

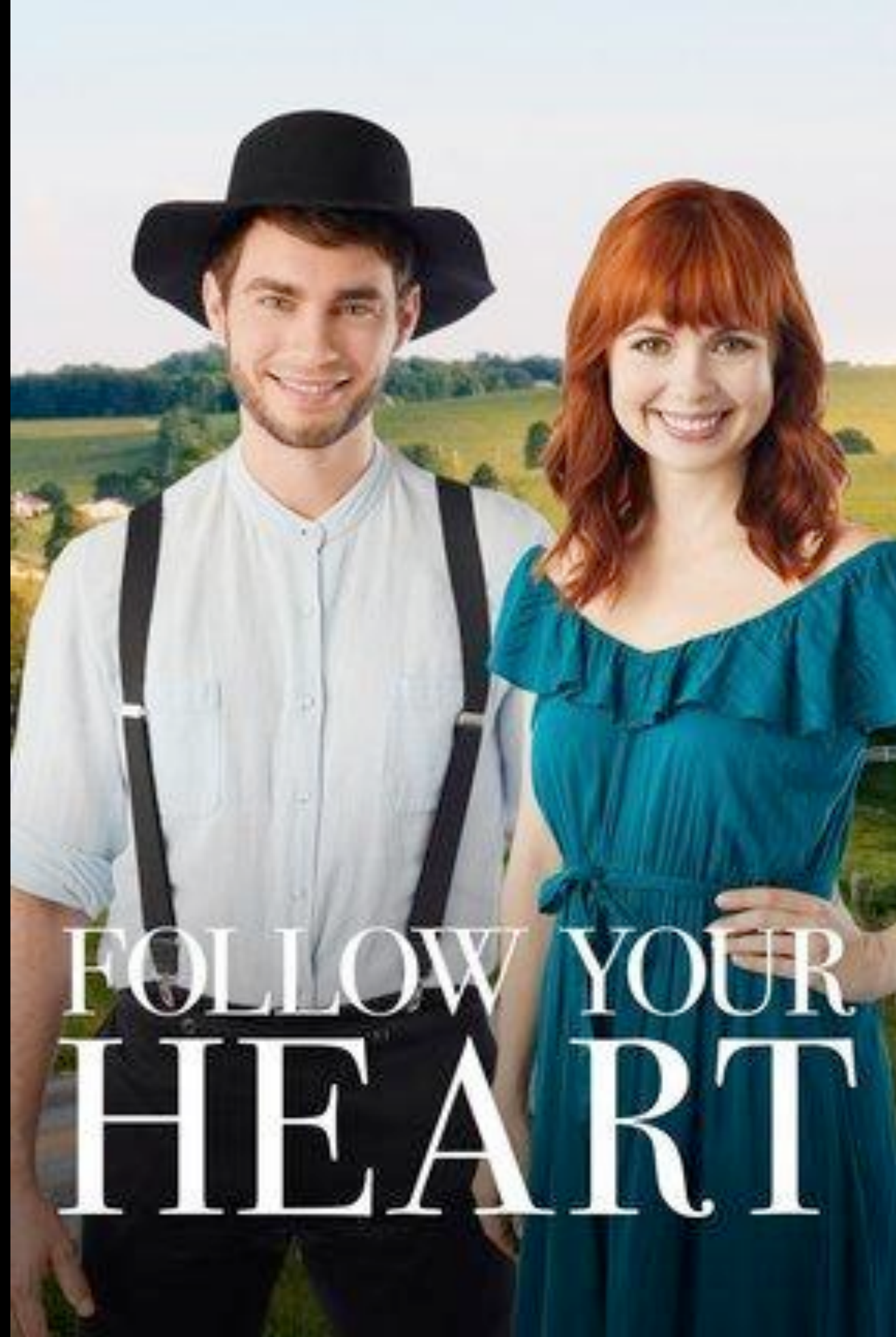
# Real Wisdom for Real Life



*A Matter of the Heart*

*The Heart of the Matter  
is the Matter of the Heart!*  
Proverbs 4:1-27





FOLLOW YOUR  
HEART

# Proverbs 22:15

Foolishness is bound up  
in the heart of a child.



Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful  
above all things, And  
desperately wicked; Who  
can know it?



