

Keep Your



HEART


with all diligence

For out of it spring the issues of life.

The Discipline of Wisdom - Proverbs 4:1-27

Keep Your **HEART** with all diligence

The Bible Heart




"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."
(Proverbs 4:23)

- ◆ The Bible Heart - (kardia) – Thayer, 2b) "the centre and seat of spiritual life; the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavours..."
- ◆ Heart in Hebrew can refer to one's emotions (*Prov. 12:25; 13:12; 14:10, 13*) but most often to his intellect (*such as understanding, 10:8; discernment, 15:14; reflection, 15:28*), or will (5:12).

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- ◆ **Thinks** - Mt 9:4; 15:19
- ◆ **Believes** - Rom 10:10
- ◆ **Trusts** - Prov - 3:5
- ◆ **Loves** - Mt 22:37
- ◆ **Wills** - Ex 35:29
- ◆ **Reasons** - Mark 2:6,8

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2 Chronicles 12:14 (NKJV)
¹⁴ And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.

Ezra 7:10 (NKJV)
¹⁰ For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.



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- ◆ **"Keep it"**—"guard it," or "watch over it."
- ✦ Implies value & the importance of the heart.
- ✦ Implies the need for the heart to be protected and guarded - it is in danger or jeopardy -

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◆ "With all vigilance" -

✧ Literally, the Hebrew text says, "more than all vigilance," or "more than all guarding," "more than all protecting," keep your heart.

✧ Your most valuable, important possession & your most pressing & important obligation - (*Prov 23:7*)



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◆ "Satan's target" - (your emotions, mind, volition)

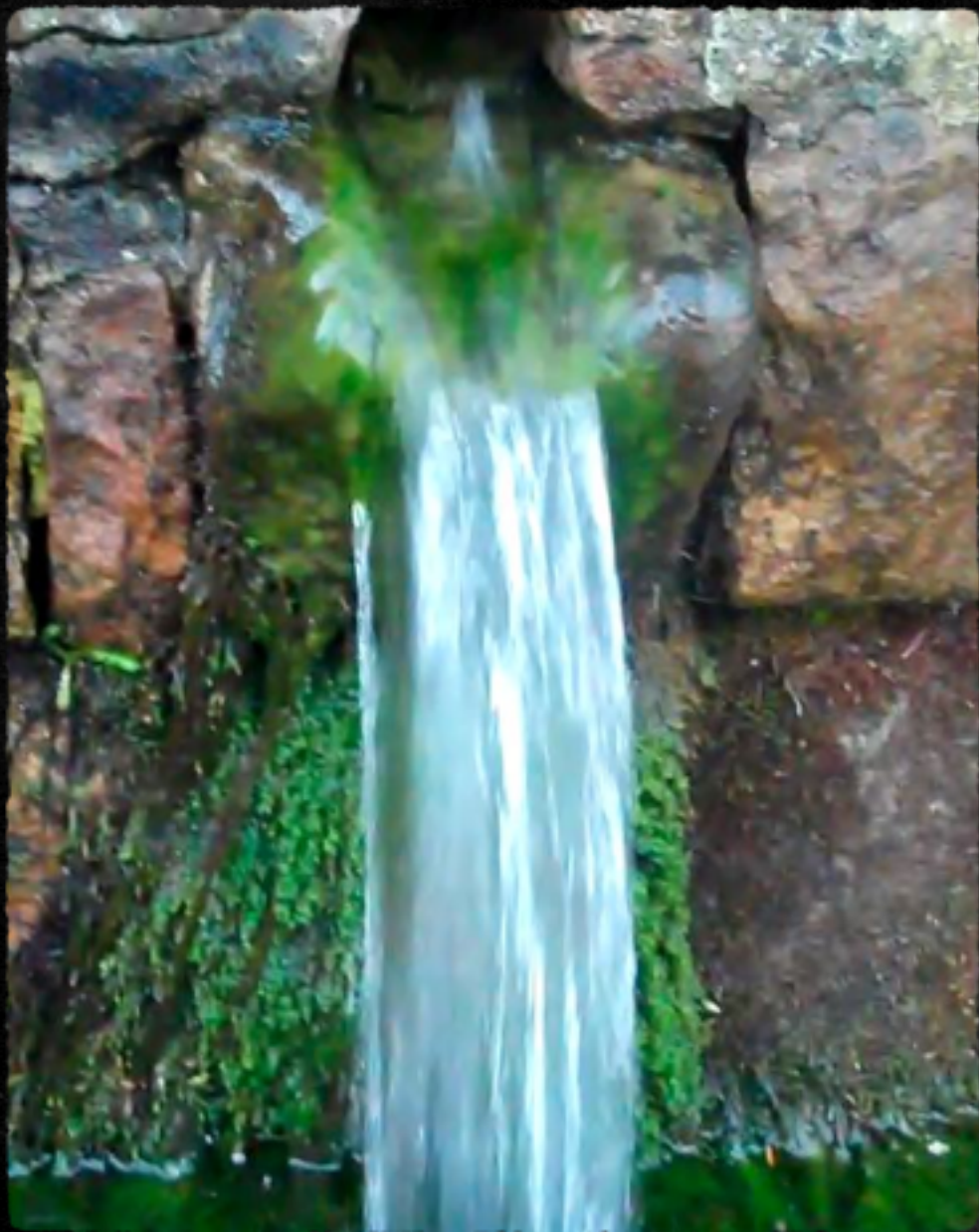
- ✦ Corrupt thinking & attitude
- ✦ Destroy faith - (*create doubt, fear, anxiety, hopelessness . . .*)
- ✦ Erosion of moral & doctrinal belief's
- ✦ Erosion of character & integrity
- ✦ Erosion of conscience



