

(Read the verses stated in the text below at each point)

I had a few pieces of magnets when I was small. I found them very interesting. Magnets stuck to certain metals. I played with them like attaching them to the metal bed frame. Two pieces of magnets can be attracted to each other. But when I put them in certain directions, they pulled away from each other. I think magnet is a good illustration for one of those wise concepts taught in the Book of Proverbs.

(By the way, please don't go in depth on physics here. This is just an illustration using the people's common awareness of a magnet's function.)

Magnets (illustration- as Christians) have magnetic force or call magnetism in them (like God in us), for the purpose to attract (other people) or repel magnetic materials (repel those actions against God like sin). Two pieces of metals could not be attracted without the magnetic force inside (God in you) that forces the magnetic materials towards each other or repel each other.

1.) How to attract others to you for the purpose of bringing them to God through you?

Requirement: God in you. You let God in control. (Prov. 2:6-8, Prov. 16:7, I Cor. 3:16, Eph. 3:17, Ish. 41:10)

a. How others view you?

Patience and control your mouth (Prov. 12:14, 15:28a, 16:32)

Be a righteous and honest person (Prov. 15:9, 16:11)

b. How others are lifted-up through your character?

Blessing to others like having a joyful character (Prov. 15:30)

always encourage others, have sincere concerns to others like prayer, give sincere advice (Prov. 11:25, 18:4, 27:9)

c. How others are benefited by your actions?

Friendly and helpful in physical ways (Prov. 11:24, Prov. 13:15a)

2) What do you repel?

Actions that are against God:

a. **Dishonor God**

Like the first 4 commands in the 10 commandments where God shall be the only God be worshiped. Satan lures you with a false God like religion, wealth (Prov. 15:27), addicted hobby or job etc. that you put them as top priority (Col. 3:5, Gal. 4:8).

b. **Sin against other persons**

God disapproves you to hurt people like the last 6 commands in the 10 commandments. Satan lures you to sin such as:

Adultery (Prov. 6:20 – 7:27)

Cheating (Prov. 11:1)

c. **What you should do?**

1. Run in opposite direction (Prov. 4:14-15)

Some sayings in the Book of Proverbs are similar to some proverbs found in various cultures, and it is the only book in the Bible that has those similarities. Some scholars have identified some proverbs are similar to some old middle east sayings. There is a similar Chinese saying to Proverb 4:15. Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu has said in his book the Art of War, “To be surrounded by enemy, you must run and find the way to escape” and “If you are weaker, be able to avoid them.” In this case, when your enemy (sin) surrounded you, you must turn away and avoid them.

2. Prayer (Prov. 15:8, Col. 4:2, I John 1:9)

3) God is in control

God is like the “magnetic force” in you. You just do your part like actions listed in 1) above, and then let God do the rest. Proverbs 16:9 states “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”

In conclusion, the theme is about the Book of Proverbs want you to let God in control, and to live a life that can bring people to God. Of course, this includes how to avoid sins and people that try to entice you to sin.