



Scott Turansky, Senior Pastor  
August 3, 2014

## PROVERBS 6:20-7:27

Proverbs Series

Let's take a moment and pray and come before the Lord.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we're coming before you as humble people. Lord, take the worship that we've just experienced, acknowledging your greatness and our weakness to prepare us for the message that you have from your word for us. Teach us how to come to your word regularly with that sense of weakness and desperateness and in need of your wisdom. We thank you for the ministry at Calvary Chapel here and for the people that are here. We ask that you would continue to grow each one of us spiritually. Thank you for the opportunity that we have our paths to cross on Sunday morning for a short period of time. We pray that during this period of time you would use it as a stimulant in our spiritual lives to grow us to be the kind of people you want us to be. We dedicate ourselves to you now as we open your word. In Jesus' name, amen.

[Announcements 00:57 - 03:10]

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we're coming to you again and just asking you to speak to us as we continue on in this important study of your word. In Jesus' name, amen.

Turn with me to Proverbs 6. There's a myth today (young people, I want you to understand this) that you're going to hear at school, you're going to hear from friends, you're going to hear from the media. This is the myth: one of the rites of passage for young people is having sex. That you're not a man or you're not a woman unless you've had sex with someone. And if you haven't had sex with someone when you're a young person it means you haven't arrived yet, you haven't matured yet, and what are you waiting for. That is a lie and it's a myth you're going to have to deal with that comes at you on a regular basis.

Rather what God would have us understand is that the transition for childhood to adulthood has to do with wisdom. That's what the whole book of Proverbs is about. Gaining wisdom, understanding what that looks like, and, of course, the scriptures say *the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord*. So putting all of this into context we understand some valuable things about our hearts and our lives.

As we continue on in our study about our sexual passions we've already talked about some principles already. Principle number one is that sexual purity starts with the heart. That means not only are we going to evaluate our hearts, but if we have a problem in this area we're going to go to our hearts and we're going to deal with it on a heart level. Not just about behavior; it's about something going on in our hearts.

The second principle we saw is that an attraction isn't always good. Sometimes it's dangerous. So you have to have a grid up evaluating your attractions. Whether it's sexual passion or something else you must evaluate the passions that you have. Sometimes they are dangerous.

The third principle we saw is that God created sex and it is good. So we in the church are not down on sex. We as Christians are not down on sex. We are not. We are just embracing something that God has designed. It's something that's very good and we need to understand that in our lives.

When you become a Christian you give your life to the Lord and you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. That means that every area of your life is controlled by God. Your heart is given to the Lord. When something gets out of whack, when an area like sexual passion starts to increase beyond its boundaries it can create some real damage in your home. And so the solution, of course, is to rein it back in and that's by making Christ a greater passion than a sexual passion in your life. We'll come back more to that in just a little bit.

Look at Proverbs 6:20 now. It says, *My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart (your levav); fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.*

In other words all the time you're going to have these guiding you along the path. You'll know what these are. These are really important things you're learning from your parents, you're learning from God.

Verse 23: *For this command is a lamp* (that means it's lighting the way for you), *this teaching is a light* (so you're not walking around in the darkness), *and correction and instruction are the way to life (chaya)*. This word *chaya* is a beautiful word. It's the way to life, this life that we all need and we want.

Young people, you have a lot to learn. You want to listen, you want to pay attention. You want to grasp the truths and get them in your heart. If you have Christian parents you want to listen to those parents and what they have to say because God will speak to them. If you have parents that aren't Christians you need to listen to them because God can speak to them as well. You want to listen to what those parents have to say.

But I stopped in the middle of a sentence. I'm going to read the next part, but you've got to know the first part we talked about which is listen, listen, listen. Why? Verse 24 - *keeping you from your neighbor's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.*

See, lots of these instructions will give you light, they'll guide your path, but one of the things they're going to do is they're going to protect you from sexual immorality, keeping you from your neighbor's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.

*Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes.* Do you see in verse 25 where the lust takes place? It takes place in your heart. Continually we're going to have that coming back. You need to be able to evaluate this on a heart level. You need to look at your heart and the passions that you have in your heart. That's what's going to help you move forward. As we're going forward here, the fourth principle we're going to see here is that sexual immorality is destructive.

Look at verse 25 again. *Do not lust.* Now the word *lust* there in the Hebrew is the word *takh'mod*. It means desire. *Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes.* It's the same word used in the tenth commandment. Remember that commandment? Do not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's paddle, or your neighbor's wife. *Do not covet.* It's part of the Ten Commandments.

I want to show you a passage of scripture where the word is used also, which really illustrates the destructiveness of sin or passions gone wrong in our lives.

There's a story in the Old Testament of Joshua who had gone and they had conquered Jericho and they were on a spiritual high. "We have done it! Yes! God is with us! We're going forward." So they go to the next city and they're ready to conquer Ai and they fail miserably. Joshua is so discouraged. He's frustrated with God. "God, how can you do this to us? We're trying to follow you." And God says, "You've got sin in the camp."

Turns out that one man, Achan, when they went into Jericho, stole some stuff. Even though they were told "don't take anything," he stole some stuff and put it in his tent and buried it there. And now he's found out. So now Joshua goes around, finds out who he is, and he says to Achan, "Tell us, what did you do?"

Here's what Achan said. Look at these words. *Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord."* Notice the sin is against the Lord, not just against the people. *"I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done."*

Now watch the progression that takes place. *"When I saw – that's the first thing that happens; you see it. When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels [so he saw them first. They were attractive. They were valuable. That's where it starts. We see something and then we say, "Oh I really want that." Then it says] I coveted them [that's our word *takh'mod* – I desired them] and took them.* That's the third thing. Then I took them. I went and got them. In other words, he's followed through and his passions were not under control and he went and did something that was wrong.

*They are hidden.* So then he hid them. Wow. That is such a description of what happens when our passions get out of control in any area. If sexual passions, sexual immorality is destructive, you see, you desire, you take, you hide. It's the same things that are going on. They are hidden *in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.*

If you follow the story and look at the rest of it, which we won't take time to do right now, you'll see that Achan lost it all. He lost his reputation, he lost his family. He even lost his life. Going

after something just because his passions were not in control. Wow. It's dangerous. Sexual immorality is dangerous.

Back to Proverbs 6. Verse 26: *For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife preys on your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? That's like playing with sin. Can you do that? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?*

Verse 29: *So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.* Even when not caught by someone else it still damages you.

Verse 30: *People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. That's because there is compassion on a thief even. Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.* There's some sense of compassion for a thief. He doesn't have any food and he steals, he's going to get punished. But there's at least a sense of compassion for him.

*But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself.* There's no innocent person in sexual immorality. Sometimes you hear the words "if it's between two consenting adults then anything's okay." That's not what the Bible says. The Bible says that the person who commits sexual immorality damages himself. You destroy yourself. Sexual immorality is destructive.

I was looking at the Centers for Disease Control statistics this week. Young people, you've got to hear this. This is bizarre that this could be true. Centers for Disease Control estimate (this is a 2012 report) that nearly 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur every year in this country. In this country. We're not talking about Africa and AIDS. We're not talking about Southeast Asia and the trafficking. We're not talking about those. We're talking about in our country. Twenty million new sexually transmitted infections occur every year in the country. Half among young people ages 15-24.

And then it goes on to make this statement that could come out of the Bible. Each of these infections is the potential threat to an individual's immediate and long term health and well being. Well, good for the Centers for Disease Control for making such a statement.

It's destructive to get involved in sexually immorality. Abortion is out of control. People often get abortions because they got pregnant enjoying something they thought would be fun but not wanting a pregnancy. They just get an abortion and then they have to live with the pain for the rest of their lives. Sexual immorality often damages the marriage relationship, often reduces sexual performance or satisfaction in a marriage relationship.

