

Proverbs 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

Analysis

Let not your heart turn to her ways; don't stray into her paths. The Hebrew 'satah' (turn aside/deviate) and 'ta'ah' (err/wander) warn against directional departure. Heart-turning precedes foot-wandering. First internal desire, then external action. Guard the heart, and behavior follows. Proverbs 4:23 commands: 'Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.' Heart purity produces life purity.

Historical Context

Biblical anthropology consistently teaches that heart condition determines life direction. Jesus taught: 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh' (Matthew 12:34) and 'From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts' (Mark 7:21). Behavior modification without heart transformation fails. True change requires renewed hearts producing renewed lives.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What heart 'turnings' toward temptation precede behavioral compromise in your life?
2. How can you guard your heart more carefully to prevent behavioral wandering?
3. What practices cultivate heart affections aligned with God's ways rather than sin's ways?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵתִי בָּזְקִינְתָּה
H5410 **in her paths**

אַל יֵשְׁטַּת אַל יֵשְׁטַּת אַל יֵשְׁטַּת
H7847 H413 H1870 **decline to her ways**

לְבָבְךָ יְבָבֵךְ לְבָבְךָ יְבָבֵךְ
H3820 H408 **Let not thine heart go not astray**

בְּנֵתִי בָּזְקִינְתָּה:

in her paths

H5410

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 5:8 (Parallel theme): Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

Isaiah 53:6 (Parallel theme): All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Proverbs 6:25 (Parallel theme): Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.