



Proverbs 4:10-27 (ESV)

January 24, 2021

- ¹⁰ Hear, my son, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.
- ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
- ¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
- ¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of the evil.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.
- ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done
wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made
someone stumble.
- ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of
dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
- ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.
- ²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
- ²¹ Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.
- ²² For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their flesh.
- ²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.
- ²⁴ Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.
- ²⁵ Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you.
- ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet;
then all your ways will be sure.
- ²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
turn your foot away from evil.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Stick to the Path

Proverbs 4:11

Proverbs 4:14-15

“The gods had given me almost everything. But I let myself be lured into long spells of senseless and sensual ease. I grew careless of the lives of others. I took pleasure where it pleased me, and passed on. I forgot that every little action of the common day makes or unmakes character, and that therefore what one has done in the secret chamber, one has some day to cry aloud from the house-top. I ceased to be lord over myself. I was no longer the captain of my soul, and did not know it. I allowed pleasure to dominate me. I ended in horrible disgrace.” (Oscar Wilde)

Proverbs 4:19

Proverbs 4:18

2. Guard Your Steps

Proverbs 4:23

Proverbs 4:24

Proverb 4:25

Proverbs 4:26-27

3. Do the right thing if you've gone the wrong way

a. Go back to the king's path

“If you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. We have all seen this when doing arithmetic. When I have started a sum the wrong way, the sooner I admit this and go back and start over again, the faster I shall get on . . . Going back is the quickest way on.” —C.S. Lewis

b. Receive the king's grace

c. Ask the king for a good heart

d. Stick to the king's path