Back to Proverbs 6:33. More pain comes from sexual immorality. *Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away. For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse a bribe, however great it is.*

When it says *he will show no mercy* that's in contrast to the previous verse where it says if a thief steals he's going to get punished, but at least you have some compassion on him. You don't have any compassion on a guy who has just committed sexual immorality. There's no compassion. He's just being selfish. Just thinking about himself or herself. It's sad.

There are dangers when it comes to pornography. Sexual immorality is dangerous whether it happens with another person or what happens in your mind as result of pornography. It's not harmless as some would suggest it is. An easy sexual high can be had through pornography, but it really messes with a person's heart.

Here are some of the damages. It robs men of their manly qualities. Someone who gets sucked into pornography stops leading appropriately as a man. It takes away their initiative to lead, interestingly enough. Porn reduces a man's ability to perform sexually. Real sex becomes more challenging, hindering his relationship with his wife. Porn changes the way men think about women. They become objects of satisfaction instead of a person that needs care and love.

Sexual immorality is dangerous. Be careful. The adulterous woman described in the passages we're talking about is available on the internet, taunting you and trying to suck you into her trap. That's the warning that Solomon is giving to his sons in chapter 6.

Let's read on to see what God has to say about this in chapter 7. Notice in chapter 7 it says, *My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.* That's the pupil of your eye.

In other words, if you get a speck in your eye everything stops. "I've got to stop here. I've got to fix my eye." Guard your heart like that. Make your heart so sensitive so that when something comes into your heart that's not appropriate, that shouldn't be there, your heart is just sensitive like your eye and you've got to stop. You've got to stop and deal with it lest it gets worse and you have a worse problem.

We've looked at three passages. The one in Proverbs 4 and 5, the second one is chapter 6, and the third one is chapter 7 – all dealing with sexual immorality. In each case the passages start with the heart. In chapter 4:23 it talks about the heart, in chapter 6:21 it starts about the heart, and here in chapter 7:3 it talks about the heart.

Do you see that in verse 3? *Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and to insight, "You are my relative."*

And here's why. You've got to understand that all three passages are not just saying stop sexual immorality. What they're saying first in every passage before they say that they first talk about what you should do. It's not just about stopping something. It's about doing something different. It's about doing something that's right, that your heart is going in the right place. In each one of those passages it's talking about listening to parents, guarding your heart, listening to instruction, caring for correction, all of those things. That's what you want to do.

Here's why. I want to draw another principle out of this that's really important for us in understanding sexual passion. We have to understand this principle because passions progress when fed.

What I see in this passage is this: if you're going to deal with a problem in your heart, a passion that's gone out of bounds and you're saying, "Man, I really let this get out of bounds in my life. I need to rein it in," how are you going to do that? Instead of feeding that passion, you want to feed another passion that's greater. You want to fight a passion with a passion. You have a greater passion for God.

In this passage it's talking about wisdom. We understand wisdom the way it's talked about here. It is a passion for God. If we have this greater passion for God we will be able to rein in that other passion. It's important for us to understand that that's how we become victorious. You don't just stop something. You replace it with something else and this greater passage is the thing that we're looking for.

Let me give you this illustration. It will help you remember it. If you were taking a garden hose that's flowing water and you try to stick your hand over it, it's really hard to stop that water from coming out. The water just keeps squirting out. That's like the passion that comes from your heart, sexual passion when it's out of bounds. But if at the source, at the faucet, you have a dual hose thing, you open them both up and water's able to flow out of another one. You stop this one up and it can flow out of the other one much easier.

We need that other passion going in our life. Once we open our heart to another passion it starts to flow there and we can then rein in this other one and we can control it. Purity is not primarily about sex. Purity is not primarily about what you do or don't do. Purity is not primarily about what you watch or read or say. Purity is about God. Purity is the personal decision to glorify God with your body, soul, and spirit.

