



Path of Ever Increasing Light

PROVERBS 4:20-27 - MESSAGE

Living by wisdom requires **ongoing concentration** on two areas:
on wisdom truths taught and
on all parts of your being

Proverbs 4 - Structure

1-9

Acquire wisdom

10-19

Hold on to wisdom

20-27

Concentrate on living by wisdom

Concentrate on living by wisdom – Prov 4:20-27

- I. Concentrate on wisdom truths taught (20-22)
- II. Guard the various components of your being (23-27)

Proverbs 4:20 - Response to teaching

- **Pay attention to:**

- To concentrate on, consider

- **Incline toward:**

- To bend, swerve, turn
- Bookends:
 - V. 20 “turn your ear toward my sayings”
 - V. 27 “don’t turn from the godly path”

Keep wise teachings “in the midst
of your heart” – Prov 4:21



Various components of your being Proverbs 4:20-27



Proverbs 4:23

- **Guard:**

- To restrain something from doing evil (Prov 13:6)

- **With all:**

- That which is the most important

- **Diligence:**

- Standing guard (Neh 4:22)

Proverbs 4:24 – Perverse, devious

○ **Perverse:**

- “speech that distorts, disfigures, dissembles, and deforms truth”

○ **Devious:**

- “refers to departing, diverging, to swerving from what is right and true”

Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, 1:299

Proverbs 4:26 – Established

○ **Established:**

- To be firm in one's commitment
- “My heart is set” (Ps 57:7; 108:1; 112:7)
- Ps 119:5 “Oh may my ways be established to keep Your statutes”
- David prayed, “renew a steadfast spirit within me” (51:10) so that he doesn't stray into sin again



PROVERBS 4:26 “ALL YOUR WAYS”

Guarding God's wisdom in all parts of
your life is a key way in which you love
Him with all parts of your life

(Dt 6:5; Mt 22:37)