

\_\_\_\_\_ Inventory of my \_\_\_\_\_ Lifestyle and Behavior

Proverbs 4:23-27

Intro: One of the hardest things for the believer to do is be \_\_\_\_\_ with his/her self about where they really are spiritually. Many believers like to think they are more spiritual than they probably are. One the best things the believer can do is get before God and allow Him to reveal to us what we are really like spiritually. There is a good possibility we will not like what He shows us about ourselves. However the cleansing Blood of Christ will do a good work from which we will never be the same again, nor should we want to \_\_\_\_\_ to the ways of the past. The joy that will come and the sense of fulfillment and \_\_\_\_\_ will be of far more value than that which God shows us we must give up or ask Him to change in our life. The fear comes in the \_\_\_\_\_ of what God will do in and through us. But, knowing what we do know about the Lord, we need not be afraid—John 3:16-18

I. Vs. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

A. **Keep**

1. To \_\_\_\_\_, guard, keep
2. To preserve, guard from \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 To observe and guard with fidelity

B. **Your heart**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ must be on your heart
2. \_\_\_\_\_ heart is the \_\_\_\_\_ heart you can change

C. **Issues of life**-it determines the course of your life

1. "The heart is the depository of all wisdom and the source of whatever affects life and character" JFB Commentary
2. **Mat 12:35** A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

D. Other Verses:

1. **Ps 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
2. **Pr 28:26** He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoever walks wisely, he shall be delivered.
3. **De 4:9** Only take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life: but teach them your sons, and your sons' sons;
4. **Pr 23:19** Hear you, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way.
6. **Jer 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
7. **1Th 3:13** To the end he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

II. Vs. 24 Put away from you a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from you.

A. **Froward**-\_\_\_\_\_, crooked, deceptive and lying, fraudulent

B. **Perverse**-corrupt, talk that does not honor Christ

C. Other Verses:

1. **Eze 18:31** Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby you have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel?
2. **Eph 4:25** Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.
3. **Eph 4:29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers.
4. **Jas 1:26** If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridles not his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

5. Pr 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
6. Pr 3:32 For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

III. Vs 25 Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you.

- A. Pursue a sincere and \_\_\_\_\_ purpose, avoiding temptations
- B. **Straight**-the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_, correct
- C. Other Verses:
  1. Pr 23:5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not?
  2. Job 31:1 I made a covenant with my eyes;
  3. Ps 119:37 Turn away my eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken you me in your way.
  4. Mat 6:21-23 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

IV. Vs 26 Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.

- A. **Ponder**-weigh in a balance, give serious thought to the consequences. Life without \_\_\_\_\_
- B. **The path of your feet**-in what direction you are headed with your \_\_\_\_\_ action
- C. **Ways be established**-the path you are traveling clearly thought out and understanding the possible consequences
- D. Other Verses:
  1. Ps 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet on a rock, and established my goings.
  2. Ps 119:59 I thought on my ways, and turned my feet to your testimonies.
  3. Eze 18:28 Because he considers, and turns away from all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.
  4. Hag 1:5 Now therefore thus said the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.
  5. Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
  6. Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way. "steps"—way, or, "course of life"; as ordered by God, failures will not be permanent. JFB

V. Vs 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove your foot from evil.

- A. **Turn...left**-In light of the previous counsel, stay on the \_\_\_\_\_ you have set for yourself
- B. **Remove...evil**-When you notice you are deviating from the correct course you should be traveling, \_\_\_\_\_ and get back on the correct path
- C. Other Verses:
  1. Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs.
  2. De 5:32 You shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God has commanded you: you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.
  3. De 28:14 And you shall not go aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.
  4. Jos 1:7 Only be you strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded you: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.
  5. Pr 16:17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keeps his way preserves his soul.

Concl: God is not looking for \_\_\_\_\_, He is only expecting faithfulness. Thus, there is allowance for error, but not \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience. We must continually inventory our heart before the Lord and ask Him to keep our heart with all diligence.