

Proverbs 3 - My Heart Linked to My Life

Pro 4:23 ESV Keep your heart with all vigilance, for **from it flow the springs of life.**

- The Heart (- the core of thoughts, emotions, intentions) Guard it because everything flows from it
- Mat 15:18-19 ESV But what comes out of the mouth **proceeds from the heart**, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
- Rom 6:17 ESV But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin **have become obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,
- Eph 6:6 ESV not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart**,

A Heart Focused on Obedience - Leads to True Life and Peace

Pro 3:1-2 ESV My son, do not forget my **teaching**, but ***let your heart keep*** my commandments, 2 **for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.**

- The key to NOT FORGETTING is KEEPING
- Move from HEAD to HEART - not just robotic obedience, but internalizing & embracing them
- KEEP is to treasure, watch over, or guard just as a shepherd "keeps" or guards his flock - let nothing in
- It leads to obedience from the heart -- KEEP your promise or KEEP your Word (protect and carry out)
- V2 Length of **Days** (quantity) → Years of **Life** (quality) → Peace (shalom) - completeness, well-being
 - **LIFE** → 1Ti 6:18-19 ESV **so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.**

A Heart Committed to Love and Faithfulness Leads to Favor and True Success

3 Let not **steadfast love** and **faithfulness** forsake you; bind them around your neck; **write them on the tablet of your heart.** 4 **So you will find favor and good success** in the sight of God and man.

- **Steadfast Love** → refers to a deep and enduring covenantal form of love
 - Mat 24:12 ESV And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.
- **Faithfulness** →, trustworthiness, or reliability → involves keeping promises, remaining loyal, and fulfilling commitments. It's about being dependable and true in word and deed.
 - Psa 15:4 ESV who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- **The tablet of the heart** - Internalize them → but also let them be evident to all (wear around the neck)

Verse 4: "So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man."

- Good success is not just material possessions...it speaks of overall well-being in various aspects of life
- Luk 2:52 ESV And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

A Heart that Trusts in the Lord Lead

5 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart**, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and **he will make straight your paths.**

- Trust involves complete reliance and confidence in God's wisdom, sovereignty, and providence. It is an intimate act of surrendering one's plans, desires, and uncertainties to God's divine will...and recognizes the limitations by not leaning on our own understanding
- Acknowledge Him - living in awareness of God's presence, authority and involvement - and ultimately direction
- Abram → going not knowing, but trusting

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP? -- Psa 139:23-24 ESV Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!