

# Proverbs 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift  
in running to mischief,

## Analysis

---

A heart that devises wicked imaginations - internal thought-life manufacturing evil schemes. The verse exposes sin's origin in the heart's planning before expression in conduct. Jesus teaches that external sins flow from internal corruption (Matt 15:19). The 'devising' suggests creativity applied to evil - fallen human reason invents new ways of sinning. This requires heart transformation through regeneration.

## Historical Context

---

Continues the list of abominations (v.16-19). Ancient wisdom recognized sin's origin in internal thought-life, requiring not just behavior modification but heart transformation.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. What wicked imaginations does your heart devise that haven't yet been acted upon?

2. How does the gospel address the heart-level sins that precede outward actions?

## Interlinear Text

---

לֵב	חַרְשׁ	מַחְשָׁבֹת	אָוֶן	רַגְלַיִם	מִמָּהֵר
An heart	that deviseth	imaginings	wicked	feet	that be swift
H3820	H2790	H4284	H205	H7272	H4116
לָרֹץ	לְרָעָה:				
in running	to mischief				
H7323	H7451				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Genesis 6:5** (Evil): And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**Proverbs 1:16** (Evil): For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

**Jeremiah 4:14** (Evil): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

**Romans 3:15** (Parallel theme): Their feet are swift to shed blood:

**Isaiah 59:7** (Evil): Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

**Psalms 36:4** (Evil): He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

**Proverbs 24:8** (Evil): He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

**Zechariah 8:17** (Evil): And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.

**Micah 2:1** (Evil): Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)