



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 6:20-35

**20** My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

**21** Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck.

**22** When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

**23** For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

**24** to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

**25** Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

**26** for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.

**27** Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?

**28** Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

**29** So is he who goes into his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

**30** People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry,


**31** but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house.

**32** He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.

**33** He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away.

**34** For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge.

**35** He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts.



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 6:20-35

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"Follow your heart." How many of you have ever heard this? "The heart wants what the heart wants." Sound familiar? I've heard these two sayings my whole life. It was advice usually given regarding relationships, or, if I had a feeling about a particular thing, then it must have been my heart leading me, therefore, I should follow my heart. Would you say it's wise to believe and trust either of these sayings?


Verses 20-21 of our passage say to bind your "father's commandment" and "mother's teaching" on your heart always. This echoes the words of Moses' reminder to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:5-6: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."

It all begins with the heart. We must love the Lord our God with all our hearts, first and foremost.

Hearts that love the Lord desire to honor their fathers' and mothers' teachings and in doing so, obey the Lord's commands. What begins with a command to "keep [our] father's commandments" (verse 20) and to "bind them on [our] heart" (verse 21), ends in a promise: "When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you (verse 22)." Who wouldn't want a loving, Heavenly Father, leading and guiding them on the path to righteousness?

This particular passage is a father's warning against adultery. I'm reminded of Matthew 15:18-19, which says, "But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander." So back to my question, do we think it's wise to "follow our hearts"?

Psalms 119:9-11: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." "You will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29). Hiding God's Word in our heart helps us to not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11).



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Countless times I have followed my heart, and it led me down paths of ruin, heartache, brokenness, being wise in my own eyes, and separated from God. I spent much of my life desiring the things Amber's heart wanted. But when I sought the Lord with my whole heart, I found Him. The life I now live has a heart that says, "I want You to lead me, Lord."

Psalms 139:23 says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart!" May we let Him examine our hearts so that He can lead us in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:24).

## **Questions:**

1. Have you sought the Lord with your whole heart?
2. Do you make a practice of hiding God's Word in your heart? Why or why not? The Bible Memory app is a great tool to use when trying to memorize Scripture.
3. In what ways have you followed your heart? Where has that led you?