

Why We Must Control Our Spirit.

Text: Proverbs 25:28

Introduction:

1. Solomon, in our text, is comparing the ruling of our own spirit with a city that has its walls broken down and without protection.
 - a. As a city of 'old', the walls gave protection for those within.
 - i. A sense of security and comfort.
 - ii. A protection from the evil that resided outside the walls.
 - b. As the Great Wall of China was to provide protection from the marauding hordes from without.
 - c. As a castle with its high walls was to provide protection for those within the castle
 - d. As a fort on the frontier to provide protection for those who ventured into the wilderness.
 - e. As our own homes of today that give us protection from the elements and somewhat protection from those who wish to do us harm.
2. As all of the above mentioned walls are of no use if non-existent or broken down, so is our own spirit.

Therefore this morning, we are going to look at our Scripture text to see why we are to control our own spirit.

I. **If not, we are likened unto a city with broken walls.**

- A. Walls that are of no defense if broken.
 1. Either due to poor building or of ill repair.
 2. Of no use anymore.
- B. Spiritually our defenses are broken down.
 1. Either due to poor building.
 - a. Of the wrong faith. (**Ephesians 4:4-6; Jude 3**)
 - b. Of a weak faith. (**Matthew 6:25-33; Mark 8:26; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6**)
 2. Of ill repair.
 - a. Not prepared. (**Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; James 4:7-10**)
 - b. Not in 'battle' gear (**Ephesians 6:13-20**)

II. **If not, we have *no guard against the outside influences*.**

- A. As a fort without walls anything inside is without protection.
 1. Easily influenced from anything outside the walls.
 2. Soon becomes permeated with the outside influences.
- B. Spiritually we become susceptible to anything that goes.
 1. With our guard that has been let down. (**James 1:12-15**)
 2. Allowing every wind of doctrine to influence us. (**Ephesians 4:13-15; 2 Peter 2:1-3**)
 3. No sense of direction anymore – strayed from the path. (**John 14:6**)

4. Allowing peer pressure to undermine godliness. (**Psalm 1:1-6**)
5. Being just like everyone else in the world. (**1 Samuel 8:1-7**)

III. **If not, we have *become victims of outside influences*.**

- A. As a fort without strong walls, it is not long before those within the fort are like those outside
 1. As a leaven that leavens a loaf of bread dough.
 2. As a stronger foe taking control.
- B. Spiritually we succumb to sin, snare and the temptation of the devil. (**James 1:13-15**)
 1. Returning to that from which we came from. (**2 Peter 2:20-22**)
 2. No longer following the path to eternal life. (**Proverbs 2:13, 12:28**)
 3. No longer on the narrow path but on the broad path. (**Matthew 7:13-14**)
 4. No longer naming Jesus as our Lord. (**Luke 6:46; Galatians 6:7; Hebrews 5:9**)
 5. No longer caring about our own soul (*so tragic*). (**Matthew 16:26**)

Conclusion:

1. We must forever be '*On-Guard*' in controlling our own spirit.
2. We must never let our guard down for one moment, because Satan will take advantage of our weakness. (**1 Peter 5:8**)
3. We can control our spirits by keeping ourselves in the love of God - (**Jude 21**)
4. We can control our spirits by looking upward (**toward heaven – Philippians 3:20**) rather looking inward (*to self -- selfishness*).
5. We can control our spirits by asking God to help us in our prayer life.
6. We can control our spirits by asking God to increase our faith. (**Luke 17:5**)
7. Yes, each and every one of us can control our spirits with the help of God.