



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE PROVERBS 4:10-15

## LESSON: SEEK GODLY WISDOM— June 15, 2025

### INTRODUCTION:

In the Bible, “**Wisdom**” is not merely knowledge or intelligence, but rather the ability to discern God’s perspective and apply it to real-life situations, making wise choices and decisions.

<sup>1</sup>The Book of Proverbs, traditionally attributed to King Solomon, was written and compiled over a period spanning from the 10th to 6th centuries BC, with some collections possibly dating back to the time of King Hezekiah. There are other authors. The book was composed for the education of Jewish readers, offering insights and guidance on how to live a godly life. Its implied author is King Solomon, and its implied audience is the rulers of the earth

<sup>2</sup>Originally, this book was written as a manual for training the future kings of Israel. This is why it says “my son” over and over again (especially in chapters 1-9), as it was for preparing diligent and honest men to serve the royal bureaucracy. Eventually, its purpose was broadened. It became a handbook to raise up an entire generation of people with wisdom, studying under wise teachers and mentors.

<sup>3</sup>At the beginning of the book (chapters 1-9), Solomon speaks like a father who is speaking to his son. He wants his son to choose a good way to live.

- <sup>4</sup>(4:4:1-4) The parental relationship of father and mother is the setting for dispensing wisdom (**Deut. 6:6-9**). The key to understanding wisdom is to act on it (“*keep my commands*”).
- (4:4:5-6) The “*woman*” of wisdom is distinct from the adulteress mentioned earlier (**Prov. 2:16-19**) and later (**Prov. 5:1-20**). By seeking true wisdom, we don’t need to seek its false substitutes.
- (4:4:7-9) We cannot put a price tag on wisdom.

### LESSON: I. PROVERBS 4:10-15

**4:10** Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many— In order to do anything for the Lord, you not only have to hear or listen, but you’ve got to receive what you’ve heard. Hearing and receiving the father’s wisdom or advice brings a multiplication of long life. This is in retrospect to (**Eph.6:2-3**), honoring father and mother that it may be well with, and that you may live long upon the earth.

**4:11** I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths— Solomon says he has taught the right way, and he has led in the right paths. That’s what Jesus did with His disciples. He taught them and led them step by step. He did not tell them one thing and did another. We as teachers are accounted for the same standards we teach. Even though after teaching, do you think your children received it right away? No, that’s why it’s continual. That’s why we keep seeing the word “Hear!” Whatever was taught, do it. There is only one path that all of us must take, and that is the path of wisdom

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.google.com/search?sca\\_esv=51482c3aa25c1847&q=When+was+Proverbs+written&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj9vL-ps8qMAxVFJdAFHWJgHD04PBDVAnoECC4QAQ&biw=1043&bih=470&dpr=1.25](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=51482c3aa25c1847&q=When+was+Proverbs+written&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj9vL-ps8qMAxVFJdAFHWJgHD04PBDVAnoECC4QAQ&biw=1043&bih=470&dpr=1.25)

<sup>2</sup> <https://millingtonbaptist.org/pastors-table-blog/introduction-to-proverbs/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible/easy/proverbs/0/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.evidenceunseen.com/bible-difficulties-2/ot-difficulties/psalms-song-of-songs/introduction-to-proverbs/>





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because that's where you'll find the Lord assisting you.

**4:12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble**—Can you hear mother say, *'if you did what I told you to do, then this wouldn't be happening!'* This verse shows that in the wise way you've been directed, your steps won't be hindered; your walk will go in a steady path to the thing you were directed to go. And when you begin to run, you can run the race well, and you won't stumble as long as the wisdom of God directs you. There will be times you must be made to act quickly with decisions, therefore, when you're on the right path you are less likely to make mistakes, because you've been consistently choosing the way of wisdom.

**4:13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life**—*"Take fast hold"*; a quick grip of instruction. Hold on to wisdom the way a child holds a parent's hand, and trusts mother or father to guide and protect them. Wisdom must be received into our hearts, and not into our heads only. If in our heads then we are just hearers only (it's just leaking out), but we must be doers of the Word that was instructed, for it is practiced daily. When we take hold, we have a tight grip to do something, and we are following it to the letter. That Word can save your very life; that Word is balanced instruction. The father commanded his son in verse 5 to get wisdom, here he commands him to hold on to it.

