



## The Benefits of Wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-27)

### Wisdom is the Principal Thing

"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.** 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. 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 4:1-9 NKJV

## Proverbs 4:1-9

☑ *"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 NKJV*

### ☑ The Instruction of a Father

☑ Pay attention to what the Father has to say. Be sure you understand what it all means because there are tremendous benefits of such information.

☑ **Instruction:** God's instructions are equal to God's word, His heart or mind on any matter as governed by His laws.

☑ We are going to treat the role of the Father in this passage as if it refers to Yahweh, not as if the instructions are coming from your earthly father, although that would certainly apply.

### ☑ Good Doctrine

☑ Step One: Do not forsake God's Law

☑ God's laws are holding together the fabric of the universe. There are Biblical laws and physical laws, all of which are used by God to operate creation.

☑ Biblical laws define sin! *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**"* I John 3:4 NKJV

- ☑ Biblical laws are good! *“Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment **holy and just and good.**”* Romans 7:12 NKJV
- ☑ Knowing Biblical laws is an advantage! *“**What advantage then has the Jew,** or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed **the oracles of God.**”* Romans 3:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ All the physical laws of the universe were also created by Yahweh. They keep planes in the sky, boats atop the ocean, and your feet on the ground. Transgressing them is foolish.
- ☑ *“Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, **throw Yourself down.** For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”* Jesus said to him, *“It is written again, ‘**You shall not tempt the Lord your God.**’”* Matthew 4:5-7 NKJV
- ☑ *“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 NKJV*

☑ **Good Doctrine**

☑ **Retain God’s Word:** Because what God has to say is so critical, you should make knowing His Word and remembering to **Keep His Commands** a top priority.

☑ **There is a tremendous payoff in doing so!**

☑ Life and Length of Days!

☑ *”“See, I have set before you today **life and good, death and evil**, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to **keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.**”*

*Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NKJV*

☑ *”I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may **obey His voice**, and that you may cling to Him, for **He is your life and the length of your days**...””* Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NKJV

- ☑ **Last Chapter:** *"My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For **length of days** and **long life** And **peace** they will add to you."*  
Proverbs 3:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ **Long life:** When you obey the owners manual of the One who created you, all things in your life work better, and will last longer—including your lifespan!
- ☑ **Length of days:** Each day you live will afford you a sense that you have extra hours to seek and accomplish God's purpose for your life!
- ☑ The Bottom Line!
- ☑ *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.**"* Ecclesiastes 12:13 NKJV (also written by Solomon)
- ☑ *"So if you walk in **My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.**"* I Kings 3:14 NKJV
- ☑ *"**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.**"*  
Proverbs 4:5-6 NKJV
- ☑ **Good Doctrine**

- ☑ Get wisdom!
- ☑ **Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge and understanding.
- ☑ Get understanding!
- ☑ **Understanding:** the proper perception of God's intention.
- ☑ **Do not forsake her...**
- ☑ God's word is not meant for private interpretation for an individual to use as rationalization for his personal choices that would otherwise be contrary to God's intention. Do not forsake it and it will preserve you!
- ☑ **Love her...**
- ☑ What God says about any matter is uncompromisable! If you love it, it will keep you in the center of God's will.
- ☑ *"How can a young man cleanse his way? **By taking heed according to Your word.**" Psalms 119:9 NKJV*
- ☑ *"Wisdom is the **principal** thing; Therefore **get wisdom.** And in all your getting, **get understanding.**" Proverbs 4:7 NKJV*
- ☑ **The principal thing**
- ☑ Wisdom is the first most thing; it is the predominate attribute.

- ROC (Rangers of Christ) 12 attributes: **wisdom (#1)**, courage, strength, purity, integrity, humility, patience, kindness, gentleness, diligence, self-discipline, self-control.
- And while you are at it... get understanding, the proper perception of God's intention.
  
- "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 4:8-9 NKJV
- Exalt Wisdom**
  - Give wisdom its proper place in your life and you will advance in every area in which you apply it.
- Embrace Wisdom**
  - Hold wisdom close to your heart and it will bring you honor, respect, and an excellent reputation.
  - It will hang around your neck like, as if you are wearing God's grace like a collar that is leading you like a dog is led on a leash.
  - It will appear as if God's glory is emanating from your mouth and is being worn like a crown.

## The Path of the Just is like the Shining Sun

"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. 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**. **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 4:10-19 NKJV

### Proverbs 4:10-19

☑ *"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**."*  
*Proverbs 4:10-12 NKJV*

☑ **The Way of Wisdom (the right path)**

☑ It will grant you the life God intended.



- ☑ You will avoid silly things that will damage your life!
- ☑ The direction God intends for your life will be obvious.
- ☑ You will not be constantly tripping over your own feet as everything you attempt to accomplish feels like you are walking through mud.
  
- ☑ *"Take firm hold of **instruction**, do not let go; Keep her, for **she is your life.**" Proverbs 4:13 NKJV*
- ☑ **Instruction**
  - ☑ God's instructions are equal to God's word, His heart or mind on any matter as governed by His laws.
  - ☑ Hold them close to you heart and let them govern your entire 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 NKJV*
- ☑ **Avoid the path of the wicked**
  - ☑ Do not walk in the same direction as evil. Do not entertain evil even a little bit. That road has nothing for

you, even if it appears tempting. Run from it as it only leads to destruction.

