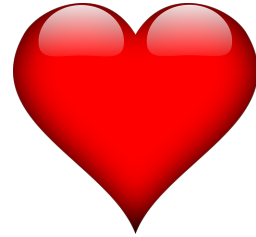


## GUARD YOUR HEART

### TEXT:

***Proverbs 4:23: Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***



### INTRODUCTION:

This word “KEEP” literally means to guard, to garrison, or to fortress. When I read in:

***1 Corinthians 9:27: But I keep my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***

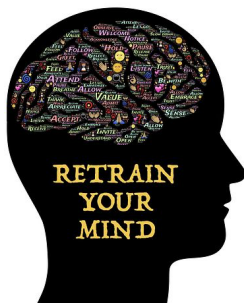
***1 Timothy 5:22: Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.***

***James 1:27: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.***

***1 John 5:21: Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.***

***Jude 21: Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.***

1. In order to stay free and in the liberty which we have in Christ, there is a necessity of guarding our minds (our thoughts). Absolutely refuse entrance into your heart and mind anything negative, critical, contrary, resentful, selfish, base, or depressive in nature. We must guard our minds zealously, for this is where the enemy of our souls usually strikes first. It is the weakest place about us.



2. We are to refuse every thought that is impure, unkind, offensive, unjust, evil, detrimental, or envious.

3. We are to resist and repulse thoughts of pride, hate, resentment, slander, doubt, unbelief, anxiety, indifference, wrath, and self-pity.

In so doing, the enemy of our souls cannot gain any access into our lives. Inasmuch as the greater part of his efforts is directed toward making an invasion into our minds, this is the reason we must garrison them.

Very few people resist satan as they should. Thus, they fall prey to his influence and control. Failure to guard the mind and heart against the devil's deceiving, depressive, negative, and destructive thoughts and subtle suggestions is one of the major causes for oppression, sickness, fear, discord, strife, and failure to keep the victory.



It is our responsibility, after we are liberated from the devil, to keep the door of our minds and hearts closed to future invasions by the powers of darkness. We cannot overemphasize this fact too much. We have seen any number of people who neglected the guarding of their mind and ended up suffering spiritual setbacks and the oppression of satan again.

This warning should be especially heeded by those individuals who are neurotic, or manifest a spirit of “self pity” or “self-centeredness”. These individuals will desire attention at any cost. They feel a deep-seated need for attention, and actually fear (subconsciously) complete release from the oppression of satan, lest they lose the notice of those whom they have used as a crutch.

These insecure people are unable to face life, become unable to make decisions, and are constantly threatened with a spectrum of failure and misfortune. They do not follow through with their responsibility of keeping guard of their minds and hearts with all diligence. They constantly:

- (1) lament their condition
- (2) confess doubts
- (3) fear failure; and
- (4) voice their problems to any and all who will lend a listening ear.



There is only true protection from the enemy of our souls. It is found in the Lord Jesus. The Word of God says:

***Proverbs 18:10: The Name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.***

When we run to Him, then with His conscious Presence, we can resist the devil and his wares, and he will have to leave us alone. We can maintain our position of victory by keeping our minds stayed on Jesus, and by steady resistance against the devil, and faith unwavering.

If any of you have been bound by demons, or in the false cults, or by dope or any other fetter-binding tactic of satan, you can be delivered and stay free in the Liberty which is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

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