



Truth!: Wisdom for Flourishing

Proverbs 4

What kind of man do you want to be?

A Godly man is one who fears the Lord and walks in wisdom.

1- A Godly man passes on the wisdom that has been given to him. (v.1-9)

*Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. **When I was a son with my father,** tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."*

- **Get wisdom!**

"What it takes is not brains or opportunity, but decision. Do you want it? Come and get it."

Derek Kindner, Tyndale Proverbs Commentary

2- A Godly man speaks honestly about the two paths of life. (v.10-19)

Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

- **The righteous path or the wicked path.**

Psalms 7:14-16— *Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies. He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made. His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends.*

Matthew 7:13-14— *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”*

3- A Godly man is focused on Godly things. (v.20-27)

My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

4 Areas of Focus:

- **Heart:** Your inner life.

“The word heart in Proverbs regularly refers to the center of one’s inner life and orientation to God, from which a person does all thinking, feeling, and choosing. Taking words of wisdom into the heart is vital, and wisdoms presence in the heart is worth guarding because out of the heart flow all the thoughts, words and choices of a persons life.” CSB Study Bible

Psalms 7:9 — *“The one who examines the thoughts and emotions is a righteous God.”*

- **Mouth:** The words you speak.

“After the thoughts come the words. It is not enough to take care of the first and let the second take care of themselves. Superficial habits of talk react on the mind, so that cynical chatter, fashionable grumbles, flippancy and half-truths, harden into well established habits of thoughts.” Tyndale Commentary of Proverbs, pg. 65

Ephesians 4:29— *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

- **Eyes:** What you fixate on.

“Let your eyes look directly forward, your gaze be straight before you.”

- **Feet:** Where your heading.

“The succession of steps, by which vision is turned into action, demands practical planning and weighing up one’s course of action.”

Tyndale Commentary of Proverbs, pg 65

“Ponder the path of your feet...”

So, what kind of man do you want to be?

A Godly man is one who fears the Lord and walks in wisdom.

2 Corinthians 12:10— **“When I am weak, then I am strong.”**