

Question: Who recently have you pleaded with for the Gospel?

Question: What happened when you ignored the warning and plea of someone wiser than you?

3. The Pertinent Principles

- a. Do not forsake → she will preserve you
- b. Love her → she will keep you
 - i. Wisdom is the principal thing: Get wisdom, Get understanding
 - 1. "The beginning of wisdom: Get wisdom and understanding."
 - 2. Getting is the same word as Pr 4:5 – Acquire and purchase.
- c. Exalt her → She will promote you
- d. Embrace her → She will bring you honor

Wisdom is once again being personified as a woman:

- See Slide
- Pr 1:20-23
- Pr 3:15-18
- Pr 4:6-9
- Pr 8:1-36
- Pr 9:1-5

There are two pairs of commands with four principles.

- **Command #1:** Do not forsake is paired to love her.
 - The very definition of love is not to forsake
 - **Ro 8:38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - **1 Co 13:4** Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not

rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- **Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 - **2 Jn 2 Jn:6** This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.
 - **Ga 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- **Command #2:** Exalt is paired with Embrace
- See Best Friend Slide
 - Exalt: revere, honor, respect
 - Embrace: affection, hold one's hand
 - **Eph 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
 - **Eph 5:28** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.
- **Principle #1:** She will preserve you (Path)
- Not forsaking wisdom will keep you on the holy path that pleases God.
 - **Pr 2:8** He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.
 - **Pr 2:20** So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep *to* the paths of righteousness.
- **Principle #2:** She will keep you (Protect)

wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers. **12** Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation."

4. The Preeminent Prize

- a. She will place on your head an ornament (wreath) of grace (honor)
 - i. **Pr 1:9** For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.
- b. She will deliver to you a crown (diadem) of glory (status)
 - i. When you pair these three truths, it points to our justification, sanctification, and glorification.
 1. **1 Pe 5:10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.
 2. **Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 3. **1 Pe 5:4** and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.
- c. To embrace wisdom, is to embrace the Word that leads us the only Way to God.

Biblical Model/The Family of Faith:

- Grandpa/Grandma → Dad/Mom → Son/Daughter
- Male leadership is the primary role to know, obey, and lead in doctrine and example.


STRUCTURAL INSIGHTS: PROVERBS 4:10-19


4:10 **Hear,** my son,
and **receive** my sayings,
And the years of your life
will be many.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

III. The Next Generation: Choose Your Path Wisely (Proverbs 4:10-19)

A. Foundational Principle: The Word of God must be "heard" and "received"

Pr 4:10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

Question: "Hear my son"...sound familiar?

- In the Book of Proverbs (Positive)
 - **Pr 1:8** My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;
 - **Pr 4:10** Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.
 - **Pr 13:1** A wise son *heeds* his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
 - **Pr 19:27** Cease listening to instruction, my son, And you will stray from the words of knowledge.
 - **Pr 23:19** Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.
 - **Pr 23:22** Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.

Application: Dad and Mom should be giving biblical wisdom to their children through word and deed. And the children should listen and learn Biblical wisdom as well as model what they learn. Keep in mind that life stage is important, meet them where they are at and supplement keys truths where it is needed in their life.

- Reading, Explaining, Modeling
- Memorizing
- Studying
- Praying
- Discussing
- Awana, Bible Studies, Serving, Retreat, Missions, etc.

- Outside the Book of Proverbs (Negative)
 - **Ge 27:8** Now therefore, my son (Jacob), obey my voice (Rebekah) according to what I command you.

- **Ge 27:43** Now therefore, my son (Jacob), obey my voice (Rebekah): arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. (Esau)
- **Dt 21:20** And they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’
- **1 Sa 2:24** No, my sons (Phinehas & Hophni)! For *it is* not a good report that I (Eli) hear. You make the LORD’s people transgress. **1 Sa 2:25** If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

Conclusion: Mom and Dad are not without sin. Children should not obey nor model unbiblical wisdom and counsel from Dad and Mom. On the other hand, children must be made aware of rejecting Biblical wisdom and the consequences that follow.

