



# KING'S CHAPEL

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## Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 2 - Day 5

### Approaching God

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18** - *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

**Prayer:** Take a minute to quiet your heart and become aware of the Lord's presence. As you read through 2 Cor. 3:17-18 reflect upon the precious promises and truths that are evident. Take a minute to respond to God and ask that he would grant freedom, glory, and ever-increasing Christ-likeness as you meet with him today.

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 4:20-27

#### Passage Introduction: A Father's Appeal #7 - Maintain a Heart of Wisdom

This appeal consists primarily of imperatives that encourage the son to attend to wise instruction and guard wisdom's presence in his heart by turning from evil in speech and actions. In the Bible the heart is not primarily the seat of the emotions in contrast to the head as the seat of reason. Rather, the heart is the seat of your deepest trusts, commitments, and loves, from which everything . . . flows. What the heart most loves and trusts, the mind finds reasonable, the emotions find desirable, and the will finds doable. We make progress toward wisdom by staying intensely focused: "Let your eyes look directly forward". Many distractions in this world would draw us away. How can we remain loyal to God through it all?

### Proverbs 4:20-27 - NIV

**20** My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. **21** Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; **22** for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. **23** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. **24** Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. **25** Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. **26** Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. **27** Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

**Start with Engaging the Text:** Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted? What key themes stand out to you?

## Daily Study Questions

How do you guard your heart? The passage hints that, though ultimately the heart is the central control, our words, eyes, and feet can influence the heart. If we gaze longingly enough at an object, it may capture our heart through the imagination (as when Achan looked, desired, and finally stole the treasure in Joshua 7). If we speak bitterly against someone, we can sour our heart toward them. The best way to guard your heart for wisdom is worship, in which the mouth, the mind, the imagination, and even the body are all oriented to God.

- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- How can you put this observation or principle into practice?
- Is there some way in which you are failing to guard your heart right now? Are there things you are seeing or doing that may be moving your heart away from God?

## Close in Prayer:

*Lord, help me to guard my heart. Just as I don't want to digest or take bad things into my body, give me the wisdom and self-control not to allow toxic images and beliefs into my heart through my imagination and thoughts. Amen.*