

# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 6:12-15

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**12** A troublemaker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth,

**13** who winks maliciously with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers,

**14** who plots evil with deceit in his heart—he always stirs up conflict.

**15** Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 6:12-15


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A lady visited a bank one day with the exciting news that she had won an international lottery of \$100,000! Without considering the unlikeliness of this occurrence, she had already purchased a money order of \$3,000 to cover the taxes, a prerequisite to be able to obtain the promised amount. As she left the bank, she shared her great fortune with the banker who immediately suspected deceit. The banker called the number on the email, discovering that it was a well-orchestrated scam. The banker's timely action saved the woman from losing her money.

It would be so much easier if we could easily identify every person with an evil or selfish intent. Innocent people can find themselves entangled in a web of deceit, vulnerable and violated, left to pay debts or clean up messy relationships. How can we spot a trap early?

Proverbs 6:12-15 describe the worthless man who uses crooked speech to devise evil. The writer provides examples of what to watch for to avoid the manipulation, exploitation, and control by evil people. This particular individual desires to do the least amount of work, looking for ways to take credit for what others have done. He uses his words to promise one thing but deliver another. He finds ways to sow discord, creating drama between people. His body language signals his intent to deceive by winking, his hands to draw the observer's attention to specific information, and draws the unsuspecting person away from safety with his feet.



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE

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## Proverbs

In this season, we are bombarded with information that is laced with false reasoning, lofty arguments, and “too good to be true” promises. The call within Scripture is to “test everything; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We can wisely observe a person’s speech to determine their character. Jesus taught that “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). A pure heart produces gracious, life-giving speech; however an evil heart will spread lies like the overflow from a septic tank.

The most susceptible to deceit are often our children and our elderly. I encourage you to have pointed conversations with your loved ones about how to protect themselves from individuals who desire to take advantage of them. Internet safety, stranger danger, and financial schemes must become a topic to be revisited over and over again. We are children of God, followers of Jesus Christ, “who became to us wisdom from God” (1 Corinthians 1:30). We have direct access to the Father who will help us to walk with Him with discernment and wisdom.

### Questions:

1. How can we increase in spiritual discernment and wisdom? Read James 1:5 and Philippians 1:9 for the key.
2. Smooth talk and flattery are strategies to deceive (Romans 16:18). What are some ways you can recognize and resist them? See Colossians 2:6-8 for encouragement.
3. Do you practice any of the behaviors described in Proverbs 6:12-15? Take a few minutes for self-analysis and confession (Psalm 139:23-24).