

Parenting with Promise # 3

# Proverbs 4<sup>23</sup>

## The heart of our children

Lord's day evening: 24 June 2007  
Preacher: Geoff Findlay

### Introduction

Do we want Pharisees or Christ-followers?

The Father-heart of God & our hearts for our children

### 1. Their hearts are the core issue

*As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man* Prov 27<sup>19</sup>

⇒ We need to bypass behaviour

### 2. Their hearts are deep

*The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters* Prov 20<sup>5</sup>

⇒ We need to dig deep

### 3. Their hearts are bound up with foolishness

*Folly is bound up in the heart of a child* Prov 22<sup>15</sup>

⇒ We need to cut carefully

### 4. Their hearts are a battleground

*My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways* Prov 23<sup>26</sup>

⇒ We need to expose enemies

### 5. Their hearts are the wellspring of life

*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life* Prov 4<sup>23</sup>

⇒ We need to point them to Christ

### Conclusion

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

### Discussion



### Questions answered



God desires that we obey Him. How does He go about it?



Can we presume that our children are regenerate (have a new heart)?



What is likely to happen if we focus only on behavioural issues and ignore the deeper issues of the heart?



Are we responsible to explore the depths of our children's hearts with them? How can a man of understanding draw things out of the depths of the heart?



When our children behave foolishly, instead of getting annoyed & angry, what should we focus on? What aspect of the Father-heart of God will this promote within us?



What does the Scripture say we can use to seek to cut the cords of folly entwined around our children's hearts? With what attitude must this be administered?



What else can we use to help our children to be set free from foolishness?



In what sense are the hearts of our children a battleground? Who has a legitimate claim on their hearts? Who resents and resists this?



Who is responsible to expose the enemies that prey upon our children's hearts?



Is the heart designed to be a wellspring of life? When is it a wellspring of life?

What are some of the gospel promises we should be sharing with our children?



### Things to pray about



The sovereign, miraculous working of God within the hearts of our children



### Search the Scriptures



What else do the Scriptures say about the hearts of our children?



What are some strategies for helping our children to understand their own hearts?