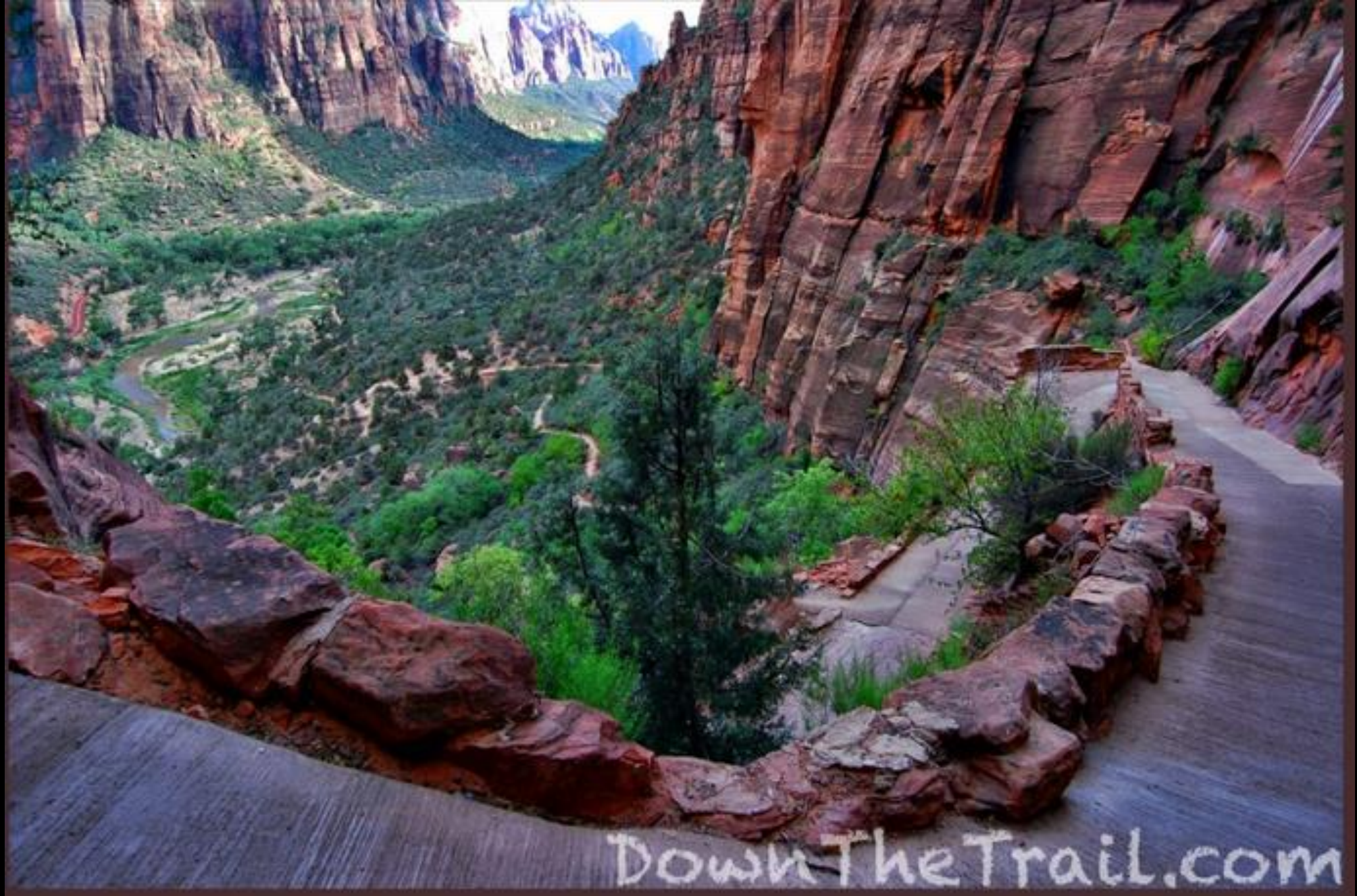




Choosing and Staying on the Path of Wisdom

Proverbs 4



DownTheTrail.com



The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and sound teaching of your father

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Timothy 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and sound teaching of your father
- Wisdom passed down from the grandfather (vv3-9)
 - The context of how the father was taught by his father (vv3-4a)

The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement
 - Pay careful attention
- Wisdom passed down
 - The context of how the father

The Effects of Quoting the Grandfather to the Sons

1. The father shows he can identify with his sons. He, too, was once young and under the tutelage of a father.
2. The father implies that wisdom did not begin with him but goes back through many generations. It is not a novelty but is enduring.
3. He suggests that godliness and prudence are part of their family heritage, and he wants his sons to maintain the legacy.

Source: ESV Study Bible

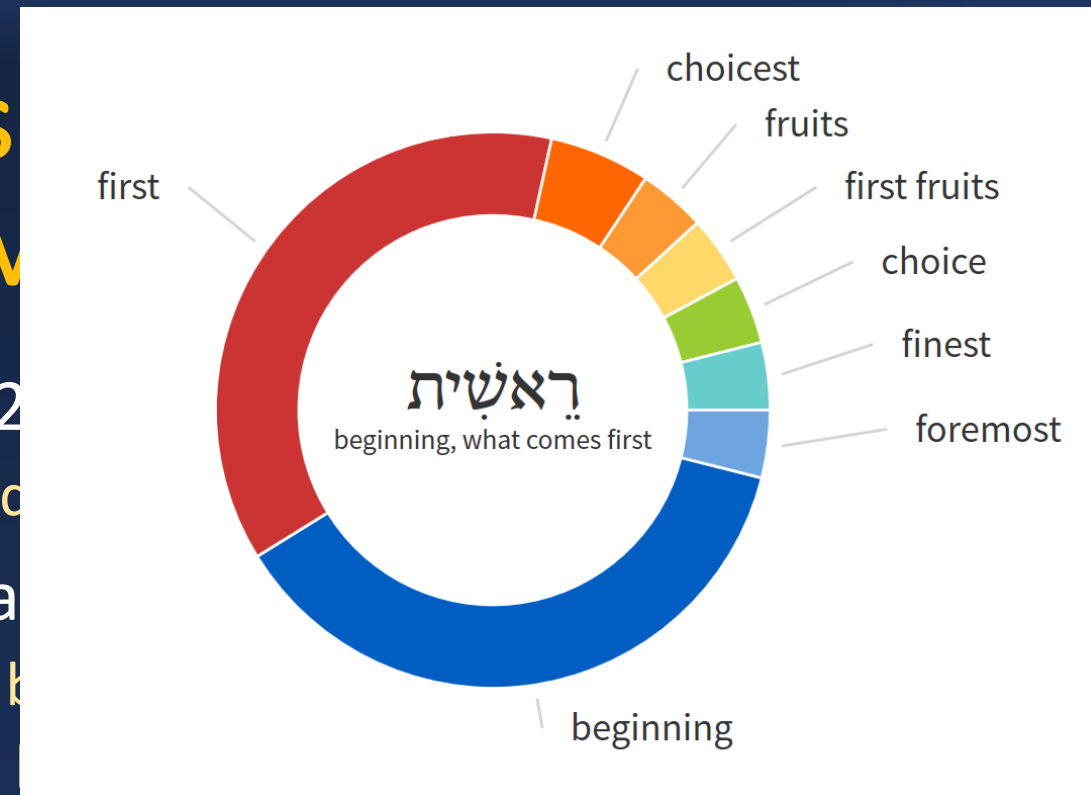
The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and sound teaching of your father
- Wisdom passed down from the grandfather (vv3-9)
 - The context of how the father was taught by his father (vv3-4a)
 - Receive and hold fast to my words in your heart (v4b)

1 Chronicles 28:9 As for you, **my son Solomon**, know the God of your father, and **serve Him with a whole heart** and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

The father's appeal to pass generation to generation (vv1-2)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and
- Wisdom passed down from the grandfather
 - The context of how the father was taught by
 - Receive and hold fast to my words in your
 - Acquire and hold fast wisdom and understanding, for they will guard and watch over you (vv5-6)



The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and sound teaching of your father
- Wisdom passed down from the grandfather (vv3-9)
 - The context of how the father was taught by his father (vv3-4a)
 - Receive and hold fast to my words in your heart (v4b)
 - Acquire and hold fast wisdom and understanding, for they will guard and watch over you (vv5-6)
 - Wisdom is supreme and ranks first – therefore diligently acquire it (v7a)
 - Consider understanding to be a most prized and precious possession, which will bring you much honor (v7b-9)

The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and sound teaching of your father
- Wisdom passed down from the grandfather (vv3-9)
 - The context of how the father passed on wisdom to the son
 - Receive and hold fast to the wisdom of your father
 - Acquire and hold fast wisdom that is passed on over you (vv5-6)
 - Wisdom is supreme and rare
 - Consider understanding to be a most prized and precious possession, which will bring you much honor (v7b-9)

Matthew 13:45-46 ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The father's appeal to pass on wisdom from generation to generation (vv1-9)

- Opening call and encouragement (vv1-2)
 - Pay careful attention to the instruction and sound teaching of your father
- Wisdom passed down from father to son (vv3-9)
 - The context of how the father passes on wisdom (vv1-2)
 - Receive and hold fast to my wisdom (vv3-4)
 - Acquire and hold fast wisdom that I have put over you (vv5-6)
 - Wisdom is supreme and rare (vv7a-8)
 - Consider understanding to be a most prized and precious possession, which will bring you much honor (v7b-9)

Ezekiel 16:12 I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in your ears and a **beautiful crown** on your head.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **unfading crown** of glory.

Visualization of vv1-9

Commands

- Acquire
- Hold fast in your heart
- Keep and don't turn away
- Love, prize, and embrace

- Hear and pay attention
- Don't abandon

Grandfather

Words, Commandments,
Wisdom, Understanding

Father

Wisdom, Instruction,
Sound Teaching

Son

Benefits and Outcomes

- Will be guarded and watched over
- Will live
- Will have understanding
- Will be exalted, honored

- Will have understanding

The father's appeal to consider carefully the two paths of life (vv10-19)

- The initial encouragement (v10)
 - Accepting my sayings will give you many years of life
- Exhortation to pursue the right path and its benefits (vv11-13)
 - The path of wisdom is morally straight where you will avoid the obstacles of evil and not stumble (vv11-12)
 - Guard and hold on tightly to instruction, for it greatly benefits your life (v13)
- Warning to avoid the wrong path and its consequences (vv14-17)
 - Totally avoid and never enter the path of evil men (vv14-15)
 - Evil people are consumed and fueled by doing that which is aggressive toward others and morally wrong (vv16-17)

The father's appeal to consider carefully the two paths of life (vv10-19)

- Summary comparison of the two paths as light vs. darkness (vv18-19)
 - The path of the righteous is one of moral light, which grows in benefit (v18)

Psalms 119:105 ¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

The father's appeal to consider carefully the two paths of life (vv10-19)

- Summary comparison of the two paths as light vs. darkness (vv18-19)
 - The path of the righteous is one of moral light, which grows in benefit (v18)
 - The path of the wicked is one of moral darkness, which never improves but causes stumbling (v19)

Visualization of vv10-19

Commands

- Hear and accept
- Take hold and don't let go
- Guard

Father

Sayings,
The Way of Wisdom

Son

Benefits and Outcomes

- Will have many years of life
- Steps will not be impeded
- Will not stumble

Path of Wicked

Commands

- Do not enter it
- Avoid it
- Turn away from it
- Pass on by it

Benefits and Outcomes

- Is the way of evil men who are consumed with doing evil and causing others to stumble
- Is like darkness

- Makes one blind
- Causes one to stumble

Path of Wisdom

Commands

- *(Get on it and stay on it)*

Benefits and Outcomes

- Is the way of upright, righteous men
- Is illuminated with light that increases

- Gives years of life
- Steps will not be impeded
- Will not stumble
- Increases in benefit

The father's appeal to remain steady on the path of wisdom (vv20-27)

- Opening call for attention (vv20-22)
 - Incline (turn) your ear and keep your eyes on my words of wisdom (vv20-21a)
- Direct your entire self to remain steady on the path of wisdom (vv21b-27)
 - Keep wisdom in the center of your heart to govern your life (vv21b-22)
 - Guard your heart with diligence because it is the source of all behavior (v23)
 - Keep your external behaviors fixed on the path of wisdom (vv24-27)
 - Mouth – *no deceitful or devious speech* (v24)
 - Eyes – *stay focus on righteous things and nothing else* (v25)
 - Feet – *clear your path of moral obstructions and always move in the right direction* (vv26-27)

Visualization of vv20-27

Commands

- Give attention
- Incline yourself
- Don't let them depart
- Keep them in your heart

Father

Words,
Sayings

Son

Benefits and Outcomes

- Will have life
- Will be health to the body
- Will be established in all your ways

Your Heart

- Keep wisdom here
- Watch over above all else
- All behaviors flow from here

Your Ears

- Incline (turn) them to listen to wisdom

Your Feet

- Watch (clear) your path
- Don't turn to the right or left
- Turn from evil

Your Eyes

- Don't let wisdom depart from them
- Look straight ahead only

Your Mouth

- Put away deceitful/devious speech

Discussion Questions

- In what ways did you listen or not listen to wisdom early in life, and why?
- What were some of the benefits or consequences you experienced from your decisions and attitudes?
- What opportunities do you have to pass on wisdom to a future generation?