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Get Wisdom

4: 1-9

A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.

The father's fifth teaching (to see link click [Aj](#) - Proverbs for the Youth) consists of two parts: the typical introduction that includes the addressees of **sons** and **grandsons**, warnings to retain **his** teaching (**4:1-2**), and the lesson (**4:3-9**), which is **his** grandfather's instruction. The chapter looks like this: How to get going (**4:1-9**), how to keep going (**4:10-19**), and how not to get lost along the way (**4:20-27**).¹⁰²



Listen, my son, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding (4:1 BSB). For I am giving you sound teaching. Do not turn away from my instruction (Hebrew: *torah*) (4:2 Hebrew). We are overhearing a **father** of a teenage **son** coaching **him** in **wisdom** because **the Word of God** is the source of all true **wisdom**. How does **he** do it? **He** tells **him** what **he** learned when **he himself** was a teenager. **He** is saying, "I remember when I was a teenager, how my dad got me going into a great life." We have seen this

father/son conversation before (**1:8** and **10, 2:1, 3:1, 11** and **21**). But now we meet the grandfather. Now we see three generations in the family. Evidently **the grandfather (King David)** has died, and **Solomon** informs **his son** about how **his dad** made such a positive impact during **his** youth. So do you see? We are being invited into a tradition of **wisdom**; previous believers handing down to us something of their own. They have **fought the good fight, they have finished the race, they have kept the faith (Second Timothy 4:7)**. And because they have gone the distance, they have something to say to us. The Bible says: **Remember your leaders who taught you from the Word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith (Hebrews 13:7)**.¹⁰³

For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved as my mother's only child (4:3 NLT). **ADONAI** commanded **His** people to train their children in **His** mitzvot, saying: **Speak to them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up (Deuteronomy 6:7)**. This principle still applies today; parents should be diligent to train their children in godly **wisdom**. **My father taught me, "Let your heart hold fast to my words, keep my mitzvah, and you will live" (4:4 Hebrew)**. **Solomon** had learned **wisdom** from **his father**, and now was passing it on to the next generation. **He** spoke of **his** boyhood when **his** parents, **David** and **Bathsheba**, **taught him**. **The queen** also had strong feelings toward **her son**, and thus a strong motivation to instruct **him** in **wisdom**. This linking of three generations demonstrates how a love of **wisdom** was passed down.¹⁰⁴

So **Solomon** is saying to **his** dear **son**, and urging him, to set **his** heart firmly on a prize that cannot fail: **Get wisdom, develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them; for you ignore them at your own peril (4:5 NLT)**. Perhaps **David's** encouragement for **Solomon** to **get wisdom** helped **him** ask for it (see the commentary on **the Life of Solomon As - Solomon's Wish**). **Wisdom** is not something one acquires once and for all; being **wise** requires daily refreshing from **the Word of God**. It is too easy to forget true **wisdom** when we allow our lives to become cluttered with the things of **the world**. Those who **wish** to become **wise** must constantly be immersing themselves in Scripture and godly teaching.¹⁰⁵ Therefore, **do not turn your back on Lady Wisdom (see Am - Lady Wisdom's Rebuke of the Foolish), for she will protect you. Love her and she will guard you (4:6 NLT)**. **God** your **Father** is looking deeply into your eyes with great love and saying to you right now: **Though it cost you everything you**

have, gain understanding. If you value Lady Wisdom and hold tightly to her, great honors will be yours (4:8 CEV). This metaphor implies deep intimacy and suggests the marital embrace between a man and his wife. The **wise** have a deep love for **God's** ways, and **they** take **His Word** into the most intimate parts of **their** lives.¹⁰⁶ **She will place a garland of grace on your head and present you with a glorious crown (4:9 NIV).**

Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! Though it will cost you everything you have, gain understanding (4:7 Hebrew). If you want **God's wisdom**, it will cost you. It will cost you all your preconceived ideas about how life is supposed to work. Why pay that price? Because **God's wisdom** will make **you alive (4:4)**, **His wisdom** will **protect you** and **guard you (4:6)**, **His wisdom** will **honor you (4:8)** and **present you with a glorious crown (4:9)**. That is how life really works, and that is a life worth living! Who else can promise you that? Every day we are being told that, if we want to really live, we need to be young, thin, tanned, sexually active, rich, and smart-mouthed. That is our cultural ideal, the wisdom of **the world**. Just one question. Does it work? Name one person who has thrown themselves into the lifestyle of **the world** and come away from it with what you would want for yourself. And how do you explain over 2,000 years of all types of people from different cultures who set their hearts on **Messiah**, turned to **His wisdom** and found fullness of life?

You face a choice today . . . the proven path of **Messiah** versus the meaningless way of **the world (First John 2:15-16)**. **Whichever you choose, it will cost you all that you have.** But which path will give you everything you want? **Yeshua** is so gracious. To follow **Him** you do not need to measure up to a cultural ideal or youth and cool. But do need to become decisive. Though **it will cost you everything you have** (and it will), get **Messiah**. Is there something in your life that needs to change? Do you need to turn the corner? Do you want a newness of life from **Messiah**? Well, come and get it. Decisiveness is all you need to get going.¹⁰⁷

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for being so extremely **gracious**, generous, kind and compassionate! **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves - it is the gift of God. It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)**. Thank **You** for **Your** steadfast love and great **wisdom**. **Your wisdom** knows that it is always the best path to follow. How comforting it is that when I pray to **You**, asking for something according to **Your** will, **You** hear and promise to answer. **Now this is the confidence we***

have before Him - that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have the requests we have asked from Him (First John 5:14-15).

With great hope and joy I trust completely in **Your** love and **wisdom** to bring all who trust in **You**, home to your glorious heaven. **Yeshua answered and said to him: If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him (John 14:23).** How wonderful heaven will be! **He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:1-4).** Thank **You** for being such a special heavenly **Father!** In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen