

Give Attention to My Words

Proverbs 4:20-27

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Solomon wrote the Proverbs, a collection of wise sayings, at the direction of the Holy Spirit. Consider what he wrote in Proverbs 4:20-27 -

My son, give attention to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings
Do not let them depart from your sight;
Keep them in the midst of your heart.
For they are life to those who find them,
And health to all their whole body.
Watch over your heart with all diligence,
For from it flow the springs of life.
Put away from you a deceitful mouth,
And put devious lips far from you.
Let your eyes look directly ahead,
And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.
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.

Though Solomon wrote, these are God's words and in them I see three very important, practical lessons for you and me today.

First, God's words are beneficial. They are life to those who find them (vs 22). They make life here on earth worthwhile and fulfilling and they provide for eternal life after this life is over. They are health to the whole body (vs 22). Those who follow God's sayings are made healthy; physically, mentally and spiritually. God's wisdom says avoid addictions, remain calm, be at peace, avoid anxiety and worry, and be moderate in all things. Such advice is physically and mentally healthy. And, of course, God's words assure spiritual well-being, they save the soul.

Second, you must act to receive the benefit of God's words. It will take your individual effort to assure that God's wisdom affects your life. Give attention to His words (vs 20). Keep them; you dare not let them out of your sight (vs 21). Be diligent (vs 23). If you turn your back on them, even for a moment, evil influences will take their toll, robbing you of the benefit His words would have.

Third, you must allow God's words to control your life. Use them to watch over your heart for from it flows the key issues of life (vs 23). Put away from you a lying, deceitful mouth and do not use your lips in a devious manner (vs 24). Look straight ahead toward the heavenly goal; do not allow your gaze to be drawn aside where sin's enticements are (vs 25). Watch where you walk; stay firmly in the way of God (vs 26) turning neither to the right or left. And turn away from evil (vs 27).

If you will give attention to these wise sayings, you will never regret it!