

“Lock The Door!”

This week's Focus is a little “food for thought” to serve as a reminder for all of us how easy it is for things to go awry, and how quickly it can happen. Yesterday I had to run into town for a few things, and decided to leave Willow at home since I didn't plan on being gone long. Imagine my surprise (and my chagrin!) when I got home an hour or so later, and saw my front door wide open, and Willow laying out in my covered entrance! The storm door was unlocked, so my house was not secured while I was gone.

After going through the house to make sure nothing had been stolen, I thought of the old saying “garbage in - garbage out.” Here's what Proverbs 4:23-27 says in the NLT: *“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.”*

You might be scratching your head right now, wondering what in the world any of this has to do with my front door being wide open. In Proverbs 4:23 God tells us to guard our hearts ABOVE ALL ELSE. What does that mean? It means when I am channel surfing on the TV and come to a station that is airing ungodly content, I need to move on, not pause and allow temptation to lure me. It means when I am on the internet and I'm tempted to go to sites I know I shouldn't, I need to resist that temptation and move on.

It means when I am in the presence of an attractive person of the opposite sex, I need to keep my thoughts pure and righteous, and not give in to improper thoughts or actions. It means when I'm in a situation where I could take advantage of, or cheat someone, I need to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. It means I always choose to pursue righteous behavior and not succumb to temptation of any kind.

It means that I keep the door of my heart LOCKED to keep the enemy from coming in and looting and ransacking my moral character. I can tell you from very personal experience, if you don't “move on,” if you pause and open any of the “doors” I mentioned, it's an open invitation for Satan to come in and do irreparable damage, and once the damage is done, it's not easily repaired! Guard your heart! *“Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.”* Amen!