So many times we talk about purity and we put it in terms of dos and don'ts. Can I go here? Should I read this book? Is it wrong to see this movie? Is this blouse too revealing? Should I listen to this music? Those are legitimate questions, but they are secondary to the real issue. God has a stake in your moral purity. He has called you to purity and He's greatly glorified when you walk in purity. The real question is not do I want this? or would I enjoy this? or do I need this? or is this okay? The real question is will this honor God?

In this case as we're going forward he's talking about another passion that we need to develop in our lives. Our hearts are kept in balance when our passion is focused on Jesus Christ. Our hearts are kept in balance not only sexual passions, but passions that have to deal with emotion or anger or a desire to work or a desire to play. All those passions can be kept in line when our passion is primarily centered on the Lord. That's where we are in verse 4.

Why is that the case? Let's look at verse 5. Why? Because *they will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words.*



Starting in the next verse we're about to see a story take place. It's going to unfold. As the story unfolds we're going to see a progression, a progression of a person who's getting sucked into an affair or into an illicit relationship.

Look at verse 6. Here's what I want to say. Sometimes in our lives we don't plan to get into trouble sexually. We don't plan it, but we walk in and we don't have the defenses built up. It's like you walk into a place where there's a virus and you're not protected in your heart from that virus. Your immune system isn't ready, and so what happens? You get infected, right? We need to have our spiritual defenses up so that our immunity is built up so that when we find ourselves tempted we're protected. That's what we're talking about here.

Listen to the progression that takes place. Watch what happens to this guy starting in verse 6. *At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. I saw among the simple* (that means a naïve person, someone who just doesn't get it), *I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense.*

Guys are so dense sometimes. They're foolish. They just get sucked in. Be careful. They get their ego built up and they can be drawn away so easily. Or they see curves and they go, "Ooh curves! Ah! I must go there!" And so we as guys get so sucked into things that we need to be careful. That's what he's saying. He has no sense. Man alive.

*He was going down the street near her corner* (what's he doing down there?), *walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.* It's still twilight. There's time to get out. What's he doing down there anyway? This is the danger zone.

I want to point out something, young people, to you. You have to understand this very important principle about sex and that is this: passions progress when they're fed. That's what we're talking about here in this particular one. In fact I would suggest that physical relationships always progress. You might even be in a relationship with a guy (if you're a girl you're in a relationship with a guy) and in that relationship you're with a Christian. But those relationships can progress too. You don't realize what's happening in the midst of this.

Let me draw this out for you. This is sex on paper. Number one, there's attraction. That's when you're attracted to something. You go, "Woo! Wow! I like that person," and your heart starts going in a particular direction. "Oh man this is good." We already talked about attraction. Sometimes they can be dangerous. But you're attracted to that person. There's sex on the other side.

Now there's a line that goes between attraction and sex and it has on it about fifty hash marks representing the physical things that happen between attraction and sex. They progress down that path.

I was sharing with a seventeen-year-old girl with her mom there in the office and she was interested in a guy, a Christian guy, and she wanted to do it right. So I said, "Well let me draw this out for you. Here's attraction. Here's sex. Here's a line between them. There's about fifty

things that happen physically between the two. You need to talk about this and think about it.” She says to me, “What are those fifty things?”

I said, “Well, I can’t tell you about those things over here by sex yet. I’ll tell you about those right before you get married. They’ll help you have a great sexual relationship in your marriage. I can’t tell you about those right now. But I’ll tell you what number one is. Here’s what’s going to happen. He’s going to reach over there and he’s going to hold your hand and you’re going to go, “WOO!” because that’s a hundred percent woo. Now the next day he’s going to come over there and he’s going to hold your hand the exact same way and you’re going to go, “woo!” because that’s eighty percent woo. So the next day he’s going to come over and he’s going to hold your hand the exact same way and you’re going to go, “whoop,” because that’s only forty percent woo.

So here’s what he’s going to do. He’s going to squeeze your hand. You’re going to go “WOO!” Now you’re a hundred percent woo again, but you’re at step number two.