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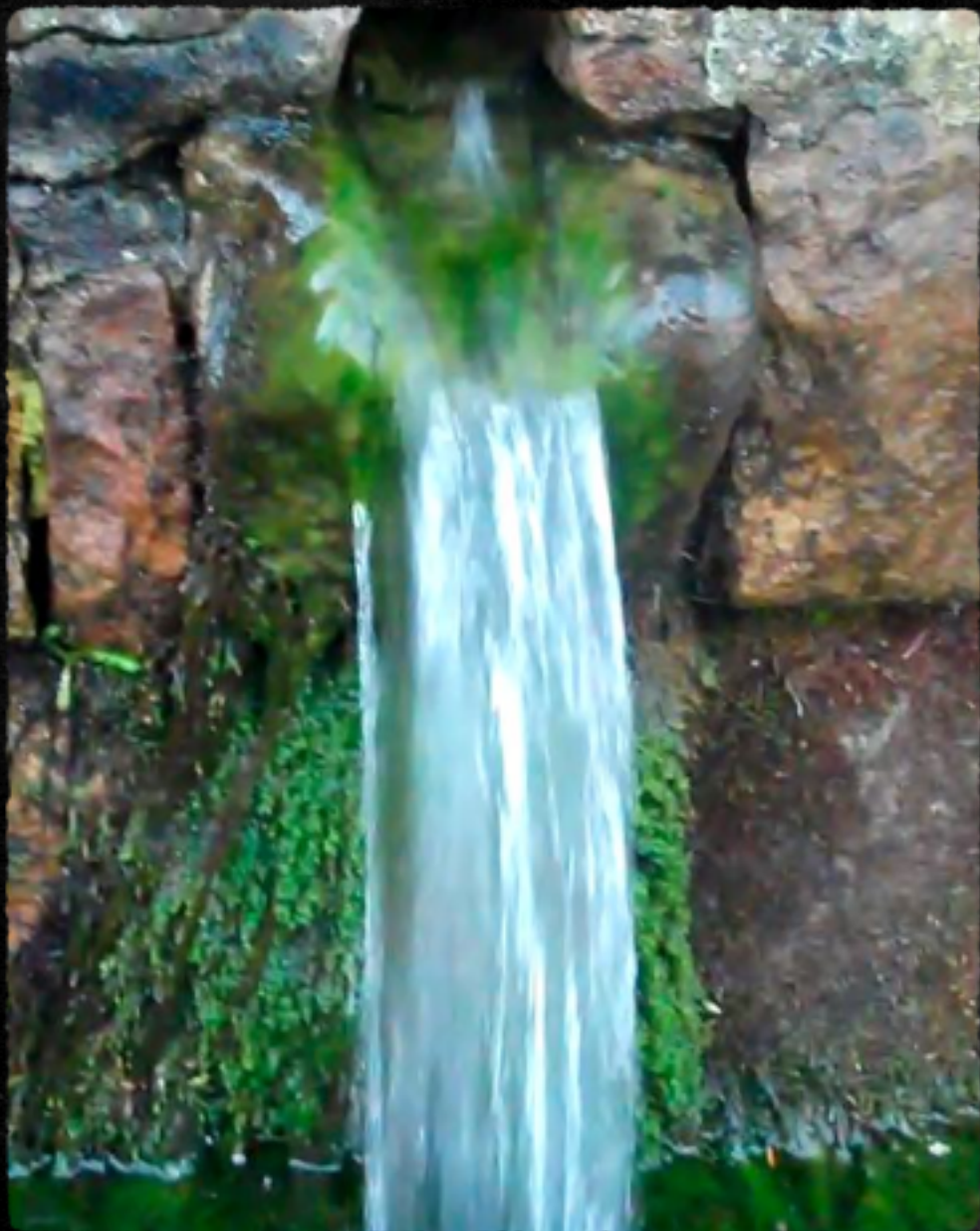
◆ **"From it are the outflowings or outgoings of life." (Lit)**

