

Topical Study

Topic 1: Your Expectation

Psalm 121 1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Proverbs 24:30-34

30 I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. 32 When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; 34 So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Proverbs 31:20

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

Luke 3:11

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

A true story...

Sir,

Is this how marriage is? My father-in-law is a very rich man. I did not marry his daughter because of money o but I thought that he should at least be kind to his own! He has houses all over Lagos, yet we are renting and the economy is biting. We are using one car and he cannot even give us a car as gift!

Sir, is it not normal to expect him to at least give us soft landing? Sadly, my wife isn't even bothered!

Q: If you are to give this scenario or story a title, what would you have named it?

Q: Any thoughts or advice for this brother?

Q: Is this brother right or justified in his thoughts?

Q: The father-in-law, could he possibly have reasons for not doing what the son-in-law was expecting?

Q: Should the father-in-law have given him a car?

Topic 2: Guarding your heart

Proverbs 4:23

NKJV

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

NIV

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

AMP

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Q: What can you say or express about this Solomon's statement?

Q: What should we keep our hearts/minds from or against?

Q: How should we guard our hearts?

- Our heart is our mind, soul, intellect, conscience, and emotions; the centre of our feelings, reasoning, and thoughts. Therefore, our hearts are who we are at the very core, and God sees our hearts. (Proverbs 23:7, Psalm 139:1-4). Because your heart is extremely valuable.

It is the essence of who you are. It is your authentic self—the core of your being. It is where all your dreams, your desires, and your passions live. It is that part of you that connects with God and other people.

- Every Christian has two opposing mindsets that are always fighting against each other: our sinful mindset that we were born with and the mind of Christ given to us by the Holy Spirit. (**Jeremiah 17:9-10, Galatians 5:16-17**)

- The devil targets our hearts constantly. (**1 Peter 5:8**).

Because your heart is under constant attack. When Solomon says to guard your heart, he implies that you are living in a combat zone—one in which there are casualties. Many of us are oblivious to the reality of this war. We have an enemy who is bent on our destruction. He not only opposes God, but he opposes everything that is aligned with Him—including us.

- Scripture warns us to guard our hearts above everything else. (**Proverbs 4:23**). This is why Solomon says, "Above all else." He doesn't say, "If you get around to it" or "It would be nice if." No, he says, make it your top priority.

- We guard our hearts by filling our minds with God's Word regularly, proactively filtering what our mind consumes, and by praying for wisdom and help from God. (**2 Peter 1:2, Philippians 4:6-7**).

- Watch what you allow into your mind.

- Be careful with what you watch and expose yourself to. **By says, out of the abundance of the heart.....Matthew 12:34.**

Luke 6:45. NIV

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Topical Study

NKJV

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.