**4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men**—Solomon now pleads to avoid at all cost the path of the wicked. On that path you will meet men who are ungodly. Sin is best dealt with, at its beginning by the application of necessary wisdom to suit the initial temptation. This is a strong command: enter not! What will cause you to enter something that is not good for you? It will say, *"No Trespassing! Do not Enter!"* Well, I believe the reason would be that you were not paying attention to instruction; to the signs. You were not hearing or receiving. You were not taking hold of the wisdom given. You were probably saying, it won't hurt me this time, it's only once. And because of non-adherence to wisdom, evil men are waiting. This is the very reason wisdom is given: there is wickedness lying wait.

**4:15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away**—Five verbs identify aspects that's necessary to urgently deal with sin at its start:

1. enter not the sinful situation (v.14);
2. go not toward evil men (v.14);
3. avoid it at all cost (v.15)
4. pass not—travel as far from it as possible (v.15);
5. turn from the tempting path of sin (v.15);
6. pass away or escape the sin (v.15)

These words are very clear. There is danger when we go pass a sign that says **"Enter Not!"** There is trouble! *"A man is drawn away of his own lust and enticed"* says **James 1:14b**. This sounds like a plan where the pattern of sin's enticement is clear. As we know there is a wide path, and there is a narrow path. The wicked and evil men have chosen a wide path to follow, meaning anything goes; while the believer has chosen a *"narrow path, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it"* (**Matt. 7:14b**)

## II. PROVERBS 4:20-27

**4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings**—Solomon knows all about





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wisdom, so, the emphasis he's trying to impart to his son is upon fixing the members of his bodies on this wisdom – the eyes, the ears, and the heart, etc. **Attend** means to listen, focus on, and concentrate your attention upon the words; don't be distracted when you hear (especially fleshly things), but hear what the Spirit is trying to say. **Incline** means to tune to the words, so your ears may be adjusted to God's voice; so, your hearing will be keen. Don't let anything else get in or take the place of what the Word is really saying. <sup>5</sup>Whatever enters my ears will ultimately influence my mind, my heart, and my decisions, so I'd better be careful what I listen to. When people speak, we must be able to identify God's voice (John 10:3-5, 16) and obey what He says. If one fails to, then he is really hurting himself, and will be making the same mistakes over and over as the older generation.

**4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart**—As the 'ear' was mentioned in v. 20 to focus on and tune to, the "eyes" and "heart" are now mentioned here, for the eyes should be fixed upon wise teaching, and careful reading of that which imparts wisdom. In other words, read it over and over; don't let it depart from your eyes. By you reading the Word over and over, it will get in the heart. The heart in the Bible often refers to the mind or affections of a person.

<sup>6</sup>The heart is the core of a person's being. The heart is the "command and control" center of a person. We think with our heart; we feel with our heart; we make decisions with our heart. And so, a heart that is fully centered on God will think appropriately, will have the right feelings (those that mirror God's feelings), and will make good decisions (those that lead to life, and further the purposes of God).

This implies meditation upon those things in which we have seen, heard or read. Whatever the heart loves, the ears will hear and the eyes will see. Therefore, the command-and-control center should be fully led by the Spirit of God! **Prov.4:7** says "*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*"

**4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh**—The reason for the above verses is concluded in this verse. The Words that we attend to, we incline our ears to, but we are not to let them depart from our eyes, but keep them in the midst of our heart, because it brings **life**; it brings existence; it brings refreshment, and second it brings **health** to all our flesh (flesh is the body); it brings wellbeing; brings fitness; vigor; and strength. Therefore, by finding this wisdom, you determine what kind of life you will live.

**4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life**— Keep your heart; watch your heart; guard your heart. Why? Why are we to protect our heart, and with all diligence (carefulness, attentiveness)? Because it's not from our outer circumstances but it's out of the heart that flow the issues of life; the actions of life; the source of life; the fountain of life.

<sup>7</sup>Think about a little village in the mountains whose only source of water is a spring coming up from the ground. That spring provides fresh water for drinking, cooking, bathing, crops, etc. That village would be foolish not to pay any attention to the condition of that spring because it is a source of life. If the spring becomes polluted, everyone and everything in the village would suffer.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.theparkwaychurchofchrist.com/SermonsM-S/proverbs3.htm>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.faithmanhattan.org/shared/text/2009\\_06\\_07\\_Sermon.pdf](http://www.faithmanhattan.org/shared/text/2009_06_07_Sermon.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.faithmanhattan.org/shared/text/2009\\_06\\_07\\_Sermon.pdf](http://www.faithmanhattan.org/shared/text/2009_06_07_Sermon.pdf)





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In the same way, we would be foolish not to pay attention to the condition of our heart because our heart affects everything in our lives. Whatever fills our heart flows out into the rest of our lives. If the heart is right, so will the actions of men be; they are regulated by it; they will then spring from right principles, and be directed to right ends. *"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life"* (v. 23, NIV). If we pollute that wellspring, the infection will spread, and before long, hidden appetites will become open sins and public shame. What you believe in your heart affects the way you live.

