



Keep the Focus

Proverbs 4:20-27



introduction

Wisdom is the factual knowledge and the situational insight and the necessary resolve *that together* will succeed in attaining a good outcome.
(Piper)



Pro 4:23

The Bible warns against having...

...a proud Heart (Pro 21:4)

...a hard heart (Pro 28:14)

...a double heart (Ps 12:2)

...an unclean heart (Ps 51:10)

...a cold heart (Mat 24:12)

...an unbelieving heart (Heb 3:12)



Pro 4:23

“With all diligence, keep...”

‘natzar’: “above all else” – alludes to the duty of a gate keeper... primary responsibility, primary focus



Pro 4:23

“More than all else to be closely watched and protected (like a city or a bank vault), protect your inner self—your mind, your emotions, your character, your discernment—like a sentry at the gate watches over a city from his watchtower.” (Swindoll)



Pro 4:23

*More than all else to be closely watched and protected (like a city or a bank vault), protect your inner self—**your mind, your emotions, your character, your discernment**—like a sentry at the gate watches over a city from his watchtower, because this is the source of all the decisions, responses, and deeds that represent life. (Swindoll)*



Pro 4:23

Wisdom isn't determined by what a person knows, but by what he or she does.

Like a house, a life is built, deed by deed, day by day, resulting in something to be observed and examined by later generations.



Pro 4:24

Could be interpreted as to personally lying and using perverse language...

Jas 3:2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.



Pro 4:24

Or, could be interpreted as to stay away from those with a deceitful and perverse mouth.

Perverse: truth with a bend in it... avoid people who bend divine truth.

Devious: crooked... remove from your environment any influence that does not align with Scripture and anyone who distorts the Word of God



Pro 4:24





Pro 4:25-27

“Guard the fortress of your heart by knowing your destination and keeping your attention focused on where you’re supposed to go. The map (**the word of God**) has indicated the right course, so as you travel, stay glued to the itinerary.” (Swindoll)



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