



**Studies in the Book of Proverbs** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

**(#11) A Father’s Wisdom: Get Wisdom! 4:1-9**

**Verses 1-2:** To “hear” a father’s “instruction” places a responsibility upon the father to give “good doctrine,” hopefully, because father knows better. Directing children’s attention “to know understanding” gives them a quest for knowledge, which should not be “forsaken.”

**Verses 3-4:** A father would certainly want to rightly teach his son, especially when he is “the only one” held as special in his mother’s eye. The father is responsible for setting his son on the right track by giving him information that, obeyed, cause him to “live.”

**Verses 5-9:** Get after “Wisdom” and “understanding,” these are the primary goal to be obtained. DO NOT forget by turning away, for we have short-term memories and must follow through our knowing Wisdom with action based upon that knowledge. The same application is made to “faith” in [James 1:22-25](#). DO NOT forsake “her” to receive her blessing. Stated positively, “love her” in a close relationship. Wisdom is the “principal,” or primary achievement in life, all else pales into nothingness. While getting wisdom, get “understanding,” also, for lessons without application are useless. “Exalt her” is an admonition to keep her in her proper place. Wisdom should be the leading reason and predominant cause of all we do.

Promotions and “honor” will accrue to those who “embrace her” because a wise person is of great value to every society. This was how Joseph was chosen by Pharaoh ([Genesis 41:33-41](#)); a city was delivered ([Ecclesiastes 9:13-16](#)); and Jesus was found ([Matthew 2:1-18](#)). A life governed by Wisdom will be honored by “a crown of glory.” In New Testament terms we read: “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” ([James 1:12](#)) “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” ([2 Timothy 4:6-8](#)) Clearly, a life lived in obedience to Jesus Christ is a wise life which will receive “the crown of life” and “of righteousness.”

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