

Guard Your Heart

- Proverbs 4:20-23 - 20 My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

The Call is to Devotion, Not Distraction

- 2 Corinthians 11:3 - But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 7:35 – I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.
 - “undivided” = lit. “without distraction”
 - “distraction” = a pulling away
 - “devotion” = euprosedros = constantly attending to, constantly waiting upon

We Must Serve God with a Whole Heart, Not a Distracted Heart

- Psalm 9:1 - I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
 - Also: Psalm 86:12, 111:1, 138:1
- Psalm 119:2 - Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart
- Psalm 119:10 - With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!
- Psalm 119:34 – Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
- Psalm 119:69 – The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.
- Psalm 119:145 - With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord! I will keep your statutes.
- David exhorted Solomon to serve God with his whole heart (1 Chronicles 28:9)
 - 1 Chronicles 29:19 - Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.
- King Solomon exhorted the people to be whole-hearted toward God (1 Kings 8:61)
- King Asa’s heart was whole before God (1 Kings 15:14)
- All of Judah sought God with a whole heart during Asa’s reign (2 Chronicles 15:15)
- King Jehoshaphat exhorted the Levites and priests to serve God with a whole heart (2 Chronicles 19:9)
- King Hezekiah served God with a whole heart and did right before Him (2 Kings 20:3)

Three Hebrew Words Translated “Whole” in “Whole Heart”

- Kol = all, everything, whole
- Shalem = complete, whole, full... blameless... safe... at peace
 - In Greek OT, it’s the word teleios = having reached its end, completed, perfect...
- Emeth = true, faithful, firm

The Bible Warns us of Coming to God with a Divided Heart

- 1 Kings 11:4-8 – 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

- 1 Kings 11:9-11 - 9 And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the Lord commanded. 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.
- 2 Chronicles 25:2 – And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... yet not with a whole heart.

God is Looking for Those Who Will Give Him All Their Heart

- 2 Chronicles 16:9 – For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless [Hebrew: shalem = whole, complete, at peace] toward him...

John 12:1-8 – 1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”