✳ Your heart is like a spring of water from which continually flows thoughts, words, deeds & plans - (*beneficial & refreshing or destructive & poisonous?*) (Lk 6:45; Mt 12:34-37; Mk 7:20-23; James 3:5-18)

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Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

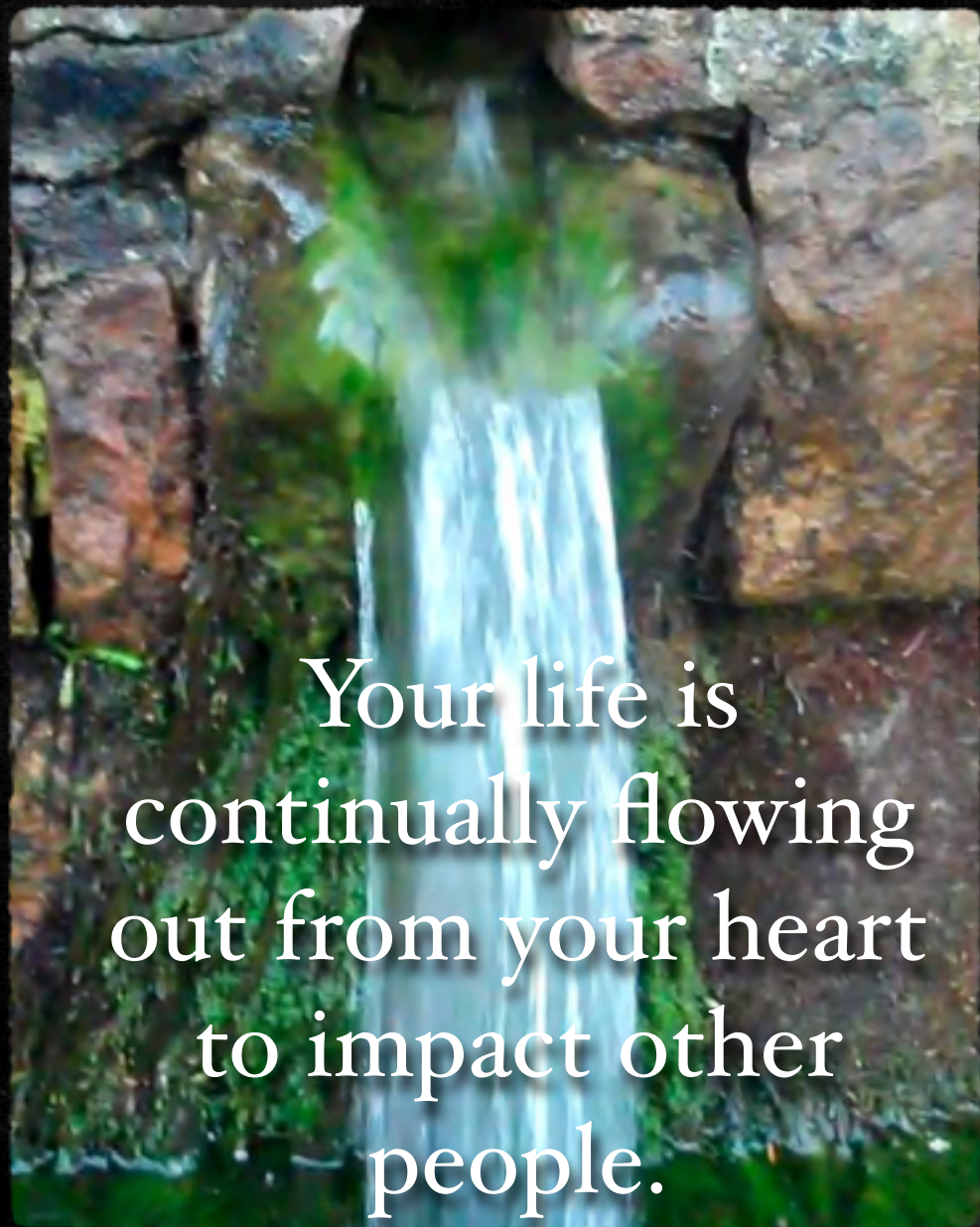
⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Mat 12:34-37;

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Your life is
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out from your heart
to impact other
people.

