

# Guarding Against Flattery: Wisdom from Proverbs



Explore the dangers of flattery and learn to recognize and resist it through practical insight from Proverbs 29:5 and related scriptures.

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## Introduction

Welcome to this three-day Bible study focused on understanding the dangers of flattery. In a world where words can both uplift and deceive, discerning genuine praise from harmful flattery is a vital spiritual skill. Proverbs 29:5 warns us powerfully, "A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet." This scripture reminds us that flattery is not harmless; it is often a trap designed to ensnare and mislead.

*Flattery can appear sweet and attractive on the surface, but underneath it lies manipulation and deceit. It preys on our desire for acceptance and recognition, clouding our ability to see truth clearly. Recognizing flattery means learning to value truth, humility, and godly wisdom over superficial approval.*

Throughout this study, we will dive deeper into the nature of flattery, how to detect its subtle forms, and the biblical wisdom that equips us to respond wisely. We will explore key scriptures that highlight the contrast between flattery and honest counsel and reflect on practical ways to guard our hearts from being ensnared.

By the end of this study, you will have a clearer understanding of how to navigate relationships and conversations with discernment, anchored in God's truth. Let us begin this journey with open hearts, ready to embrace the wisdom God provides to protect us from the snares of flattery.





# Day 1: 🐦 Understanding Flattery's Hidden Dangers



Day 1: 🕊 Understanding Flattery's Hidden Dangers

## Your Verse

*Proverbs 29:5 - "A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalms 12:2 - "Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts."*
- *Proverbs 26:28 - "A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin."*



## Devotional: Flattery: A Hidden Trap in Sweet Words

**Flattery is more than just a compliment — it is a tool often used to deceive and trap.** Proverbs 29:5 gives a vivid metaphor, telling us that flattering words are like a net spread beneath us, ready to cause a fall. Why would someone use flattery? Usually, it is to gain favor or manipulate others for selfish purposes, not to encourage or build up.

*The danger lies in its deceptive appeal.* When someone flatters, it feels good in the moment, but flattery carries hidden intentions that can harm us emotionally, spiritually, or even physically. Unlike honest encouragement, flattery is manipulative and masks insincerity with sweet words.

**Recognizing flattery begins with discerning the heart behind the words.** It requires us to stay firmly rooted in God's truth and look for consistency between words and actions. Are the words aligned with God's wisdom? Do they aim to help, or do they seek to trap? Reflecting on these questions helps protect us from falling victim to flattering speech.

Today, remain alert to the words you receive and ask God for wisdom to see beyond surface charm. Trust in God's Word as your guide rather than the fleeting approval of men.



Day 1: 🕊️ Understanding Flattery's Hidden Dangers

## Reflect and Apply

1. Have I identified moments when flattery influenced my decisions or feelings?

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2. What motivates me to accept flattery instead of seeking honest feedback?

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3. How can I grow in discernment to recognize flattery when it comes?

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Day 1: 🕊 Understanding Flattery's Hidden Dangers

## Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Write about a time when flattery led you into a difficult situation.

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2. 2. Reflect on how Proverbs 29:5 applies to your relationships.

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3. 3. List qualities that distinguish honest counsel from flattery.

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Day 1: 🕊️ Understanding Flattery's Hidden Dangers

## Prayer for Today

**Dear Lord**, thank You for Your Word that warns us against the snares of flattery. *Help me discern the truth behind words spoken to me* and guard my heart from deception. Teach me to seek honest counsel and to be truthful in my own words. Strengthen me to stand firm in Your wisdom, trusting You rather than the fleeting praise of others. Fill me with Your Spirit to recognize and resist every flattering trap, walking in integrity and love. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏📖🌟🛡️





## Day 2: ⚖️ Choosing Truth Over Flattery



## Day 2: 📖 Choosing Truth Over Flattery

## Your Verse

*Proverbs 27:6 – "Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 12:18 – "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."*
- *Ephesians 4:15 – "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."*



## Day 2: 📖 Choosing Truth Over Flattery

# Devotional: Embrace Honest Truth Over Flattering Words

**Choosing truth over flattery requires courage but leads to spiritual growth and genuine relationships.** Proverbs 27:6 reminds us that true friends may correct or challenge us — their 'wounds' are trustworthy because they come from love and truth. Conversely, flattery can be a guise for enemies, offering pleasing words that conceal harm.

