

## **Proverbs 4 — “Receive Wisdom, Choose Your Path, Guard Your Heart,”**

### **I. Wisdom as a Father’s Instruction (Proverbs 4:1–9) – Receive it -**

- Wisdom is passed down before it is lived out.

- **A call to listen** (vv. 1–2)
  - “Hear, my children” — wisdom requires humility and attention.
  - God values *teachability* before maturity.
- **A generational faith** (vv. 3–4)
  - The father learned wisdom from his father.
  - Truth is most powerful when transferred, not just discovered.
- **The value of wisdom** (vv. 5–9)
  - “Get wisdom!” — it is intentional, not accidental.
  - Wisdom protects, promotes, and honors those who love it.

\*What we value determines what we pursue.

### **II. Two Paths, Two Outcomes (Proverbs 4:10–19) – Choose it -**

- Life is directional; every step shapes your destination.

- **The path of the righteous** (vv. 10–13, 18)
  - Wisdom leads to life, stability, and increasing clarity.
  - “Shining brighter until the perfect day” — growth is progressive.
- **The path of the wicked** (vv. 14–17, 19)
  - Avoidance is commanded, not negotiation.
  - Darkness blinds people to what causes them to stumble.

\*You don’t stumble suddenly; you walk there gradually.

### III. Guard Your Heart Diligently (Proverbs 4:20–23) – Protect it -

- “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

- **Why the heart matters**
  - The heart is the control center of thoughts, desires, and decisions.
  - Life flows *from* the heart, not circumstances.
- **How to guard the heart**
  - By paying attention to God’s Word.
  - By filtering what is allowed in.

\*What you allow in your heart will eventually show up in your life.

### IV. Wisdom Governs the Whole Person (Proverbs 4:24–27)

- Wisdom is holistic; it shapes speech, sight, and steps.

- **The mouth** (v. 24) — Remove corrupt speech.
- **The eyes** (v. 25) — Maintain focus and direction.
- **The feet** (vv. 26–27) — Walk intentionally, not impulsively.

\*A guarded heart leads to a disciplined life.

### Conclusion

Proverbs 4 calls us to:

1. **Receive wisdom humbly**
2. **Choose the righteous path intentionally**
3. **Guard the heart diligently**
4. **Walk wisely consistently**

### Closing:

\*Wisdom is not just something you know; it’s a path you walk every day.