



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 4:10-27

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.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 4:10-27

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Like many, we grew up in a home centered around the television. Our lives revolved around our favorite programs; we planned our activities so we didn't miss out on the newest episode. And as parents, we continued the cycle. However, we entered adulthood and realized we missed out on something important: intentional time with our families in conversations and activities.

In 2015, we made a prayerful decision to remove the distraction of digital media, which included the internet and any streaming services. We desired to guard our family's hearts and minds against things that were causing us to stumble, be distracted, and allow the enemy a foothold. I am not saying digital media is evil, but what I am sharing is it was causing our family to be isolated, exposing us to materials that didn't honor the Lord, and causing slothfulness.

This text in Proverbs 4:10-27 gives us great instruction. It starts with how to receive and take hold of wisdom, what to avoid and why we should avoid it, a plan to be heard, and lastly a plan to stay on the right path. We as adults and parents are called to continue to take hold of God's instruction and to model it to our children. Since our children were little, there is a song we would sing that instructs them to be careful of what we see, hear, say, think and do. As my husband and I reflect on that song, it reminds us that we are training our children to use a filter on the world around us. "Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable- if anything is praiseworthy- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received from me, or seen in me- put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4: 8-9)." The Word reminds us that we live in the world but we are not of the world. "Do not conform to the patterns of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2)."

As parents, we pray our instruction of guiding them with God's Word, modeling how to abide, and how to put God's Word into practice, will take hold and they will be able to make wise decisions to avoid stumbling blocks and stand firm in their foundational truths. "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (Proverbs 4:23)." By God's grace, we have witnessed our son, as he entered high school, remove himself from negative situations, guard his eyes when he sees things that are inappropriate, and walk with integrity and love through challenging circumstances. "Be on guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous. Be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)."



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Our prayer for ourselves, our children and for you is to stay steadfast in God's Word, be prayerful in intercession, be trained and taught in righteousness to stay equipped in this broken world. "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine (John 15:4)."

Questions:

1. Psalms 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path". How often do we forget this truth and decide to walk in darkness and stumble?
2. Proverbs 4:21-22 reminds us to "Not" take our eyes off God's instruction, and to keep them in our hearts, that they are life and healing to us. How often do we forget this truth?
3. Proverbs 4:26 says "Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure." Ponder, here, means "to make level." When you construct anything, it needs to be level to be true and useful. May we consider the direction of our actions in the same way.