

Proverbs Week #48 (4:26,27)

“Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.” Prov 4:26,27

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)

As an adopted child of God it is possible to serve Him as He desires and as we have been learning, part of that service is guarding our hearts. Our last lesson in Proverbs focused on how we might use our eyes and our mouth in ways that are in accordance with wisdom. The last two verses in this chapter of the book of Proverbs instruct us on how we should use our feet. We are instructed to not turn to the right nor the left but to stay on God's path for us. Let's look at a few verses that reinforce this idea.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” (Prov 3:5,6)

“After the LORD your God you shall walk and Him you shall fear; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.” (Deut 13:4)

The verse from the Torah is in the context of being tempted to depart from God’s ways based upon a false prophet. In this verse we are commanded to do six things. For me, the first and last of these commands serve as bookends. Walking in God’s way means walking after Him by following His examples and being in a close relationship to Him. We are to cling to Him. Let’s take a look at each of these commands.

After the LORD your God you shall walk

Yeshua declared that He was the Way. We learn from Him that His life was an example for us to follow. Yeshua Himself taught, *“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” (Matt 16:24)*

Fear Him

We learned in our first lessons in Proverbs that wisdom begins with a proper fear of the LORD. He is the mighty King as well as the faithful Shepherd. Our love, respect, awe, and fear of Him is based upon our understanding of who He is and what He has done. If our fear is too much we may hear from Him, “Fear not!” If our fear of Him is too light we may hear Him say, “Do not be deceived, I will not be mocked.”

Guard His commands

To keep His commandments may be understood as doing them. I think that it should be seen as more than just that. It should also include an awareness of our need to remember them and internalize what our Maker is trying to teach.

Hear His voice

Yeshua teaches, *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27)* To hear His voice is literally to obey. What I want to stress is that it is intimate. His teaching of us is not as a foreign leader in a far away land but as a God who knows us and wants us to learn from Him. We hear His voice as we listen to His inspired scripture.

Serve Him

Our walking after God is to be as a servant who seeks to please his Master. In His service He will provide all that we need to serve Him as He desires. It may not always be what we want, but He is faithful to provide His servants with all they need.

Cling to Him

Finally, we are told to cling to Him. We are to glue all of our lives to Him, to hold on until the end, to cry out to Him if we are in need, to praise Him for His goodness, and to learn what is pleasing to Him.