*It is natural to seek acceptance and enjoy kind words, but God's wisdom warns against mistaking flattery for genuine affection or guidance. True growth comes when we embrace correction lovingly and avoid being lulled by deceitful praise.*

**Speaking the truth in love, as Paul exhorts in Ephesians, helps us become mature in Christ.** It calls us to both give and receive honest feedback with grace, strengthening our faith and character. This reflects God's heart for His people — not to appease but to refine and restore.

Today, consider who in your life offers truthful counsel and who may use flattery. Pray for the wisdom to choose truth-filled relationships and the grace to speak truth lovingly to others.



## Day 2: 🏴‍☠️ Choosing Truth Over Flattery

# Reflect and Apply

1. Who provides honest feedback that helps me grow spiritually?

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2. How do I react to correction — with resistance or openness?

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3. What steps can I take to foster relationships grounded in truth?

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Day 2: 🏴‍☠️ Choosing Truth Over Flattery

## Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Write about a friend or mentor whose truthful advice has impacted you.

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2. 2. Reflect on any recent corrections you received and how you responded.

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3. 3. List ways you can lovingly speak truth to someone needing encouragement or correction.

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Day 2: 📖 Choosing Truth Over Flattery

## Prayer for Today

**Heavenly Father**, thank You for friendships rooted in truth and love. Help me to receive correction with humility and to speak truth with grace. Protect me from the allure of flattering words that lead away from Your path. Strengthen my heart to value honesty, even when it is challenging, and help me foster genuine relationships that honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏❤️📖💡





## Day 3: Equipping Ourselves Against Flattery



Day 3:  Equipping Ourselves Against Flattery

## Your Verse

*Colossians 4:6 - "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*
- *James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*



Day 3:  Equipping Ourselves Against Flattery

# Devotional: Seek God's Wisdom to Speak and Receive Truth

**Equipping ourselves to recognize and resist flattery involves cultivating wisdom, grace, and discernment in our daily conversations.** Paul encourages believers in Colossians 4:6 to let their speech be full of grace and "seasoned with salt," meaning it should be honest, kind, and thoughtful. This approach enables us to respond wisely to all kinds of speech, including flattery.

*True wisdom comes from God, as Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to trust Him fully rather than relying on our limited understanding.* When faced with flattering words, it can be tempting to accept them uncritically, but asking God for discernment helps protect our hearts from deception.

**James further encourages us to seek wisdom from God, who gives generously.** Prayerfully inviting God's insight enables us to navigate social interactions with clarity and integrity, answering everyone appropriately without compromising our values.

Today, commit to daily reliance on God's wisdom and let your words reflect His truth and grace. Equip yourself spiritually to identify flattery and respond in ways that honor Him and protect your heart.



Day 3:  Equipping Ourselves Against Flattery

# Reflect and Apply

1. How can I apply grace and wisdom in my conversations today?

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2. In what situations am I most vulnerable to flattery?

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3. What practical steps can I take to grow in discernment?

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Day 3:  Equipping Ourselves Against Flattery

# Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Reflect on how prayer has helped you gain insight in difficult conversations.

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2. 2. Write about a time when God's wisdom guided you through a flattering situation.

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3. 3. Commit to a specific daily practice that will help you remain discerning.

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## Day 3: 🛡️ Equipping Ourselves Against Flattery

## Prayer for Today

**Gracious Father**, thank You for the gift of Your wisdom and grace. Please fill my heart and mind with Your truth so my words and actions reflect You. Help me to discern flattery and respond with integrity and love. Teach me to trust You fully and seek Your guidance in every conversation. May my speech be seasoned with grace, drawing others toward Your light. In Jesus' name, Amen.





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