☑ *“Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV

☑ **Recognizing Evil**

☑ They are restless unless they are involved in something bad that will lead to someone getting hurt.

☑ **Food for Evil**

☑ **Wickedness:** a twisted view of reality. It often progresses from slightly off the truth and eventually becomes 180 degrees opposite the truth.

☑ **Violence:** a ruthless bloodthirsty force that intends to harm anything in its path. And that which is in its path may be arbitrary, as it cares not what it destroys, but most often it has its sights set on something specific.

☑ The only way to defeat violence is with violence (Spiritual Violence)!

☑ *“...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and **the violent take it by force.**”* Matthew 11:12 NKJV

- ☑ *“But **the path** of **the just** is like the **shining sun**, That shines ever **brighter** unto **the perfect day**.” Proverbs 4:18 NKJV*
- ☑ **This is the path to becoming like Christ!**
- ☑ **The Path:** this is the sanctification process of the saints.
  - ☑ *“For **this is the will of God, your sanctification** [becoming holy]: that you should **abstain from sexual immorality** [from violating [God’s image](#)]; that each of you should **know how to possess his own vessel** in sanctification and honor [living your life with wisdom and understanding the way God intended], **not** in passion of lust, **like the Gentiles who do not know God**;” I Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV*
- ☑ **The Just:** those who represent God in the earth will take their rightful place of authority.
  - ☑ *“Now then, we are **ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us**: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” II Corinthians 5:20 NKJV*
  - ☑ *“But **judgment will return to righteousness**, And all the upright in heart will follow it.” Psalms 94:15 NKJV*
- ☑ **The Shining Sun:** The glory of the Lord emanating from His people.

☑ *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding **as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV*

☑ **The Perfect Day:** As the sun rises and gets brighter and brighter until it reaches its peak in the sky, so are God’s people being transformed into the full stature and image of Christ.

☑ *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**” Ephesians 4:11-13 NKJV*

☑ *“The way of the wicked is like **darkness**; They do not know what makes them **stumble.**” Proverbs 4:19 NKJV*

☑ **The wicked are groping in darkness**

- ☑ The wicked are constantly tripping up and they never open their eyes to see what is causing them to stumble.

## Keep Your Heart with All Diligence

"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. 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 4:20-27 NKJV

## Proverbs 4:20-27

- ☑ *"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." Proverbs 4:20-22 NKJV*

- ☑ **This is your source of life and health**

- ☑ God's Word and Sayings: *Think in Bible!*

- ☑ This is similar to learning a foreign language. This is a voluntary and purposeful process.
- ☑ At first it is awkward and cumbersome as you systematically translate your known language into your new language.
- ☑ But eventually you no longer need to think in your old language to function in your new language.
- ☑ You will automatically begin to think in your new language. That is what it means to think in Bible!
- ☑ You must embark on a journey to replace every thought of man with the mind of Christ.
- ☑ You must learn to “Think in Bible.” Become so familiar with God’s Word that it literally reprograms your brain.
- ☑ It will feel like God is rewiring your DNA to become Christlike.
- ☑ **Focus on God’s Word; Hide the in your heart!**
- ☑ *“Your word I have **hidden in my heart**, That I might **not sin against You.**” Psalms 119:11 NKJV*
- ☑ *“Keep your **heart** with all **diligence**, For out of it spring **the issues of life.**” Proverbs 4:23 NKJV*
- ☑ **The Heart**

- ☑ Be diligent, conscientious, and particular to protect what is in your heart, which biblically means your mind.
- ☑ *"For as he **thinks in his heart**, so is he..." Proverbs 23:7 NKJV*
- ☑ *"...For out of the **abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**." Matthew 12:34 NKJV*
- ☑ Every issue of your life is affected by how you think.
- ☑ How you think is affected by what you see, hear, say, do, and where you go! So protect your eyes, ears, mouth, hands, and feet!
  
- ☑ *"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 NKJV*
- ☑ **Your Voice!**
- ☑ What you say will promote life and peace or death and destruction.
- ☑ *"**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace** to the hearers." Ephesians 4:29 NKJV*

☑ *“Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.” James 3:5-10 NKJV*

☑ **Your Eyes**

☑ Direct your eyes straight ahead and do not let them be filled with evil. Do not look upon that which is unclean lest you be influenced by it, and thus influence others with it.

☑ *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is*



***darkness, how great is that darkness!***“ Matthew  
6:22-23 NKJV

- ☑ Your eyes are both a transmitter (lamp) and a receiver (window). They emanate either light or darkness and they are the windows into your soul, which is affected by what they receive (look upon)!
- ☑ **Your Feet**
- ☑ “A man’s heart plans his way, But ***the Lord directs his steps.***” Proverbs 16:9 NKJV
- ☑ Ponder your path; let Him establish your ways; do not turn to the right or to the left; do not for a moment involve yourself with anything evil.
- ☑ **If you stray...** “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “***This is the way, walk in it,***” Whenever you ***turn to the right hand*** Or whenever you ***turn to the left.***” Isaiah 30:21 NKJV
- ☑ “**Thus says the Lord:** “Stand in the ways and see, And ***ask for the old paths, where the good way is,*** And ***walk in it;*** Then you will find ***rest for your souls...***” Jeremiah 6:16 NKJV

### **NEXT TEACHING**

The Lips of an Immoral Woman (Proverbs 5:1-23)