

Proverbs 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

Analysis

Guarding discretion and preserving knowledge requires attentiveness to wisdom. The Hebrew 'shamar' (keep/observe) and 'natsar' (preserve/guard) emphasize protective custody. Discretion and knowledge won't maintain themselves - they require vigilant defense against loss. This verse warns that wisdom, once gained, can be lost through neglect. Continuous effort preserves what careless inattention squanders.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's persistent apostasy illustrated this principle - each generation required intentional transmission of covenant knowledge or it was lost. Judges records repeated cycles of faithfulness, neglect, apostasy, oppression. The warning here anticipates generational knowledge loss when diligence lapses.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What discretion or knowledge have you lost through inattention, and how can you recover it?
2. What daily practices help you guard wisdom rather than allowing it to erode?
3. How can you ensure the next generation receives wisdom you've gained?

Interlinear Text

לְשׁוֹנְךָ	מְזִמָּה	וְיָדְעָה	וְשִׁפְתֶיךָ	יִנְצְרוּ:
That thou mayest regard	discretion	knowledge	and that thy lips	may keep
H8104	H4209	H1847	H8193	H5341

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:23 (Parallel theme): The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

Proverbs 15:7 (Parallel theme): The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

Song of Solomon 4:11: Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.

Psalms 45:2 (Parallel theme): Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

Psalms 119:13 (Parallel theme): With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

Psalms 71:15 (Parallel theme): My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.

Proverbs 15:2 (Parallel theme): The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Proverbs 10:21 (Parallel theme): The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