✦ **"From it are the
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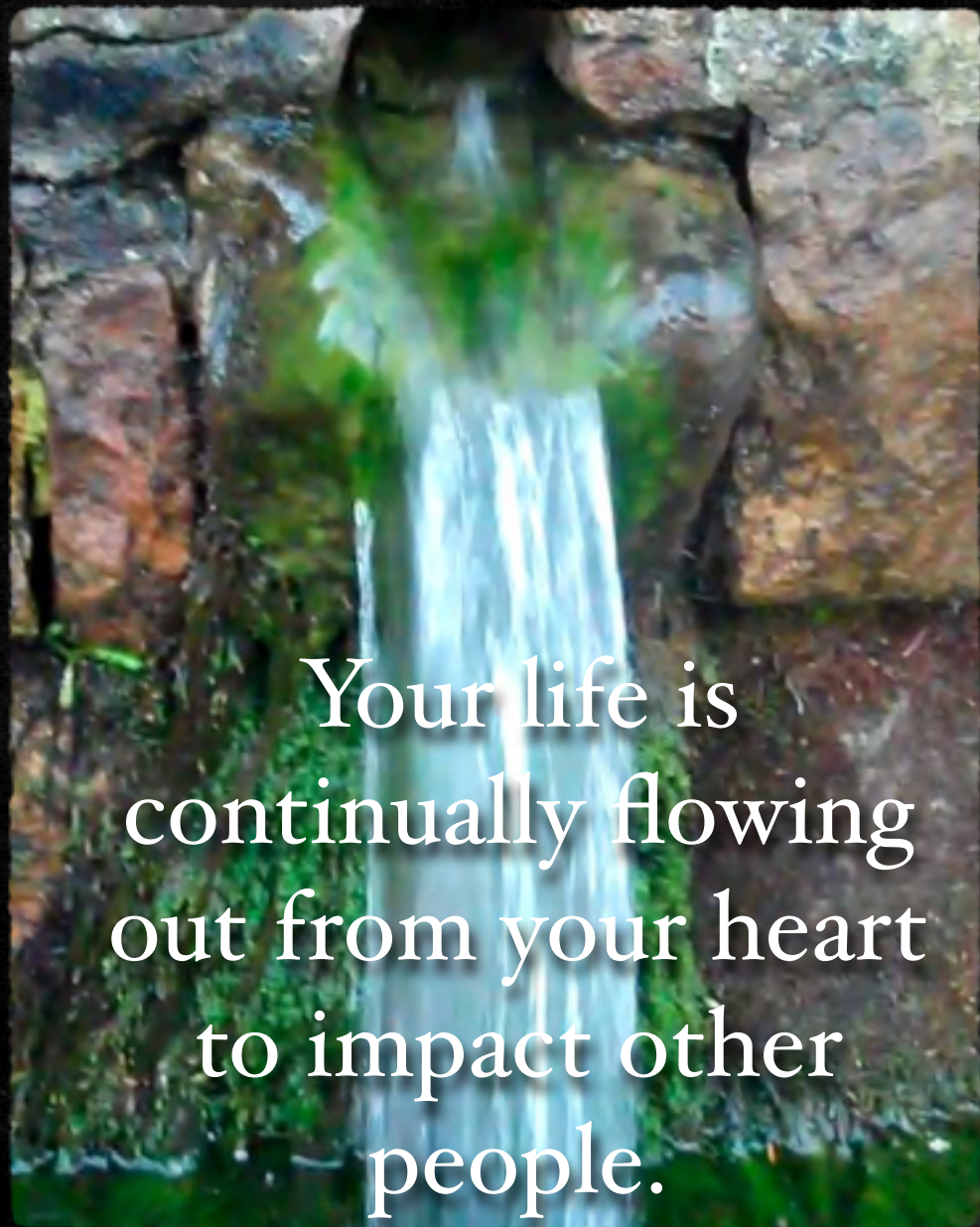
Mark 7:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

