

Proverbs 6:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

Analysis

Can a man take fire into his bosom without burning his clothes? The rhetorical question expects negative answer: impossible. Fire inevitably burns what it contacts. Similarly, sexual sin inevitably produces destructive consequences. The Hebrew 'esh' (fire) and 'sarap' (burn) create vivid imagery. Playing with sexual temptation while expecting to avoid consequences is as foolish as embracing fire while expecting not to burn.

Historical Context

Throughout Scripture, fire metaphorically represents both divine holiness and destructive judgment. Sexual sin burns - it consumes everything it touches: relationships, reputation, spiritual sensitivity, peace. James 1:14-15 describes sin's progression from desire to action to death. The fire imagery captures sin's consuming nature.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'fire' are you carrying in your bosom while naively thinking you won't be burned?
2. How have you witnessed sin's 'burning' consequences despite attempts to manage or control it?
3. What immediate action would remove dangerous 'fire' before burning begins?

Interlinear Text

אִם	יֵהְיֶה	אִישׁ	עַל	הַגָּחַל	יְרַגְלֵי	לֹא	תִכְוֶינָה:
H518	go	Can one	H5921	upon hot coals	and his feet	H3808	not be burned
	H1980	H376		H1513	H7272		H3554

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