# Real Wisdom for Real Life



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Proverbs 4:1-27



# Real Wisdom for Real Life



*A Matter of the Heart*

*The Heart of the Matter  
is the Matter of the Heart!*

**Proverbs 4:1-27**



**Hear**, my children, the instruction of  
a father, and **give attention** to know  
understanding;

Proverbs 4:1



**Hear**, my children, the instruction of  
a father, and **give attention** to know  
understanding;

Proverbs 4:1

**Hear**, my son, and receive my  
sayings

Proverbs 4:10a



**Hear**, my children, the instruction of  
a father, and **give attention** to know  
understanding;

Proverbs 4:1

**Hear**, my son, and receive my  
sayings

Proverbs 4:10a

My son, **give attention** to  
my words

Proverbs 4:20







Keep my commands and **live**

Proverbs 4:4a



Keep my commands and **live**

Proverbs 4:4a

The years of your **life** will be many

Proverbs 4:10b



Keep my commands and **live**

Proverbs 4:4a

The years of your **life** will be many

Proverbs 4:10b

Keep her, she is your **life**

Proverbs 4:13b



Keep my commands and **live**

Proverbs 4:4a

The years of your **life** will be many

Proverbs 4:10b

Keep her, she is your **life**

Proverbs 4:13b

[My words are] **life** to those who find  
them

Proverbs 4:22



Keep my commands and **live**

Proverbs 4:4a

The years of your **life** will be many

Proverbs 4:10b

Keep her, she is your **life**

Proverbs 4:13b

[My words are] **life** to those who find  
them

Proverbs 4:22

Out of [your heart] spring the issues  
of **life.**

Proverbs 4:23



# Introduction:



# Introduction:

1. vv. 1-9 wisdom as a wife



# Introduction:

1. vv. 1-9 wisdom as a wife



# Introduction:

1. vv. 1-9 wisdom as a wife
2. vv. 10-19 wisdom as a way



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1. vv. 1-9 wisdom as a wife
2. vv. 10-19 wisdom as a way



# Introduction:

1. vv. 1-9 wisdom as a wife
2. vv. 10-19 wisdom as a way
3. vv. 20-27 **wisdom as a word**



# Proverbs 4:1

Hear, my children, the  
instruction of a father,  
And give attention to  
know understanding;

# Proverbs 4:2

For I give you good  
doctrine:

Do not forsake my law.



# Proverbs 4:3

When I was my father's  
son,  
Tender and the only one  
in the sight of my  
mother,

# Proverbs 4:4

He also taught me, and  
said to me:

“Let your heart retain my  
words;

Keep my commands, and  
live.



# Proverbs 4:5

Get wisdom! Get  
understanding!

Do not forget, nor turn  
away from the words of  
my mouth.

# Proverbs 4:6

Do not forsake her, and  
she will preserve you;  
Love her, and she will  
keep you.



# Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal  
thing;

Therefore get wisdom.  
And in all your getting,  
get understanding.

# Proverbs 4:8

Exalt her, and she will  
promote you;  
She will bring you honor,  
when you embrace her.



# Proverbs 4:9

She will place on your  
head an ornament of  
grace;

A crown of glory she will  
deliver to you."

# Proverbs 4:10

Hear, my son, and receive  
my sayings,  
And the years of your  
life will be many.



# Proverbs 4:11

I have taught you in the  
way of wisdom;  
I have led you in right  
paths.

# Proverbs 4:12

When you walk, your  
steps will not be  
hindered,

And when you run, you  
will not stumble.



# Proverbs 4:13

Take firm hold of  
instruction, do not let go;  
Keep her, for she is your  
life.

# Proverbs 4:14

Do not enter the path of  
the wicked,  
And do not walk in the  
way of evil.



# Proverbs 4:15

Avoid it, do not travel on  
it;

Turn away from it and  
pass on.

# Proverbs 4:16

For they do not sleep  
unless they have done evil;  
And their sleep is taken  
away unless they  
make someone fall.



# Proverbs 4:17

For they eat the bread  
of wickedness,  
And drink the wine of  
violence.

# Proverbs 4:18

But the path of the  
just is like the  
shining sun,  
That shines ever brighter  
unto the perfect day.



# Proverbs 4:19

The way of the  
wicked is like darkness;  
They do not know what  
makes them stumble.