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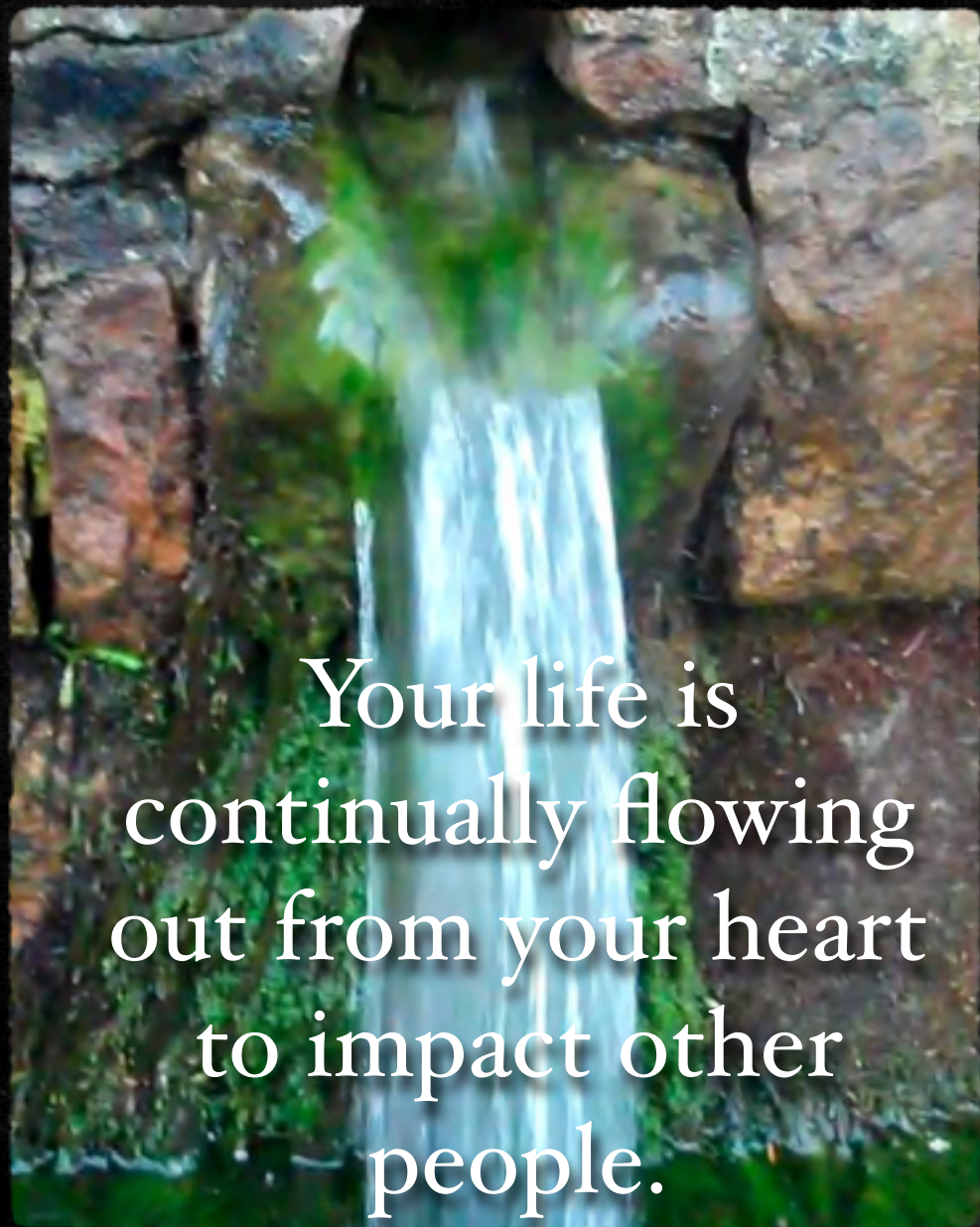
James 3:10-18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening?