So I told her and I wrote on the piece of paper for her physical relationships always progress. You need to know this. They always progress. Because you’re looking for that other “WOO!” in your life.

We have to guard our hearts, we have to set up some standards, some guidelines in order to protect ourselves from moving down that path quickly.

A couple months later she’s back in my office with this guy. I said, “What can I do for you now?”

“We wanted to ask your permission to hold hands,” because they wanted to do it right. So I said, “I’m really honored that you asked my permission. It sounds like you guys want to do the right thing. I’m really grateful.”

I said to her, “How old are you?”

She says, “I’m seventeen.”

I said, “How old do you want to be when you get married?”

“I don’t want to get married. I just want to hold hands.”

I said, “I know, but how old do you want to be when you get married?”

“Maybe twenty-two after I graduate from college.”

I said, “That’s five years. There’s fifty things. You have to budget them. I can’t give you permission to hold hands. Only God can do that. But I want you to know that when He gives you permission to do that you need to be content with holding hands and not be moving down the process because these physical relationships always progress.”

Look at verse 10 as we go on. Here’s this guy, this naïve guy, dense guy walking around down here and here’s what happens. Verse 10: *Then out came a woman to meet him (surprise!), dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.* That means she’s dressing in a way that advertises it.



Okay. We've got to talk to the young ladies here for just a moment. Sometimes I see young ladies, thirteen year old girls, that are dressed with tight clothes or revealing clothes or they're putting on makeup that looks like they're advertising something and they have no idea what they're doing. I just want you to know, ladies, that the way you dress can influence a guy significantly.

I was counseling with one thirteen year old girl, we were talking about this, and I said, "You know that if you dress in a particular way that's really provocative that you can motivate a guy to have an erection." She goes, "Ooh yuck!" She had no idea. I'm convinced that a lot of young ladies do not understand how they dress affects guys.

Now it's not wrong to wear make-up, generally. It's not wrong to look good and stylish. But there's a difference between that and looking provocative. You look at some girls with their tight tops today and you think, "Man, nobody should be wearing anything like that unless they're scuba diving." I used to scuba dive. When you're scuba diving you're on the lookout for sharks. I want you to know there are other sharks on land and they're looking for things like that that are tight.

What happens, girls, (you've got to understand this) is that you get guys looking at the wrong body parts. They should be looking at your heart and if you're attracting them to other body parts then they're missing the point. You're going to attract sharks. You're going to attract the wrong guys into the picture. Be careful about this.

I don't want to blame women for the sexual problems that guys have. It's not a girl's fault, guys, that your eyes start leading into some problems in your life. You need to be able to manage your own sexuality.

I'm convinced it takes a very Spirit-filled person to live in our western culture, to live where we are because (girls, you should understand this) guys are attracted by what they see. And every time we turn around we're seeing some product being advertised with a beautiful woman. What does beautiful woman have to do with beer? But they're hoping that while we're looking at the beautiful woman we might notice their product that they're holding. So we want to be careful. I'd just encourage you – guys, you've got to be careful about what you see; girls, you want to be careful about what you dress. It's a problem.

She *dressed like a prostitute with crafty intent*. I don't think some of the girls dress with crafty intent today, but you need to know what happens in the midst of that dynamic because it's the crafty intent demonstrated by her dress that sucks this guy in because he's attracted by what he sees.

Verse 11: (*She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.*) That's describing modern advertising today. Every time we turn around we're seeing something. Pop-up ads come up advertising all kinds of things.

Verse 13: *She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face* (in other words just a straight out face) *she said* (notice what she says – spiritual language): *“Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home.”*

She’s talking God talk. This is amazing to me. You’ve got to understand this. Guys and girls, I want you to know that just because a person starts talking God talk doesn’t mean they’re saved on the inside. Just because a person talks about God doesn’t mean that they are the person you want to connect with.

