

THE GUARDED HEART

- **Proverbs 4:23–27 (JND):**
 - **Keep (guard) thy heart more than anything that is guarded;** for out of it are the issues of life.
 - **Put away** from thee perverseness of mouth, and corrupt lips put far from thee.
 - **Let thine eyes look right on,** and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
 - **Ponder the path of thy feet,** and let all thy ways be well-ordered. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil.

A guarded heart will affect:

- **The things we say** — Eph. 5:3–4; Col. 4:6
- **The things we look at** — Ps. 101:3, 119:105
- **The places we go** — 2 Cor. 6:17–18; 1 Thess. 5:22

- **What does it mean to guard your heart?**
 - The **HEART** really refers to the inner core of a person...the thoughts, feelings, desires, will, and choices that make that person who he/she is.
 - **Proverbs 23:7** — “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”
 - **Guard** is sometimes translated ‘keep’ or ‘keepeth’ (Ps. 25:10; 34:13; Prov. 3:1)
 - **Guard** is sometimes translated ‘preserve’ or ‘preserveth’ (Ps. 25:21; 32:7; 40:11)
 - **Guard** is sometimes translated ‘watchman’ or ‘watchers’ (2 Kings 18:8; Jer. 4:16)
- **Who and what do we guard our hearts against?**
 - The evil that is in the world — Prov. 23:17; John 17:15; 1 John 5:21
 - The world's attractions — 1 John 2:15–16
 - The world's distractions — 2 Timothy 2:4
- **How do we guard our hearts?**
 - Fix our hearts on the Lord — Col. 3:1–2
 - Be attentive to God's Word — Luke 24:32
 - Learn to trust the Lord in every situation — Eph. 3:20–21
 - Live in anticipation of the Lord's imminent return — 1 Thess. 1:9–10

Which part of the armor of God in Ephesians 6 was used to guard the heart?

Ezekiel 40:4 — “And the man said unto me, Son of man, **behold** with thine eyes, and **hear** with thine ears, and **set thine heart** upon all that I shall shew thee...”

- **To truly guard our hearts; our eyes and our ears must be upon the Lord.**

- **Deuteronomy 11:13** — “And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
- **Deuteronomy 13:3** — “Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”
- **Joshua 22:5** — “But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
- **1 Samuel 12:20** — “And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.”
- **1 Samuel 12:24** — “Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”
- **Jeremiah 29:13** — “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”
- **Joel 2:12** — “Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.”

What phrase is found in each of the above verses?

Is it possible to serve the Lord with a divided heart? — Matt. 6:24
Can we love the Lord and love the world, too? — James 4:4

Proverbs 4:23 — “Keep thy heart with all diligence...”