

**Victory Connect Lesson**  
**Proverbs: "Guarding the Gates"**  
**Pastor Paul Daugherty**  
**May 21, 2023**

**Key Verse:** [Pro 4:23 NKJV] 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [spring] the issues of life.

*Many people today spend a lot of money and effort to guard material things that will perish. Do we give that same level of attention to protect what matters most? It is up to you to guard your heart. Own your own gates.*

**1. Solomon turned his heart to other gods later in life.**  
[1Ki 11:4-5 NKJV] 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; ... 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination....

**Three Gates to Guard:**

**1. Guard Your Heart**

[Pro 4:23 NIV] 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

**2. Guard Your Mind**

[Pro 23:19 CSB] 19 Listen, my son, and be wise; keep your mind on the right course.

**3. Guard Your Mouth**

[Pro 21:23 NIV] 23 Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.

**Three Ways to Guard Your Heart**

**1. Guard your heart with the Word of God.**

[Pro 30:5 KJV] 5 Every word of God [is] pure: he [is] a **shield** unto them that put their trust in him.

**2. Guard your heart with Faith.**

[Pro 29:18 ESV] 18 Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint,... *We guard against complacency with a vision of faith.*

[Pro 23:18 NLT] 18 **You will be rewarded for this;** your hope will not be disappointed.

**3. Guard your heart with Worship.**

[Pro 14:27 NLT] 27 Fear of the LORD is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Share a time the Word shielded you from the enemy.
2. Share an area of life where you renewed your mind.
3. What is your faith vision for your family?

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