First of all, if you’re going to get involved in a relationship with someone, you want to make sure they’re a Christian, but that is not enough. You want to make sure they’re a Christian who’s going somewhere with the Lord. That’s really important. You can’t be just content with someone who says they are a Christian because sometimes they say that but either they don’t know what it means or they may be using that to get hold of you or something. But it’s not what you want. Make sure that they’re going places with the Lord, that their passions are being reined in by their own passion for God. That’s what you’re looking for is a passion for God inside of them.

Verse 15 here’s what she says: *“So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!”* Oh my goodness. Guys are so gullible. “I’m so glad I found you. You’re just what I’m looking for. Oh I want you.”

Verse 16: *I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.* This is temptation. Lots of benefits, looks really attractive. The attraction of sexual temptation can be huge. You have to be on guard. You have to have a defense system in place because you never know when something like this may happen.

Verse 18 she says, *Come, let’s drink deeply of love till morning; let’s enjoy ourselves with love!* You can contrast that drinking of love with what we saw in chapter 6:15 where it says *drink from your own cistern.* In other words, get your sexual needs met within your marriage relationship.

Notice what she continues to say in verse 19. *My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.*” No one will ever know. He’ll never find out. We can get away with this.

Verse 21: *With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.* A guy gets so excited to know that someone is interested in him. Male egos are so fragile it’s amazing. Us males are so insecure that sometimes a girl at the office or a girl that you met somewhere she can start talking to you and you go, “Oh wow. Isn’t that nice.”

See, a wife really loves you. A wife will say, “Honey, you’re not going to wear that shirt are you? Because that shirt doesn’t go with those pants.”

And you go, “Oh I can’t believe it. She’s always criticizing my clothes.” You go back, “Just forget it. I’m going to go.”

You go to work and the gal at work says, “Ooh I like your outfit,” and you say, “You know, I was thinking the same thing when I put those clothes on this morning.” She just sucks us in with her seductive words.

Notice what happens. Look at verse 22: *All at once he followed her*. All at once. Did it happen all at once? We saw some progression here, but all at once he came to that point where he was sucked in.

He starts following her *like an ox going to the slaughter* (three illustrations of animals here), *like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life*.

These are all examples of common practices that animals have and they didn't realize they were common practices. If we don't have defenses up, we aren't aware, we aren't sensitive, then we can easily fall into the trap.

The ox is just walking down the path like he usually does, doesn't know that the end of *this* path there's going to be a knife that's going to slit his throat. This deer doesn't realize as he's walking down the path that he's going to step into a noose there and he's going to get pulled up and then they're going to shoot an arrow into his liver. The bird's just being curious (and there's a lot said today about sex and curiosity that gets people going in the wrong direction – they don't have defenses up) and so the bird's just being curious, doesn't realize it's going to cost him his life. That's what traps are. They take advantage of habits and tendencies that we have.

So if you have a habit of following your heart or doing whatever you feel like doing or following your desires or going after your passions then you are an easy target. Be careful. If you role-play sexual acts in your mind over and over again it's an easy step into adultery or fornication.

So Solomon is warning his kids here. It's a clear warning. In verse 24 he's pleading with them. Just look at what it says in verse 24 and take this to heart in your own life. *Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths*.

Do you see the word *heart* there? We're back to where we started. *Do not let your heart* – it's not let your feet. Don't let your heart go there. That's where he starts. Don't let your heart turn to her ways. Amazing because the heart is made up of two things (the heart is made up of a bunch of things), but desire and emotion together make up passions. So we must keep those in control inside of our hearts because our heart is the place where things happen.

Verse 26: *Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death*. Chambers of death. Quality of life is just totally gone.

Maybe today you look at your life and you realize you really messed up in this area. Maybe you're addicted to sex. Maybe you had an abortion. Maybe you're involved with pornography. I don't want to leave you with the end of chapter 7. I want to bring you to a sixth principle. I told

you there were seven earlier; there are only six. I got my numbers mixed up. There are only six and the sixth principle is very important. I'm going to take it from another passage and I'm going to bring that in here so we understand God and what He has for us.

