

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Favorite Proverbs Bible Study - Part 1

Proverbs 4:14 - 23 Lesson #7

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Proverbs before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

14-17 **Do NOT enter the PATH of the WICKED, and do NOT WALK in the way of EVIL.** Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on. For **they do not sleep unless they have done evil**; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of **wickedness, and drink the wine of VIOLENCE.**

• **Proverbs 1:10-16** “My son, if _____ you, do _____ . If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk _____ for the _____ without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse – my son, do _____ walk in the _____ with them, _____ your _____ from their _____; for their _____ to _____, and they make haste to shed blood.”

• **Proverbs 13:2** “A man shall _____ by the _____ of his _____, but the soul of the _____ on _____.”

Definition: “Do NOT walk in the WAY with them” – This is the same as Proverbs 1:10-14, where it says, **“If SINNERS entice you, do NOT CONSENT.”** And Psalm 1:1-2 tells us NOT to “walk in the COUNSEL of the UNGODLY, and NOT to stand in the way of SINNERS (that means **DO NOT hang out with them**), and NOT to sit in the seat of the SCORNERS (those who don’t believe in and MOCK our faith in God).

• **Psalm 1:1-2** “Blessed is the man who does _____ walk in the _____ of the _____, nor stands in the way of _____, nor _____ in the seat of the _____; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

• **Proverbs 1:15** “My son, do _____ walk in the _____ with them, keep your feet from their path.”

Definition: “If SINNERS entice you, do NOT CONSENT” – Entice means to persuade or LURE someone into something, usually something evil. It could be young boys being ENTICED into joining a gang. It could also just be so-called friends trying to convince someone to commit a crime, because they want a **“get-rich-quick” scheme**. In Isaiah 57:14, God says, **“Build up, build up, prepare the way, REMOVE every OBSTACLE out of the way of My people.”** We must **remove obstacles and stumbling blocks out of our way**. Don’t keep things around that remind you of your addiction or **your past sinful life** in any way - they are stumbling blocks. This includes **friendships** with people who do not encourage you in your recovery or in your walk with Christ. Don’t be friends with people who drag you down. Don’t hang out with friends who are still drinking or using drugs, if that is your area of weakness. Don’t go to unsaved family or friends for **counsel or advice**, especially if they are full of negativity, or pull you down into depression. Don’t go out with old friends who are living a sexually immoral life, if that is your area of weakness. Fellowship with people who will **BUILD you up, not tear you down or cause you to stumble**. Read, study and meditate in God’s word “day and night” to build

up your faith and your **spiritual strength to stand against and RESIST evil.**

• **Isaiah 57:14-21** “And it shall be said, ‘ _____, build up, prepare the way, _____ every _____ out of the _____ of My _____.’ For thus says the High and Exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, ‘I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly (humble) of spirit, in order to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

18-19 But the path of the **JUST is like the SHINING sun**, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. **The WAY of the WICKED is like DARKNESS**; they do not know what makes them stumble.

• **Matthew 5:16** “Let your _____ so _____ before _____, that they may _____ your _____ and _____ your _____ in heaven.”

• **I John 1:5-7** “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is _____ and in Him is no _____ at all. If we say that we have _____ with Him, and walk in _____, we _____ and do not practice the _____. But if we _____ in the _____ as He is in the _____, we have fellowship with one another, and the _____ of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from _____.”

• **Ephesians 5:14** “Therefore He says, ‘Awake, you who _____, arise from the dead, and _____ will give you _____.’”

• **John 1:9-10** “That (Jesus) was the true _____ which gives _____ to every man who comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was _____ through Him, and the world did _____ know Him.”

• **Psalms 37:6** “He shall bring forth your _____ as the _____, and your justice as the _____.”

Definition: “**The WAY of the WICKED is like DARKNESS**” – “The **JUST**” means the righteous people who are **TRUE** followers and believers in God. God’s word is **VERY** clear in saying that **ALL non-believers are in spiritual DARKNESS** and **ALL** believers in Christ are given **LIGHT**, but **it is our responsibility to make sure we are WALKING in the LIGHT at all times**. It is sometimes way too easy to **SLIP BACK** into the **DARKNESS**. That doesn’t mean we aren’t saved, but just that we are **NOT** walking in the Spirit, and **we need to confess whatever sin it was that caused us to SLIP** and get back into walking in the **LIGHT**.

• **Ephesians 5:8** “For you were once _____, but now you are _____ in the Lord. _____ as children of _____.”

• **John 3:19-21** “And this is the _____, that the _____ has come into the world, and men loved _____ rather than _____, because their deeds were _____.”

• **Romans 13:12-13** “The _____ is far spent, the _____ is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of _____, and let us put on the armor of _____. Let us _____ (**conduct our lives**) properly, as in the _____, _____ in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy, but _____ the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

• **I Thessalonians 5:4-5** “But you, brethren, are not in _____, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of _____ and sons of the _____. We are not of the _____ nor of _____.”