# Proverbs 4:20

My son, give attention to  
my words;

Incline your ear to my  
sayings.



# Proverbs 4:21

Do not let them depart  
from your eyes;  
Keep them in the midst  
of your heart;

# Proverbs 4:22

For they are life to  
those who find them,  
And health to all their  
flesh.



# Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all  
diligence,  
For out of it spring the  
issues of life.

# Proverbs 4:24

Put away from you  
a deceitful mouth,  
And put perverse lips far  
from you.



# Proverbs 4:25

Let your eyes look  
straight ahead,  
And your eyelids look  
right before you.

# Proverbs 4:26

Ponder the path of  
your feet,  
And let all your ways be  
established.



# Proverbs 4:27

Do not turn to the right  
or the left;  
Remove your foot from  
evil.





Why should I guard my heart?

Why should I guard my heart?

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence,  
For out of it spring the issues  
of life.



# Why should I guard my heart?

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence,  
**For out of it spring the issues**  
**of life.**

Why should I guard my heart?



# Why should I guard my heart?

1. What my heart embraces shapes my entire life.

Matthew 12:34

out of the abundance of  
the heart the mouth  
speaks.



Matthew 12:34

out of the abundance of  
the heart the mouth  
speaks.

# John 7:38

He who believes in Me, as  
the Scripture has  
said, out of his heart will  
flow rivers of living  
water.



# John 7:38

He who believes in Me, as  
the Scripture has  
said, out of his heart will  
flow rivers of living  
water.

Ephesians 6:6b

as bondservants of  
Christ, doing the will of  
God from the heart.



Ephesians 6:6b

as bondservants of  
Christ, doing the will of  
God from the heart.

2 Timothy 2:22b

. . . call on the Lord  
out of a pure heart.

