



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Check your heart out with God's Word!

Sub-Topic: Let your heart be within alignment with God's Word!

Scripture: Proverbs 4:23-27

Guard the heart from going astray, for out of it are the issues of life. The reference is not only to the arteries which carry the blood to all parts of the body, but also to the evil and good deeds that come from the heart or center of man. When we keep our heart from evil it becomes easy to obey the commands in (Proverbs 4:23-27). What we allow to enter our hearts will be expressed in our lives and actions, either positively or negatively. **The heart is considered the command center of the soul, and includes the mind, will, and affections.** The things we let into our mind and dwell on will eventually make their way into our heart, and what's in our heart will govern the direction of our life.

Therefore, by guarding your heart is protecting yourself from evil or sin. It is a high risk, vulnerable place because of sin. If your heart is **unclean or impure**, your life will be **unclean or impure**. Our heart—our feelings of love and desire—dictates to a great extent how we live, because we always find time to do what we enjoy. **Solomon tells us to keep our heart with all diligence, making sure we concentrate on those desires that will keep us on the right path to eternal life. Make sure your affections push you in the right direction. Put boundaries on your desires:** Don't go after everything you see. Look straight ahead, keep your eyes fixed on Christ, and don't get sidetracked on detours that lead to temptation.

Our hearts have been inclined toward sin from the time we were born. Pay attention to what is in you: What happens in us is what eventually comes out of us, and what comes out of us is ultimately what defines us. For everything you do flows from it, so, keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. The Lord wants us to guard our hearts by **filtering** our emotions, desires, thoughts, and responses through His Word. This not only closes the door to the enemy's attempt to influence your life but also allows God's Word, like a seed planted within, to flourish. Guarding your heart and mind ultimately produces good fruit in your life that you can then share with others.

6 Bodily Parts to Be Controlled:

- 1) Keep **heart** with all diligence
- 2) Put away the forward **mouth**
- 3) Put away perverse **lips**
- 4) Look straight with the **eyes**
- 5) Look straight with the **eyelids**
- 6) Guide **feet** in righteousness

We that are saved, must ask God to give us the wisdom to guard against criticism and negative words. And discernment so that we do not open our heart to wrong or detrimental [harmful] things, wisely guarding ourselves from fears, anxieties, and lies. We must keep our hearts pure. A pure heart for God walks with integrity, repents often, and does not fear what the world thinks of them.

The psalmist asked a question that troubles us all (Psalm 119:9-11): **How do we keep clean in a filthy environment?** We cannot do this on our own, but we must have counsel and strength more dynamic than the tempting influences around us. **Where can we find that strength and wisdom?** By reading God's Word and doing what it says.

Storing God's Word in our heart is a deterrent to sin. This alone should inspire us to memorize Scripture. **But memorization alone will not keep us from sin; we must also put God's Word to work in our life, making it a vital guide to everything we do.** Peoples of God make sure your affections are in the right direction. Put boundaries on your desires: Don't go after everything you see. Look straight ahead, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, and don't get sidetracked on detours that lead to temptation.

May you be blessed with these encouraging words and keep your heart in alignment with the Word of God!