**4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee—** One of the best ways to observe what is happening in a person's heart is to listen to his/her words. *"It is not what goes into the mouth of a man that makes him unclean and defiled, but what comes out of the mouth; this makes a man unclean and defiles him"* Matt.15:11 AMP. A pure heart brings pure words. A froward (deceitful; contrary) mouth reveals a heart filled with pride and perverse (evil) words which come from an evil heart. A **"froward"** mouth is speech that has departed from God's law; God's truth, by speaking deceitfully. *"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks"* Matt.12:34. **"Perverse lips"** mean wicked, mean, evil, and vicious. Lips that are filled with scorn and arrogance having their roots in a scorner's heart. Lips only speak what is in the heart. Whatever is in the heart will ultimately come out of the mouth (Matt. 12:33-34). God's children must be careful to have *"sound speech that cannot be condemned"* (Titus 2:8); speech that's gracious and *"seasoned with salt"* (Col. 4:6, NKJV). The call is for speech that is wise, straightforward and not deceptive. It says put it away, put it far away; having nothing to do with it; put away dishonest talk and deceitful speech. A wise heart will teach the mouth.

**4:25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee—**<sup>8</sup> Shifty eyes that cannot look at you ordinarily indicate the person has something they are covering up. Eyes that look straight at you says, *"I am telling the truth."* We have a choice as to where we look, and what we look at. Our eyes should be focused on the Lord, and on the path ahead gazing in the right direction. The wise person isn't distracted by temptation to leave *"the path of life."* The person who *"looks directly ahead"* is following after wisdom with a single mind.

**4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established—** **"Ponder"** means *"to weigh"* or *"to make level."* It is related to a word that means *"scales"* (16:11). It means to think about the path you are launching out on. Make sure the path of your feet; your walk is sure and certain, and then it will not be unstable but established (be well known, and publicly recognized as truth).

**4:27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil—** Every direction of our steps matter. Sin turns us to the right when we should go left or left when we should go right, but if we stick to wisdom, it will lead us from evil paths into right paths every time. With the Lord before you, don't let the allurements of the world distract you. Don't be swerved by flattering promises. Should you take a step in the wrong direction, quickly step back for the Lord is willing to help.

## SUMMARY:

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/05.html>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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**10** Solomon, the father gives advice to his son. This meaningful wisdom will bring him long life if he hears it and receives it. **11** When taught right, it equips us to go down the right path even when we want to go into another direction. This fatherly wisdom when received protects our steps. **12** Our steps will not be crooked, but stays balanced. We will not stumble, but run as a runner would runs a race to the finish line. When the baton is exchanged, we will take a solid and quick grip by not letting go of what we've learned from father or mother. **13** That's how we cherish wisdom by taking hold of the instructions taught, keeping that wisdom because it is life; our continuation to life (**4:10-13**).

**14** The signs are clear to avoid when it says: Wrong Way! Do Not Enter! **15** Do Not Pass This Point! Avoiding these paths means to stay clear of; keep away from; and shun. The wisdom is given but sometimes we step out into the hot water anyway. It would go so much smoother when the voice inside is the Holy Spirit recalling to our remembrance the Words of Wisdom; the Word of God telling us that it is evil for our lives (**4:14-15**).

**20** Every part of us is to adhere to wisdom's instructions: our ear gate; our eye gate, and our heart gate. Our ears are tuned, **21** our eyes are fixed, and our heart will mirror what was heard and seen. **22-23** As we guard what comes out of the heart, then our lives will be fit for God's use. The actions from our heart will affect our health. **24** The actions from our heart will not bring forth a deceitful and contrary mouth or wicked and evil lips, but our actions will bring pure words that teach our lips sound speech. **25** Our eyes will speak truth; **26** our feet will be certain and accustomed to walking wisely, **27** not into evil paths by swerving to the right hand or the left hand (**4:20-27**).

## APPLICATION

*"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life" Proverbs 4:13.*

