

Proverbs 4:1-27 **A Father's Wise Counsel and Instruction**

Security in Wisdom

¹Hear, *my* children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;
²For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.

³When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,
⁴He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

⁵Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

⁶Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you.

⁷Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

⁸Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.

⁹She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

¹⁰Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

¹¹I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.

¹²When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.

¹³Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she *is* your life.

¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

¹⁵Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

¹⁶For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make *someone* fall.

¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun,* That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

¹⁹The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

²⁰My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;

²²For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

²³Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.

²⁵Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.

26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.
27 Do not turn to the right or the left;
Remove your foot from evil.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Hear, *my* children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;
For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. [Proverbs 4:1-2]
 - ✧ Solomon counseled his children to listen carefully to his instruction to gain understanding.
 - ✧ Solomon said his doctrine is good and they should cling fully to his law.
- ✧ When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. [Proverbs 4:3-4]
 - ✧ Solomon remembered when he was young his father David had said, Let your heart retain my words, keep my commandments and live.
 - ✧ Now he desired to pass the same guidance to his children.
- ✧ Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.
Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you." [Proverbs 4:5-9]
 - ✧ David's focus was on Yahweh & the blessings that accompanied obedience to His commands. [Psalm 111:10]
 - ✧ Solomon's focus is on wisdom and understanding which Yahweh granted at his request. [1 Kings 3:5-14]
 - ✧ David and Solomon both acknowledged that the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom for those who keep His commandments. [Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7]
 - ✧ But here Solomon is focused on the wisdom and understanding he can impart to his children.
 - ✧ Wisdom is the principal thing; get wisdom, and in all your getting, get understanding.
 - ✧ Then he expressed the benefit and great reward in getting wisdom and understanding.
- ✧ Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.
When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.
Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she *is* your life. [Proverbs 4:10-13]
 - ✧ Great value in listening to Solomon's instructions. Long life and right paths.
 - ✧ Hold firmly to instruction for she is your life.
- ✧ Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.
Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.
For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make *someone* fall.
For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. [Proverbs 4:14-17]

- ✧ Warning against following the way of the wicked and walking in the way of evil.
- ✧ Solomon described the ways of the wicked.
- ✧ But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun,* That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble. [\[Proverbs 4:18-19\]](#)
- ✧ Contrast between the predestined end of the just and the wicked.
- ✧ The path of the just is like the shining sun, which shines ever brighter until the perfect day.
- ✧ The way of the wicked is darkness and they know not what makes them stumble.
- ✧ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.
Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;
For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.
Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. [\[Proverbs 4:20-23\]](#)
- ✧ Solomon calls his son to cherish his instructions and diligently keep them in his heart.
- ✧ They are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh.
- ✧ Out of the heart flow the issues of life.
- ✧ Jesus said, **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart* brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.** [\[Matthew 12:34-36\]](#)
- ✧ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.
Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.
Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.
Do not turn to the right or the left;
Remove your foot from evil. [\[Proverbs 4:24-27\]](#)
- ✧ Be careful in what you say and avoid deceit and perverse speech.
- ✧ Watch carefully the paths you follow and let them be established in righteousness.
- ✧ Keep away from evil.
- ✧ Paul taught the Thessalonians to “Abstain from every form of evil.” [\[1 Thessalonians 5:22\]](#)