Insight: Can you discern the difference between "Biblical" and "Worldly" advice that is given and received?

Implication: True "Hearing" (Listening) is linked to "Receiving" (Take, Seize)

Question: How good is your hearing?

10 Tests to Check your Biblical Hearing

1. Do you in prayer review the week and confess your sins, praise God for His character and help, and intercede for others in prayer?
2. Do you read ahead or study ahead to be prepared for the message so as get more out of the message?
3. Do you get to bed early on most nights before church to be rested & alert for worship?
4. Are you asking God to help you understand the passage better?
5. Do you take notes or engage the sermon in an intentional way to gain wisdom from the word for personal application?
6. Do you intentionally seek to immediately apply one or more truths from the message or Sunday School?
7. Do you share with others what you are learning?
8. Do you have other preachers or resources that help you understand difficult passages?

9. Do you have a pattern of reading God's word? Alone + others (Family, Friends, etc.)
10. Are you praying for your pastors and teachers?

Recommend Book: Ramey, Ken. *Expository Listening*. The Woodlands, TX: Kress Biblical Resources, 2010.

Table Talk: What is the one thing that has helped you to know the Bible better?

Question? Can we really add years to our life?

- **Ex 20:12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
- **Eph 6:2** "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: **3** "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."
 - Sin and judgment removes one from the land of the living
- **Job 14:5** Since his days *are* determined, The number of his months *is* with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.
 - **Job 42:16** After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren *for* four generations.
- **2 Ki 20:6** And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David." ' "
- **Many** = not quantity, but quality – abundance in the years

Answer: No, we can't! But God can!

B. Faithful Pattern: The Word of God must be "taught" and "lived"

Pr 4:11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.

Implication: To avoid hypocrisy, the "talk" and "walk" are joined and must never separate. They are two sides of the same coin of Christian living.

- There is a "way" or "manner" of wisdom. And any way that is not wise, is unwise. Sometimes it can be very clear, two choices, one moral and the other immoral. Sometimes, it can be subtle, like the difference between best and good.

- **Pr 14:12, Proverbs 16:25** There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.
- The "way of wisdom" has a specific "path", a direction that is toward God and away from the world. It's also a proven way!
 - **Salvation - Jn 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - **Past/Unbeliever - Eph 2:1** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
 - **Present/Believer - Eph 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - **Better→ Best: 1 Th 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that **you excel still more.**

C. Fortified Passageway: The Word of God will give you "Freedom" and "Liberty"

Pr 4:12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.

- Walk → Run | The efforts to live a godly life
 - **Heb 12:1** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
 - **Ps 19:5** Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *And* rejoices like a strong man to run its race.
 - **2 Ti 4:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- Not Hindered (restricted)→ Not Stumble (become weak, fatigued, or moral failure)

- This verse transitions from being shown the path of wisdom (Proverbs 4:11) to now venturing out and living life wisely. It's a journey and it's a race of endurance. When you are on God's path living obediently to His word, it does not matter if you walk or run. When you are living wisely according to God's word, you will not be restricted. God will not be hindering your steps, nor will you have to be chastened for sin. You will face obstacles but not be entrapped by them.
 - **Php 2:14** Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. **17** Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Application: Ga 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

D. Fervent Perseverance: The Word of God requires "Passion" and "Priority"

Pr 4:13 Take firm (grasp) hold of instruction (convince, rebuke, exhort, chastening), do not let go (release); Keep her (preserve), for she *is* your life.

- Verb progression: Take firm → Do not let go → Keep
- All these point to a passion and priority that you will keep learning, growing, and submitting to God and His word, especially when God is correcting and chastening you, through providential trials.
- To abandon God and His words of wisdom, is to abandon life and invite death. There are both temporal and eternal implications.
- New Testament Equivalent to this Truth:
 - **2 Pe 1:5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, **6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **7** to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. **10** Therefore,