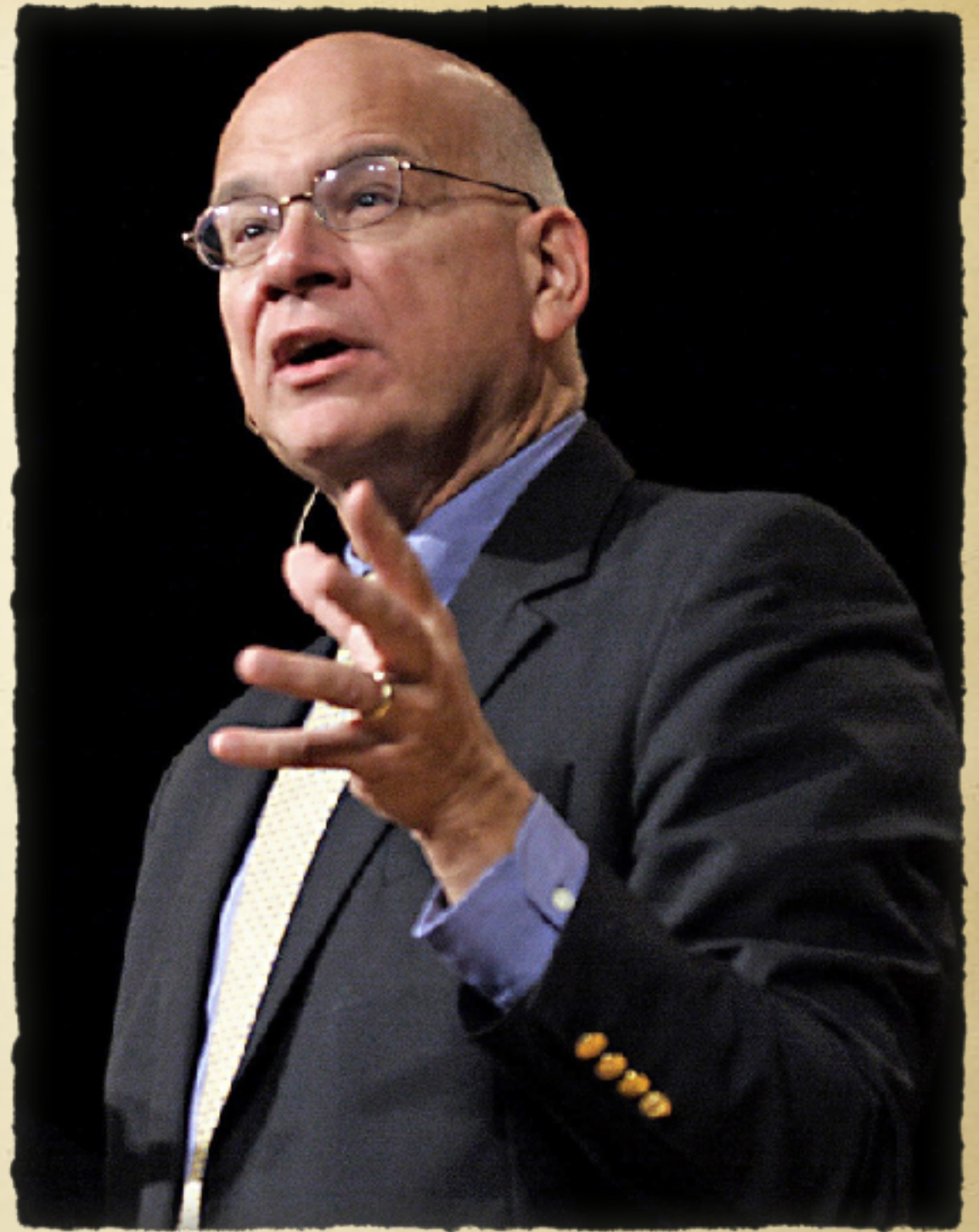


2 Timothy 2:22b

. . . call on the Lord  
out of a pure heart.



“What the heart  
most wants, the  
mind finds  
reasonable, the  
will finds  
doable, and the  
emotions find  
desirable.”



*Tim Keller*





# Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all  
diligence, for out of it  
spring the issues of life.



Why should I guard my heart?

1. What my heart embraces  
shapes my entire life.

Proverbs 3:5a

trust in the Lord  
with all your heart.



Proverbs 3:5a

trust in the Lord  
with all your heart.

Proverbs 3:5a

trust in the Lord  
with all your heart.

Matthew 22:37b

. . . love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all  
your mind.



Put away from you a deceitful  
mouth, and put perverse lips far  
from you.

Proverbs 4:24-27

Put away from you a deceitful  
mouth, and put perverse lips far  
from you.

Proverbs 4:24-27



Put away from you a deceitful  
mouth, and put perverse lips far  
from you.

Let your eyes look straight ahead,  
and your eyelids look right before  
you.

Proverbs 4:24-27

Put away from you a deceitful  
mouth, and put perverse lips far  
from you.

Let your eyes look straight ahead,  
and your eyelids look right before  
you.

Ponder the path of your feet, and let  
all your ways be established. Do not  
turn to the right or the left; remove  
your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:24-27



Why should I guard my heart?

1. What my heart embraces  
shapes my entire life.

# Why should I guard my heart?

1. What my heart embraces  
shapes my entire life.

- mouth



# Why should I guard my heart?

1. What my heart embraces  
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- mouth
- eyes

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1. What my heart embraces  
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- mouth
- eyes
- feet



# Why should I guard my heart?

1. What my heart embraces  
shapes my entire life.

- mouth
- eyes
- feet

Ponder the **path** of  
your feet, and let all  
your **ways** be  
established.

Proverbs 4:26

# Proverbs 4:11

I have taught you in the  
way of wisdom; I have  
led you in right paths.



# Proverbs 4:11

I have taught you in the  
way of wisdom; I have  
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# Proverbs 4:14

Do not enter the path of  
the wicked, and do not  
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# Proverbs 4:14

Do not enter the path of  
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# Proverbs 4:19

The way of the wicked  
is like darkness; they do  
not know what makes  
them stumble.



# Proverbs 4:19

The way of the wicked  
is like darkness; they do  
not know what makes  
them stumble.

I have led you in right paths.

Proverbs 4:11b, 14a, 18b



I have led you in right paths.

Proverbs 4:11b, 14a, 18b

I have led you in right paths.  
Do not enter the path of the  
wicked;

Proverbs 4:11b, 14a, 18b



I have led you in right paths.  
Do not enter the path of the  
wicked;  
The path of the just is like the  
shining sun.

Proverbs 4:11b, 14a, 18b

Why should I guard my heart?



Why should I guard my heart?

