

Agur

Proverbs 30

by Don Falkos

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Agur prayed, "O God, I am ignorant, ill-mannered, uncouth. I lack common sense. I have not learned wisdom. I have no knowledge of you."

God replied, "I have dominion over heaven and earth. I hold the wind in my hands. I wrap the oceans in my cloak. Who am I? And who is my son? Do you know? I am a shield for all who come to me for protection. Every word I speak is true; don't contradict me or you will be reprimanded."

"O God: First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me only enough to satisfy my needs. If I have too much, I might deny you, thinking I've earned it. And if I'm poor, I might steal to feed myself and so dishonor you."

"There are those who curse their own parents. They are proud and think themselves to be pure, yet in reality they are filthy. They are like the grave, the barren womb, the thirsty desert, the blazing fire – they are never satisfied.

"Look to my creation and its established order. Look to the small creatures. The ant isn't strong, yet it stores up food all summer. The rock badger isn't powerful, yet it makes its home in the crags. Locusts have no king, yet they march in formation. And look to those who are stately – the lion, the strutting rooster, the he-goat.

"If you have been a proud fool or plotted evil, keep your mouth shut. Churning cream produces butter; striking the nose produces blood; and stirring up anger produces discord."