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Proverbs 4 - Part I  
Wisdom - A Wall of Protection

Read Proverbs 4:1-9:

1. Considering the same verses 1-3 spiritually, who is the son and the mother? Hint: wisdom is the focus of these chapters; a mother gives birth to a son. 1Cor 1:24; Mt 11:19; birth - 1Pt 1:23; Jn 6:63 (Gal 4:26)

Considering the same verses outwardly, they would refer back to Proverbs 1:1.

2. Verse 4 says to do three things: retain the words of wisdom in the heart; keep her commands; live. How does retaining words and keeping commands help one live? Job 23:12 (cp Ex 16:16-18); Jn 6:63

Note: Hebrew for *instruction* <sup>h4148</sup>, (verse 1) means *what binds or restricts*. The binding or restricting can be good or bad, depending on the instructions. The Ancient Hebrew pictograph for the letters of this word is *water, tent peg, thorn & head of a man*. Water: thought; tent peg: anchors tent; thorn: pricks; head: contains thoughts. The word of God stored in the mind is like an anchor that restricts us from evil by pricking the conscience if we stray. Cf Isa 30:19-21.

3. In verses 5-7 expands on verse 4 as to what the heart is retaining. What is implied as to how this is accomplished? Hint: Dt 4:27-30 (apply allegorically today)

{Sincere believers are scattered in the religious organizations of the world. Today, idols are more inward, like false teachings about God & the Bible itself. The tribulation a person has is exchanging the old wine for the new, Lk 5:39. Accepting the new wine is the call to come out of Babylon, Zech 2:6-7 - i.e. false teachings about Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the cross, etc.}

3a. Verse 6: Preserve - KJ; protect - NIV: properly *to hedge about* (with thorns, as a shepherd protects the sheep in the wilderness.) Retaining Wisdom in the heart builds an impenetrable wall in the mind, Isa 60:18-20.

Verse 8: Hebrew Interlinear: *Exalt her and she will lift you up; she will honor you when you embrace her.*

4. KJ - promote <sup>h7311</sup> is better rendered as lift up. Ps 75:6-7 indicates who lifts up a person. Who lifts you up, and what does it mean? Ex 25:30; 26:35; Lv 24:5-9; Ps 37:34; Jn 3:3, 5 (south is *wilderness*; missing is *north*)

{The tabernacle and services are a pictorial allegory of the process by which the believer becomes a minister (priest) of God.}

5. Verse 9: What does it mean to have a wreath/ornament of grace & a crown of glory on your head? Job 19:9; Pr 14:18; 2Pt 1:2-4; Tit 4:4-7; Ps 49:16