



## ABOVE ALL GUARD YOUR HEART

As leaders there is probably no counsel or advice I could give you more important than this: "Guard Your Heart!!!! "

When you are at key moments or turning points in your life .....above all else guard your heart!

I see so many who, at that point of promotion, at that point of contact, in the moment of battle - they miss the moment ..... Sometimes through distraction, discouragement, distress, deception, fatigue and offence.

I've seen people who sat right next to me in a great move of the Spirit like Brownsville or Ashland CPT or TACF ..... Healed, delivered, baptized in the Holy Spirit, taste of the things of God ..... Drink of the river and yet ..... perish in the wilderness.

What happened? They didn't guard their heart! Sometimes its disappointment. It causes us to miss the best God has for us! It causes us to miss the mark.

We are in a season of great deception in America and around the world. The season that even the elect, if they can be deceived, will be deceived. These are the last days ..... the days of the great harvest ..... the great battle ..... the days of Elijah. This is the day that every prophet prophesied about.

Do we really believe that we are living like we really believe what Jesus said in Matthew 24:8?

This is the beginning of sorrows. Look how He described this season:

### **Matthew 24:4-14**

*"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*



I believe the anti-Christ is already alive, the man of lawlessness ..... just not yet been revealed, but the spirit of anti-Christ ..... the spirit of lawlessness ..... the spirit of rebellion, anarchy, chaos, violence, confusion and deception has already been released in the earth! End time prophecy is being fulfilled right before our eyes ..... you don't have to be a prophet ..... or a rocket scientist to figure it out.

I want to share some wisdom with you and some personal experiences and observations. I want to share some direction from the Word of God that may help you not only lead more effectively, but also to weather the storms that arise in ministering to God's people and defy the odds. Not just survive, but truly lead Gods' people at this critical moment in world history.

Solomon, when he prayed ..... before taking the throne of his father David, didn't ask for the head of his enemies or for silver and gold ..... he asked for wisdom. Who can lead Gods' people lest he have wisdom from above ..... help from the heavenlies?

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” (Proverbs 4:7 KJV) That's right wisdom is the principal thing. Let's look just a couple of more verses.

#### **Proverbs 4:23**

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

The Word says above all else ..... meaning ..... even above wisdom ..... above all else guard your heart!!! The Word of the Lord tells me above all "guard my heart" but how? He tells me that also!

Let's go back to that scripture and look through verses 20 through 27, a little before and a little after this present passage:

#### **Proverbs 4:20-27**

My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

1. Pay attention to His Word and listen to it! Be a hearer of the Word! When the Word of God is spoken and preached I want to pay attention! Think about this for a minute ..... You want to pray to set yourself apart unto the Lord ..... you close the door ..... you shut the TV and the phone off and go into your secret place and almost immediately you are attacked and bombarded with thoughts, worries about your shopping list, your to do list etc.



The # 1 battlefield 2000 years later is still the place of the skull!! Focus - Concentrate and pay attention to His Word!

2. Keep His Word in your heart ( meditate on the Word ) for they are life! Do it! Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Be a doer of the word not just a hearer of the Word!

**James 1:22-24 KJV**

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

**Joshua 1:8-9 KJV**

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

**Joshua 1:8, 9 NIV**

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

3. Watch what you say! There is power in your tongue! Power to bless and to curse is in the tongue. The Word tells that the same tongue that blesses is the same tongue that curses.

**James 1:26 NIV**

Those who consider themselves religious (spiritual) and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion ( spiritually ) is worthless.

4. Eyes - be careful what we look at! Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life. The eyes are the window to your soul ..... I've told you the story about the brother we took through deliverance in Pensacola! He needed ministry for the spirit of stupidity, not the spirit of lust and perversion. We can't open doors like that in our life and expect the enemy not to walk through them.
5. Watch your steps! One of the things the Lord hates are feet that are quick to mischief or trouble.



**Proverbs 6:16-19 KJV**

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

6. Watch what you listen to and who you listen to (Faith comes by hearing). Be careful what and who you listen to. Guard your heart! Be careful who you're hanging out with and who you're following. Friends have a great deal of influence in our lives!

**2 Timothy 2:14 -19**

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."