

# Rich Foundations for a Wise Life

God's Revolutionary Wisdom (Part 29)

*Proverbs 4:1-9*

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<sup>1</sup> Hear, sons, the discipline of a father,  
And give attention so as to know discernment;  
<sup>2</sup> For good doctrine<sup>1</sup> I give you.  
My law, do not abandon!  
<sup>3</sup> For I was my father's son,  
Tender, and an only *son* before my mother.  
<sup>4</sup> Then he instructed me, and he said to me,  
"Let your heart take hold of my words;  
Keep my commandments, and you will live!"  
<sup>5</sup> "Acquire wisdom! Acquire insight!  
Do not forget, and do not turn aside from the  
sayings of my mouth!

<sup>6</sup> "Do not abandon her, and she will keep you;  
Love her, and she will guard you.  
<sup>7</sup> "The starting-point<sup>2</sup> of wisdom:<sup>3</sup> acquire wisdom!  
And with all your acquiring, acquire  
discernment.  
<sup>8</sup> "Cherish her,<sup>4</sup> and she will exalt you,  
She will honor you when you embrace her.  
<sup>9</sup> "She will give a graceful garland<sup>5</sup> to your head,  
A crown of beauty she will present you."  
[DJP]

## Introduction: What is God telling us in Proverbs 4?

### I. P \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ tion

#### A. The Father's Calling

1. Genesis 18:19
2. Exodus 12:26-27; 13:8, 14-16
3. Deuteronomy 6:4-7
4. Psalm 78:1-8
5. Eph. 6:4

#### B. The Father's Call

1. What I give you
  - a. "Discipline of a father" (v. 1)
  - b. "Good doctrine" (v. 2a)

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<sup>1</sup> Or "learning" (cf. 1:5). Noun related to the verb translated "receive," referring to teaching that one receives and stores up.

<sup>2</sup> Or "beginning," as in 1:7.

<sup>3</sup> Or "wisdom is the chief point."

<sup>4</sup> Or "Prize her highly.

<sup>5</sup> Literally "garland of grace."

c. “My law” (v. 2b)

2. Why I have it to give

## II. P\_\_\_\_\_tion

### A. Practices

1. Words of \_\_\_\_\_ing

a. “Hear... and give attention” (v. 1)

b. “Let your heart take hold” (v. 4a)

c. “Acquire” (v. 5a)

2. Words of \_\_\_\_\_ing

a. “Do not abandon” (vv. 2, 6)

b. “Keep” (v. 4)

c. “Do not forget, and do not turn aside” (v. 5b)

### B. Priorities

1. Focus (vv. 5-6)

2. Fixate (vv. 7-8)

### C. Promises

1. Life (v. 4)

2. Honor (vv. 8-9)