

Proverbs 23:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Analysis

'My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways'—this fatherly appeal (ultimately God's) requests complete devotion. Giving one's heart means total commitment of affections, will, and allegiance. Observing God's ways means carefully studying and imitating His character and commands. Heart-giving must precede and enable way-following. External conformity without heart transformation is worthless; God desires truth in the inward parts. The greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart (Matthew 22:37). This is conversion's essence: transferring heart allegiance from self and sin to God. Having given hearts to God, we naturally observe and follow His ways.

Historical Context

Covenant relationship required wholehearted devotion, not divided loyalty. Israel repeatedly failed by giving hearts to idols while maintaining religious externals. God demands total allegiance.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Have you given your heart fully to God, or do you maintain divided loyalties?
2. What competes for your heart's allegiance that needs to be surrendered to God?

Interlinear Text

תִּתֵּן	בְּנִי	לִבִּי	לִי	וְעֵינֶי יְיָ	דְרָכַי	תִּשְׁמְרוּ:
give	My son	me thine heart	H0	and let thine eyes	my ways	observe
H5414	H1121	H3820		H5869	H1870	H7521

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:2 (Parallel theme): Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Proverbs 3:1 (Parallel theme): My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

Proverbs 4:23 (Parallel theme): Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Ephesians 3:17 (Parallel theme): That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Proverbs 4:4 (Parallel theme): He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.