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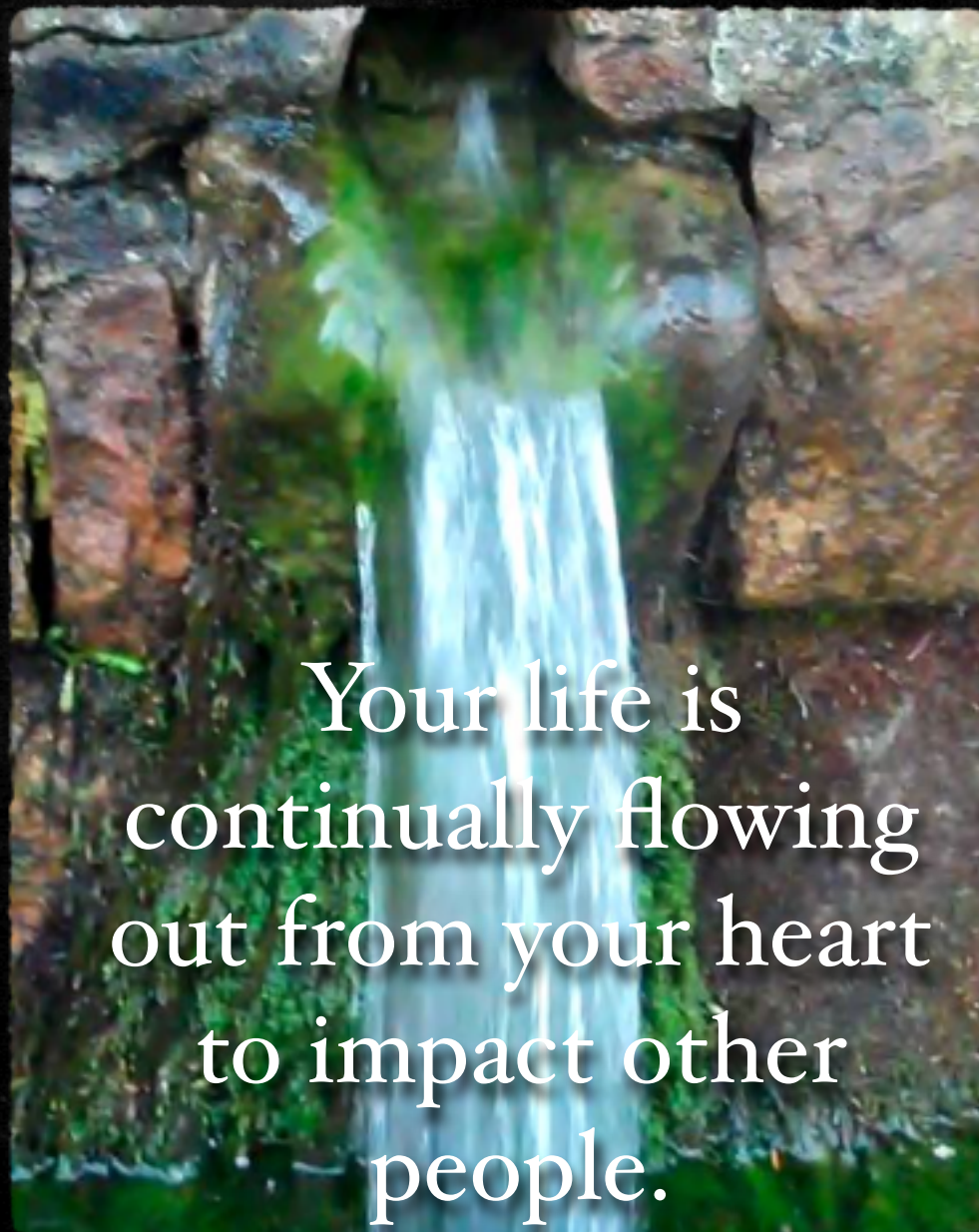
James 3:10-18 (NKJV)

¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. ¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

