### Proverbs

## Chapter 4

1O child,  
  
Hear the words of your father!  
 Listen, so you can gain insight!  
 2For I’m going to give you a gift,  
 And from these instructions, don’t stray!  
  
3I was also the son of a father,  
 And one who was loved by his mother;  
 4So, by them both, I was taught.  
 [They said], ‘Keep our words in your heart…  
 Don’t forget our instructions!  
 5You should seek knowledge and wisdom…  
 Don’t forget or ignore the words from our mouths,  
 Or ever turn aside from these things!  
 6Stick with this way, don’t leave it…  
 Love it with passion and you’ll be kept [safe].’  
  
7Wisdom is the basis for all [that’s good];  
 So with all you acquire, gain wisdom!  
 And among all the things you possess,  
 Be sure that you gain understanding!  
 8Build her a fort and she’ll lift you…  
 Hold her in esteem and she’ll watch over you…  
 She’ll place a garland on your head…  
 9A luxurious crown that will shield you.  
  
10Hear, O son, and receive all my words;  
 For they’ll multiply the years of your life,  
 And many ways, you’ll then understand.  
  
11I’m teaching you the ways of the wise…  
 On you, I’m piling tracks that are straight,  
 12So the ways that you go won’t hem you in,  
 Or ever be a block to your footsteps;  
 Thus, when you must run, you won’t tire.  
  
13Grab my instructions and don’t let them go…  
 Hold them tight for yourself and your life!  
  
14Don’t follow in the ways of the godless  
 Or be jealous of the ways of lawbreakers.  
 15Don’t go to places where they hang out…  
 16Yes, alter your course and divert;  
 For they won’t sleep until they’ve done wrong.  
 And since they can’t sleep, they don’t go to bed…  
 17On the grain of irreverence, they feed,  
 And on the wine of lawless ways, they get drunk.  
  
18But the ways of the righteous are like light…  
 They illuminate and shine until morning.  
 19While the ways of the irreverent are dark,  
 And they don’t know how often they stumble.  
  
20O son,  
  
Pay attention to the things that I’m saying  
 And listen to my words with your ears;  
 21For then, your wells won’t fail you.  
 Yes, store them deep in your heart,  
 22For those who find them will live,  
 And to your flesh, they’ll bring healing.  
  
23With all the things that you guard,  
 Pay close attention to your heart,  
 Because it’s the source of your life.  
  
24From your mouth, remove all that’s crooked,  
 And keep unrighteous lips far away.  
 25Let your eyes always look straight ahead…  
 And don’t let their lids wink at injustice.  
  
26Make straight tracks for your feet,  
 And straighten out all of your paths.  
 27Don’t turn aside to the right or the left…  
 Just turn your feet from what’s bad.  
 For God knows the ways that are righteous,  
 And those who pervert them, He puts on His left.  
 But if you’ll choose to make your tracks straight,  
 He’ll lead you in ways that bring peace.