Dear Open Door Family,

The statement that was made in English was "*your care for us has warmed our hearts"*. When it computer translated it into Spanish it literally said - "*you make me hot"*. Well, that brought a lot of laughter when I read it to Carol. But it does show the difficulty of translating anything from one language to another. Even if you are fluent in both languages you will encounter times when there is no easy or clear way of translating a word or phrase. Sometimes the language you are translating into does not even have a word that is rich enough to be used so you may end up using a phrase. This is true of some of the words we have in the Bible which are translated from Hebrew. Let's look at these verses together.

Proverbs 1:7 *(HCS) The FEAR of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

Proverbs 9:10 *(HCS) "The FEAR of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Proverbs 1:7 is a key verse in the book of Proverbs. Solomon has just stated that he has written all these proverbs and sayings so that people can learn wisdom. Then in vs. 7 he states that the FEAR of the Lord is the starting point of Knowledge. Latter in Prov. 9:10 he tells us that the FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. The problem for me has always been that the word Fear means the same as dread, fright, and panic. The English word Fear conveys the emotion of being scared. *But this word FEAR in Hebrew means to REVERE God, to HONOR Him, to give Him the PROPER PLACE in my life.* (Holman OT Com) If I want to grow in my Knowledge of God and in Wisdom then it will start with my heart attitude towards God. I will need approach God in my prayer, my study of His Word, my times of meditation, my times of worship all with a sense of submission, reverential awe, obedient respect. According to the ESV Study Bible *"one of the main purposes of the FEAR of the Lord in Proverbs is to align our hearts with what the Lord loves."* Unfortunately too many times I am trying to get God to align Himself with what I want or think. But if I am serious about knowing God, about being wise and godly in the way that I live then I will need to ALIGN MY HEART with God's, not the other way around. If I really want to align my life with God I will need to be saturated in His Word. It is only as I listen and Obey when God speaks to me through His Word that I will begin to see my heart come in line with His.

PRAYER: Lord, please help me to align my heart and life with YOURS. Keep me from going my own direction. Help me to develop more and more reverence and awe for You. Help me, Lord God, to submit and to obey Your Word.

Pastor Mark Kieft

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