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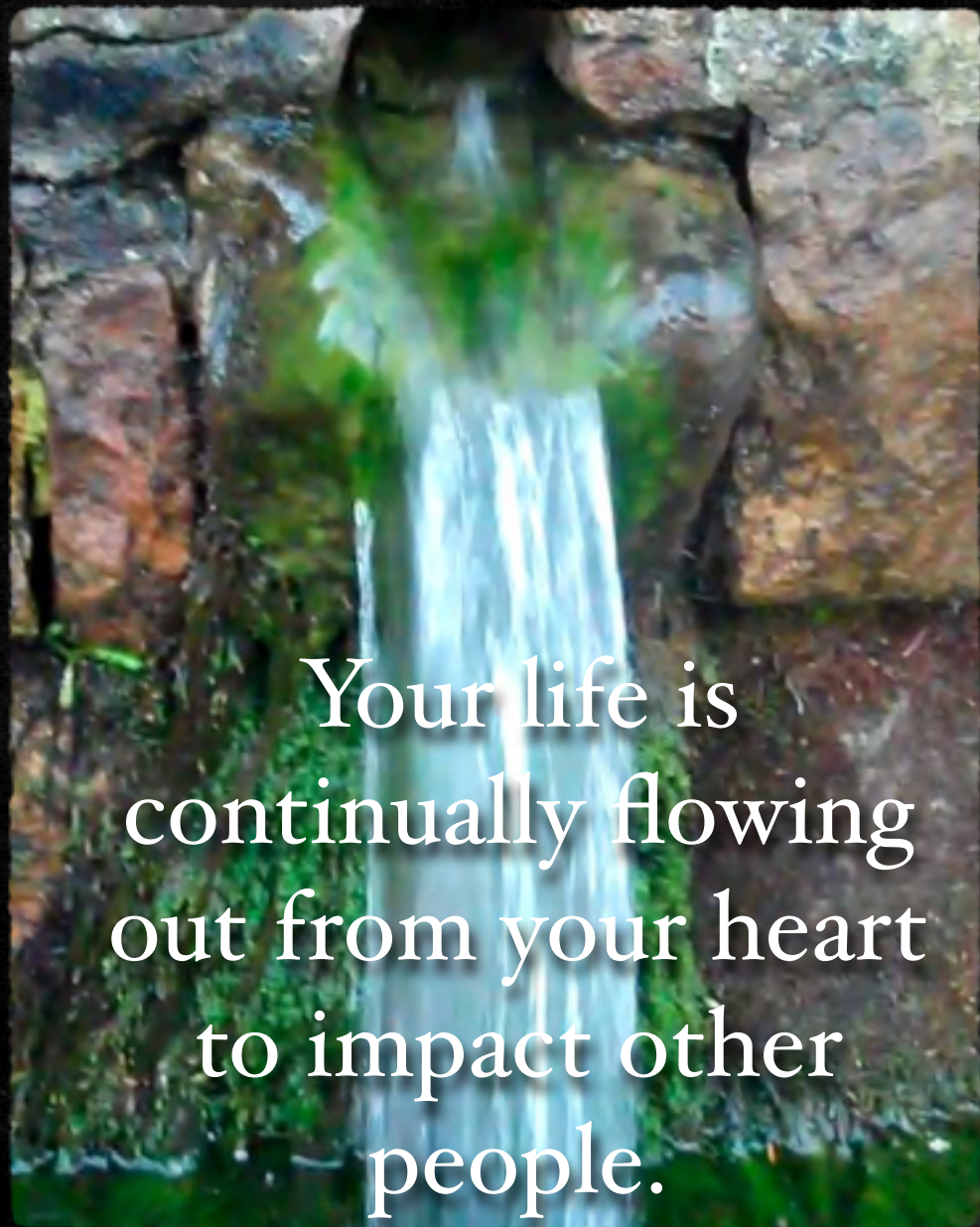
¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

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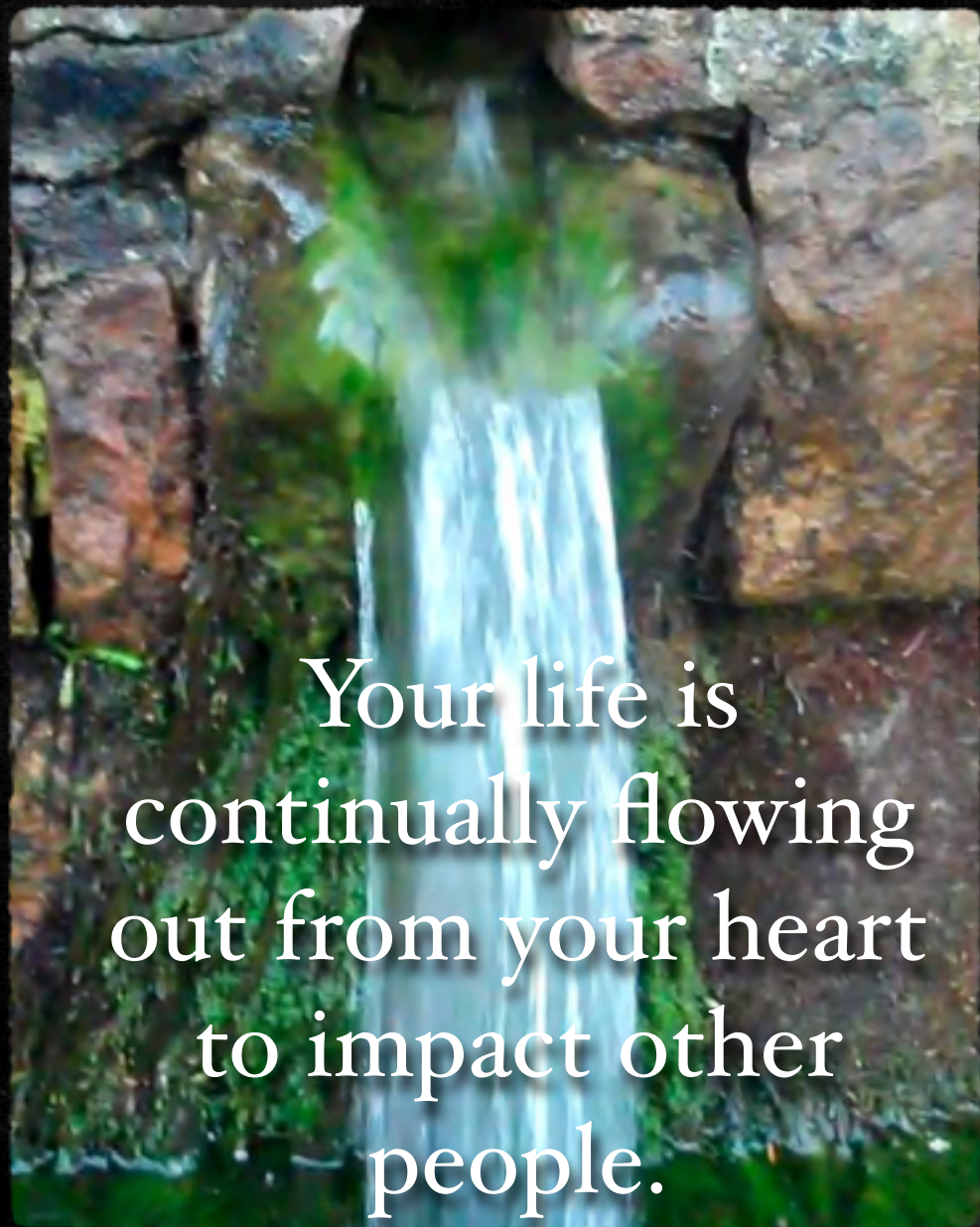
James 3:10-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