Definition: “**He shall bring forth your RIGHTEOUSNESS as the LIGHT**” – In the Bible, **light always**

represents **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and darkness represents **WICKEDNESS** or **EVIL**. This was true of those who truly followed God in the Old Testament, and it is even more so for those who are believers in Jesus Christ under the New Covenant. **Jesus said that He Himself is "the LIGHT of the world"** and if we follow Him and REFLECT His light, we will NOT be in darkness.

•**John 12:35-36** "Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the _____ is with you. Walk while you have the _____, lest _____ overtake you; he who walks in _____ does _____ know _____ he is going. While you have the _____, believe in the _____, that you may become sons of _____."

20-22 My son, **give ATTENTION to my WORDS; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are LIFE to those who find them, and HEALTH to all their flesh.**

•**Proverbs 3:8** "It will be _____ to your _____, and strength to your bones."

•**Exodus 23:25** "So you shall _____ the _____ your _____, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will _____ from the midst of you."

Definition: "LIFE to those who find them, and HEALTH to all their flesh" – This is the same as Proverbs 1:2, where it says, "**Length of days and LONG LIFE and PEACE they will add to you.**" Again, as Believers in Jesus Christ, our obedience to His commandments **will IMPROVE the QUALITY of our lives with a longer life and PEACE** from God, and this verse just goes into a little more detail. This promise is a GENERAL promises of health and prosperity for Believers, but there are always some exceptions, such as Job. In Job's case, Satan had challenged God by saying that Job only obeyed God because of His blessings. God ALLOWED Satan to cause Job to be sick and lose all his possessions for a short time, in order to show Satan that Job would still be faithful to God, in spite of his losses. There are times when we must suffer for Christ's sake in this evil world, but God will always provide what we NEED.

•**Psalm 103:2-3** "Bless the _____, O my soul, and forget not _____ His _____: Who forgives all _____ Your iniquities; Who _____ all your _____."

•**James 5:14-16** "Is any among you _____? Let him _____ for the _____ of the _____, and let them _____ over him, _____ him with _____ in the _____ of the _____; and the _____ of _____ will _____ the one who is _____, and the Lord will _____ him _____, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."

23 **Keep your HEART with all diligence, for OUT of IT spring the ISSUES of LIFE.**

•**Matthew 12:34-35** "Brood of vipers! How can _____, being _____ speak good things? For out of the abundance of the _____ the _____ speaks. A _____ man out of the _____ of his _____ brings forth good things, and an _____ man out of the _____ brings forth evil things."

•**Hebrews 13:9** "Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the _____ to be _____ with [God's] grace."

•**Matthew 15:18-20** "But those things which proceed out of the _____ come from the _____, and they _____ a man. For out of the _____ proceed _____ thoughts, _____, adulteries,

fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which _____ a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

• **Proverbs 4:4** “He also taught me and said to me, ‘Let your _____ retain My _____; keep my commands and _____.’”

• **Psalm 119:11** “Your _____ have I hidden in my _____ that I might _____ against You.”

Definition: “Keep your HEART with all diligence, for OUT of IT spring the ISSUES of LIFE” – “Issues of life” just means EVERYTHING that causes you to either have a HARD, BAD life, or to have the ABUNDANT LIFE that Jesus promises us as Believers. In the parable of the Sower (Matt. 13:3-23; Mark 4:2-20; Luke 8:4-15) Jesus says, “But the seed that fell on the **good ground** are those who, **having heard the word with a noble and good HEART**, keep it and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15). The Bible compares our hearts to either good or bad ground, in which **the seed of God’s word** will be planted (sowed). Obviously, this parable is talking about when the gospel is preached to the unsaved, and how the word of God will be received and bring forth fruit in some lives and not in others, but it also has a **lesson for us as Christians**. The Bible teaches that **WE are responsible for the CONDITION of our own hearts**, or “ground” in which the word of God is planted as we grow and mature in our Christian walk. **Check (guard, keep) your heart to see if it is hardened (rocky soil), and check to see if the thorns of cares and worries, riches, or worldly pleasures are choking out the seed of God’s word.**

• **Luke 8:11-15** “Now the parable is this: The _____ is the _____ of _____. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the _____ out of their _____, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And the ones that _____ among _____ are those who, when they have heard, go out and are _____ with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring _____ to maturity. But the ones that fell on the _____ ground are those who, having _____ the _____ with a noble and good _____, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

• **Psalm 95:7-10** “For He is our _____, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will _____ His voice: ‘Do not _____ your _____, as in the rebellion, and as in the day of trial in the wilderness, when your fathers tested Me; they proved Me, though they saw My work. For forty years I was grieved with that generation, and said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their _____, and they do not _____ My _____.’”

• **Mark 8:17** “And Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, ‘Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor _____? Is your _____ still _____?’”

• **Philippians 4:6-7** “Be _____ for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your _____ be made known to God. And the _____ of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your _____ and your minds in Christ Jesus.