**Lesson #3 God’s Word Is A Seed… We Guard It In Our Hearts! Part Two**

*As with any gardening that we do, once we get that seed into the ground, we have to nourish it, watch over it, and protect it from predators. In the kingdom of God this looks like:*

**Matthew 13:19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it,* then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

*HOW DO YOU GUARD YOUR HEART? If something is being taught that is illuding you… find someone to explain it differently. Don’t let this be a stressor but seek to understand what you are reading and hearing from God’s word.*

**Luke 17:1-4** Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! **2**It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. **3Take heed to yourselves**. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. **4**And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall **forgive him**.”

*HOW DO YOU GUARD YOUR HEART? Forgiving. When we hold unforgiveness toward someone it hurts our own heart. Unforgiveness turns to resentment. Resentment turns to bitterness.* **Luke 17:3** Take heed to yourselves*… forgive for your heart’s health. Forgiveness is not saying it’s okay what someone did. It is saying, “They don’t owe me anything… I release them of all debt to me.” Forgiving breaks any counterproductive ties of our hearts to people we interact with. We don’t want to have unhealthy connections with others because our hearts can only be as receptive toward God as what they are free from entanglements with others.*

*Important point. God has already given us all things in Christ Jesus. He’s never withholding …it is the condition of our hearts that enables us to take hold of our relationship with Him and receive all He has for us. Our hearts are very important. It says in …* **Proverbs 4:23** Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. *Everything comes forth out of our hearts… the good we receive and the bad we deal with.*

**John 14:1** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me….

**Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7**and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

*HOW DO YOU GUARD YOUR HEART? Rolling the burden of your own soul onto the Lord. Trusting Him to take care of ALL OF YOU.*

**Jeremiah 29:13** And you will seek Me and find *Me,* when you search for Me with all your heart.

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**Proverbs 3:1-8** My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands;
**2**For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.

**3**Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart,**4***And* so find favor and high esteem
In the sight of God and man. **5**Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding; **6**In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. **7**Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil. **8**It will be health to your flesh, and strengthto your bones.

*HOW DO WE WRITE ON OUR HEART?* **Psalms 45:1** *says* My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer. *The words we speak to others and to ourselves are the act of us writing upon the tablet of our heart.* **Proverbs 18:21a** Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue… *speak life… choose life!*

**Proverbs 4:20-23** My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.
**21**Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;
**22**For they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.
**23**Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.

*God’s word is life and health… we attend, incline, and keep… we are diligent!*

*God’s word is a seed. We plant, tend, and guard… then we expect a harvest!*

*The Bible tells us what the word of God is:*

 A lamp **Psalm 119:105**

A two-edged sword **Hebrews 4:12**

A sword **Ephesians 6:17**

A strong tower **Proverbs 18:10**

A sure foundation **2 Peter 1:19-21**

A seed **Mark 4:4**

A mirror **James 1:23-25, 2 Corinthians 3:18**

A fire, A hammer **Jeremiah 23:29**

A weapon **Isaiah 59:19**

A healer **Psalm 107:20**

*This is the short list… the word of God is so big, so all encompassing, so everything!*

*As you read through your Bible notice what God says about His word and about your heart.*

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1. What are 3 important ways that I guard my heart?

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