In this principle number 6 is this: God brings power, healing, and restoration in a person's life. I want to take you to the book of Joel. The book of Joel is a great little book, three chapters long. I'd encourage you to read it. It's a story that takes place in the time of Judah's history. The people of Judah had kind of taken God for granted. They were moving away from God, they weren't really paying attention to the Lord, like happens in a lot of our lives today. It so happened at that time that this big natural disaster took place – locusts. A huge swarm of locusts came through and ate up all the crops. Years of farming set them back. It's amazing.

In fact Joel 1 says that the swarm of locusts came through and *what the locust swarm has left the great locusts ate*. And when the *large locusts were done the small locusts ate; what the small locusts have left other locusts ate*. That's what it says. In other words, everything was gone. They were just so upset.

So in the midst of this natural disaster, God speaks to Joel and Joel gives a word to the Lord to talk to them about a spiritual disaster that had taken place in their hearts. He wanted them to understand what that was and to make some changes, how they had drifted from the Lord. He talks about the day of the Lord, the serious day of the Lord and what's going to happen on the day of Lord. He says to them, "Your heart needs to change." That's what he says. You give your heart to the Lord. That's what he's saying to them. *Anyone who comes to the Lord*, he says, *will be saved*. And then he says this: "And God is loving. He is abounding in love, He's gracious, slow to anger, and He will repay you for the years that the locusts have eaten." Wow.

Do you need that? Do you need that restoration? Because if you spent years allowing your passions to get out of control, they're damaging you, they're hurting you. If you have done some things that you recognize are wrong, they're damaging you. I just want you to know that the solution is to have a passion for God. Because when you come to God then He will repay you for the years that the locusts have eaten.

Now here's the fun part about the story. Peter in the New Testament in Acts 2 is going to preach a sermon. All the people are gathering. The Holy Spirit's come down on them. And all the people are there from all over the world listening to him. He's going to preach a sermon and three thousand people are going to get saved. He quotes this story from Joel 2. He quotes the passage and he says, "*All who call in the name of the Lord will be saved*." And three thousand make a decision that day to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They needed Him. They recognized that.

You see, today we're talking about sex and sexual passion. But that ought to draw you to your heart. It's a very sensitive issue in our lives and I want you to know if you've never accepted Jesus Christ into your heart that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. Saved. And, if we continue the passage, (Peter didn't quote this part) it says He *will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten*.

God wants to do healing in your life. He wants to empower you to overcome the problems that exist inside your heart and He wants to restore you, He wants to save you. It starts with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Have you made that commitment to Him? It means that you talk to the Lord and you say, “Lord, I know I am a sinner. Lord, you know I’m a sinner. I’m just admitting to you, I’m confessing to you that I am a sinner and I know I need a Savior. I want to ask you to come into my life to control me.”

When He comes into our lives, where does He come and live? In the heart. And when He comes into the heart He gives us a new heart first of all, the Bible says, but He changes our values. Wow. This is the most important decision you’ll ever make.

Young people, I just want you to think for a moment about where you are in life. This is a great time for you to dedicate your life fully to the Lord. There’s a lot of people who lived a number of years and regret the number of things they’ve done. You can start right now with a passion for Jesus Christ that will drive you forward. Whatever you’ve done wrong, wherever you are in life, dedicate yourself to the Lord and you will have that *chaya*, that life that He promises to us in the book of Proverbs. Amen?

If God is speaking to you and you’d like to get saved today then as we sing this next song I want you to slip down, step over there to our prayer counselors, have them pray to you, and ask Jesus Christ to come into your life today. Dedicate your heart to Him. We are needy people and we need God every hour of our lives.

Let’s stand together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we do thank you for what you’ve done for us in salvation. We thank you for the cross. We thank you for the privilege we have to serve you. We’re asking now, Lord, that you would do a deep work in our hearts. Bring our passions in line. We want to make you the Lord of our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.