

Proverbs Week #47 (4:24-25)

“Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.” (NIV)

If we are going to be disciples of Yeshua then we need to faithfully allow God’s word to bring about His desired purposes in our lives. Yeshua put it this way, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31, 32. This idea of needing to be set free is an important concept to understand. The Jewish audience who heard Yeshua speak these words answered Him saying that they didn’t need to be set free. Yet they were living in Israel under an oppressive Roman rule. They were expecting a messiah who would liberate them and reestablish Israel as a nation under God’s rule. To this day many Jewish people are waiting for the Messiah to come and do just that. The freedom that God gives through Yeshua is more than just a political or worldly freedom; it is a freedom from the slavery to sin and changes our status with God. Those who receive Yeshua (John 1:9-13) are adopted by God and are a part of His family. We do not always fully understand how important this idea is but God can and will teach us. Yeshua taught that the Holy Spirit would lead us into the truth and abide with us.

Now, I want to connect this theme (being a part of God’s family) to our verses today. Last week I read the verse, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* (Prov 4:23) If God adopts you, you have been given a new relationship with Him and a new heart (Ezek 11:18-20). As an adopted child of God it is possible to serve Him as He desires and part of that service is guarding your heart. The wisdom taught in today’s verses directs us to train ourselves in the use of our mouth and eyes.

“Keep your mouth free of perversity” – How can we remember to do this?

1. Speak God’s words - put His words on your lips by speaking them out loud (Psa 1)
2. Sing Joyfully - use your mouth to praise and worship God (Psa 33)
3. Encourage someone – help someone with your words (Heb 10:24)
4. Don’t slander (repeat stories that defame others) – to forget this and do it is a crime in God’s eyes (Lev 19:16, Prov 11:13)
5. Don’t be a complainer – If you do you may be counted with the ungodly of the world (Jude 16; Num 14:27)
6. Be thankful – “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in the Messiah Yeshua” (1 Thes 5:18)

“Let your eyes look straight ahead” – How can we remember to do this?

1. Fix your eyes on Yeshua (Heb 12:2) – if your life is His story then you should look to Him as the Author to:
 - a. Perfect your faith (Heb 12:2)
 - b. Be your Hope (1 Tim 1:1)
 - c. Define what is true (John 14:6)
 - d. Supply you with the desires that are pleasing to Him (Psa 37:4)
 - e. Be your source of strength (Psa 81:1)
 - f. Give you wisdom to live life as He desires (James 1:5-7)
2. Set your eyes on things that are above – those things that are pleasing in God’s sight (Col 3:1-2)
3. Set Yeshua as the goal of your life (Rom 10:4)

Last week we learned about guarding our hearts and this week we focused on what our mouth and eyes should be doing. Wisdom can be seen as a skill that can be improved with practice and exercise. We can practice being wise by guarding the way we use our mouths and what we make keep as the focus of our lives. Lord willing, next week we will continue our review and add a third thing (our feet) to help us in applying God’s wisdom.