**2. My choices determine my  
destiny**

# Proverbs 4:18-19

the path of the just is like the  
shining sun, that shines ever  
brighter unto the perfect day.  
The way of the wicked is like  
darkness; they do not know  
what makes them stumble.



# Proverbs 4:18-19

the path of the just is like the  
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# Proverbs 4:14

Do not enter the path of  
the wicked, and do not  
walk in the way of evil

Why should I guard my heart?

2. My choices determine my destiny



Why should I guard my heart?

2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!

# Proverbs 4:16-17

For they do not sleep unless  
they have done evil; and  
their sleep is taken away  
unless they make someone fall.

For they eat the bread of  
wickedness, and drink the wine  
of violence.



# Proverbs 4:15

Avoid it, do not travel on  
it; turn away from it and  
pass on.

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Why should I guard my heart?

2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!

# Why should I guard my heart?

## 2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!
- **Get off before it's too late!**



# Why should I guard my heart?

## 2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!
- **Get off before it's too late!**

The way of the wicked is like  
darkness; They do not know  
what makes them stumble!

Proverbs 4:19

# Why should I guard my heart?

## 2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!
- **Get off before it's too late!**

The way of the wicked is like  
darkness; They do not know  
what makes them stumble!

Proverbs 4:19



# Why should I guard my heart?

## 2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!
- Get off before it's too late!

# Why should I guard my heart?

## 2. My choices determine my destiny

- Don't start down the wrong path!
- Get off before it's too late!
- **It'll be worth it!**



Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,  
and **the years of your life will be  
many.**

Proverbs 4:10, 12, 18

Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,  
and the years of your life will be  
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When you walk, your steps will not  
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Proverbs 4:10, 12, 18

How do I guard my heart?



# Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

# Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.



Psalm 119:11

Your word

I have hidden in my heart,  
that I might not sin against  
You.

How do I guard my heart?



# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.

## Matthew 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.



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You search the Scriptures, for  
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they which testify of Me. But  
you are not willing to come to  
Me that you may have life.



# Matthew 5:38

But you do not have  
[God's] word abiding in  
you, because whom He  
sent, Him you do not  
believe.

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# John 1:1

In the beginning was  
the Word, and the Word  
was with God, and  
the Word was God.



# John 1:1

In the beginning was  
the Word, and the Word  
was with God, and  
the Word was God.

# John 1:1

In the beginning was  
the Word, and the Word  
was with God, and  
the Word was God.



# John 1:14

And the Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us, and we  
beheld His glory, the glory  
as of the only begotten of  
the Father, full of grace  
and truth.

# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.



1 Corinthians 1:24

Christ (is) the power of  
God and the **wisdom** of  
God.

## Proverbs 4:5-7

Get **wisdom**! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.



## Proverbs 4:5-7

Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

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# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.

- 2. Love Jesus!**

# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.
2. Love Jesus!



# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.
2. Love Jesus!
  - Reflect daily on His sacrificial love

# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.

2. Love Jesus!

- Reflect daily on His sacrificial love

The way of the wicked  
is like darkness

Prov. 4:19



# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.

2. Love Jesus!

- Reflect daily on His sacrificial love

The path of the just  
is like the shining sun!

Prov. 4:18

# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.

2. Love Jesus!

- Reflect daily on His sacrificial love

**We love Him because  
He first loved us.**

1 John 4:19



Romans 5:5b

the **love of God** has  
been poured out in our  
**hearts** by the Holy Spirit  
who was given to us.

Romans 5:5b

the **love of God** has  
been poured out in our  
**hearts** by the Holy Spirit  
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# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.
2. Love Jesus!
  - Reflect daily on His sacrificial love

# How do I guard my heart?

1. Put God's word at the center of my heart.

2. Love Jesus!

- Reflect daily on His sacrificial love
- **Release everything to Him!**



Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal  
thing; Therefore get  
wisdom.

And in all your getting,  
get understanding.

## Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal  
thing; Therefore get  
wisdom.

And in all your getting,  
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## Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal  
thing; Therefore get  
wisdom.

And in all your getting  
get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

Wisdom is the principal  
thing; Therefore get  
wisdom.

Though it cost you all you have,  
get understanding.



Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

Wisdom is the principal  
thing; Therefore get  
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Though it cost you all you have,  
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