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James 3:10-18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the fruit of
righteousness is sown in
peace by those who make
peace.

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Implies One Can Guard His Heart

**One's thoughts,
desires, affections,
values & will can be
determined &
controlled.**



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(Proverbs 4:23)

Proverbs 23:19 (NKJV)


¹⁹ Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide
your heart in the way.

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How To Keep / Protect Our Heart

◆ Necessary Qualities -Ch 3:1-12

- * **Hunger** to understand God's word - (vv. 1-4)
- * **Trust** in God and not own understanding (vv. 5-6),
- * **Fear** God and not be wise in his own eyes (vv. 7-8),
- * **Honor** God and not fail to give to Him (vv. 9-10)
- * **Appreciate** God and not misunderstand His discipline (vv. 11-12).




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How To Keep / Protect Our Heart

Necessary Actions




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(Proverbs 4:23)

- * **Feed upon, retain, keep, love, exalt, hold on to, give attention to, incline your heart to** God's word - (4:1-22; Ps 119:9-16; 1 Pet 2:2; Rom 10:16)
- * **Govern your intake, actions & associates** - eyes, ears, hands & feet - (Mt 5:22; Prov 1:10-15; 1 Cor 15:33; etc.)
- * **Purify your thoughts, desires & deeds** - (Ps 119:9; Ez. 18:31; Jas 4:7-10; Mat 23:25,26; 1 Jn 3:3).

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How To Keep / Protect Our Heart


◆ Removing the clutter & the weeds -



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- ✦ Doubt / Fear / anxiety
- ✦ Discouragement
- ✦ Resentment / Anger
- ✦ Jealousy / Envy
- ✦ Bitterness
- ✦ Hatred
- ✦ Grief
- ✦ Guilt
- ✦ Materialism




Matthew
13:18-23

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How To Keep / Protect Our Heart

Proverbs 4:24-27
(NKJV)



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(Proverbs 4:23)

²⁴ **Put away** from you a deceitful
mouth, And put perverse lips far
from you. ²⁵ **Let your eyes look
straight ahead**, And your eyelids
look right before you. ²⁶ **Ponder
the path of your feet, And let all
your ways be established.** ²⁷ Do
not turn to the **right or the left;**
Remove your foot from evil.

Proverbs 23:12-19 (NKJV)

¹² Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. ¹³ Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

Proverbs 23:12-19 (NKJV)

¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod,
And deliver his soul from hell. ¹⁵

My son, if your heart is wise, My
heart will rejoice—indeed, I
myself; ¹⁶ Yes, my inmost being
will rejoice When your lips speak
right things.

Proverbs 23:12-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; ¹⁸ For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off. ¹⁹ Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

**Have you purified your heart by obeying the truth -
Rom 8:16-18; 1 Pet 1:22,23**

Are you KEEPING your heart with all diligence?

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

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