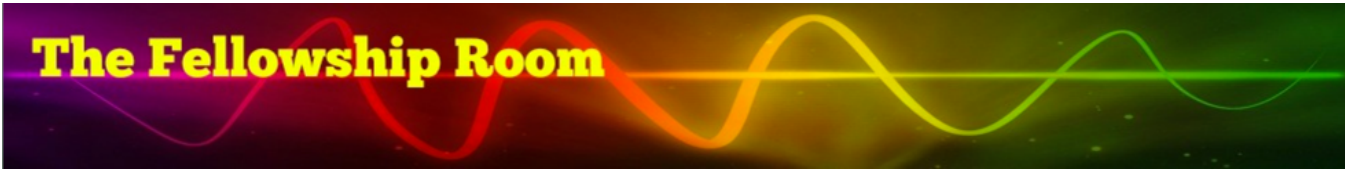
Other proverbs speak of this, along with the reward for parents of a child, especially when the parents have been good examples of their teaching:

- The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, *and* a good report makes the bones healthy. (**Proverbs 15:30**)
- Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. (**Proverbs 23:22**)
- My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. (**Proverbs 23:26**)

The “no child left behind” philosophy is a false standard purely designed to feed the egos of politicians! That idea has little to do with true education, but of keeping children within their own artificially-determined age group, herded along with “social promotions” as a group, for the sake of “body counts” in the classroom, so that tax monies may be distributed according to politically established parameters!

Education is a matter of sparking inquisitiveness, sharing knowledge, and exercising thought processes that help the mind distinguish limits, laws, and

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license. "Education" which does not ignite the fires of knowledge within the pupil is falsely named. "Education" which is designed to tell children what to think, rather than teaching them to think, is "propaganda." "Teachers" who are simply teaching to some politically driven "standard test" not only are missing the real thrill of teaching, but also are falsely advertising themselves as "educators."

This proverb ([Proverbs 23:15-16](#)) should remind us of why students have been eager to go to school, and why "home-schooling" numbers have burgeoned in recent decades.

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