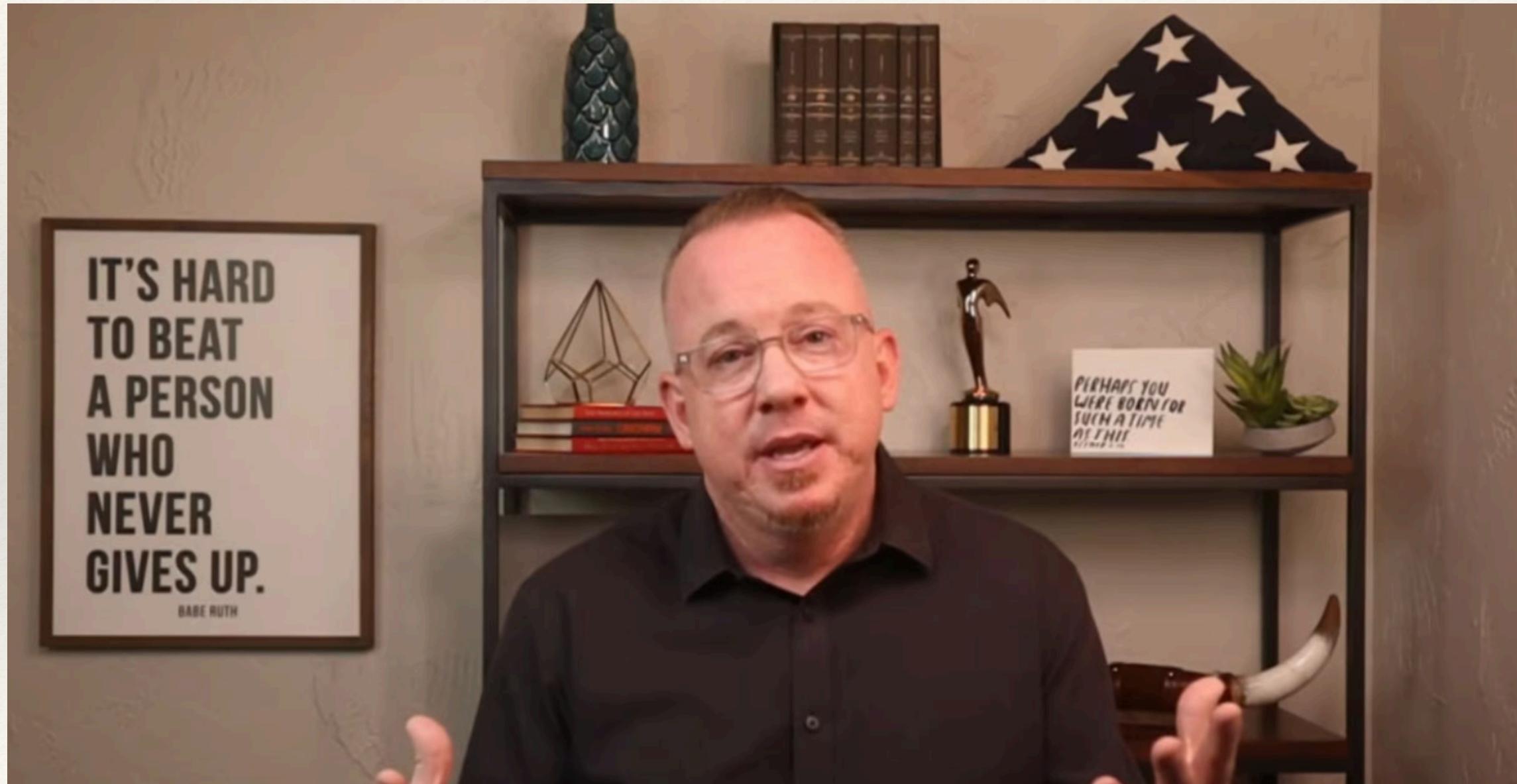


Freedom Weekend

James McKinney



Biblical parents must be intentional

- Deuteronomy 6:1–9
- Within the pages of Scripture, we read numerous verses that say “believe in your heart” (e.g., Romans 10:9).
- Jeremiah 17:9 shows us that it is the heart where connections and understanding is made.
- When we read the Scriptures and hear the words of Jesus (Luke 6:45) speaking of the relationship between our heart and our behavior, we see so much more than just an organ that keeps our blood flowing.

Biblical parents must be intentional

- Deuteronomy was written by Moses, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as he was about to lead Israel into the Promised Land.
- This land was the fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham centuries before (Genesis 12).
- This promise had been passed down generation to generation for many years, yet Moses knew he would not be able to enter the Promised Land because of how he had offended God (Numbers 20).

Biblical parents must be intentional

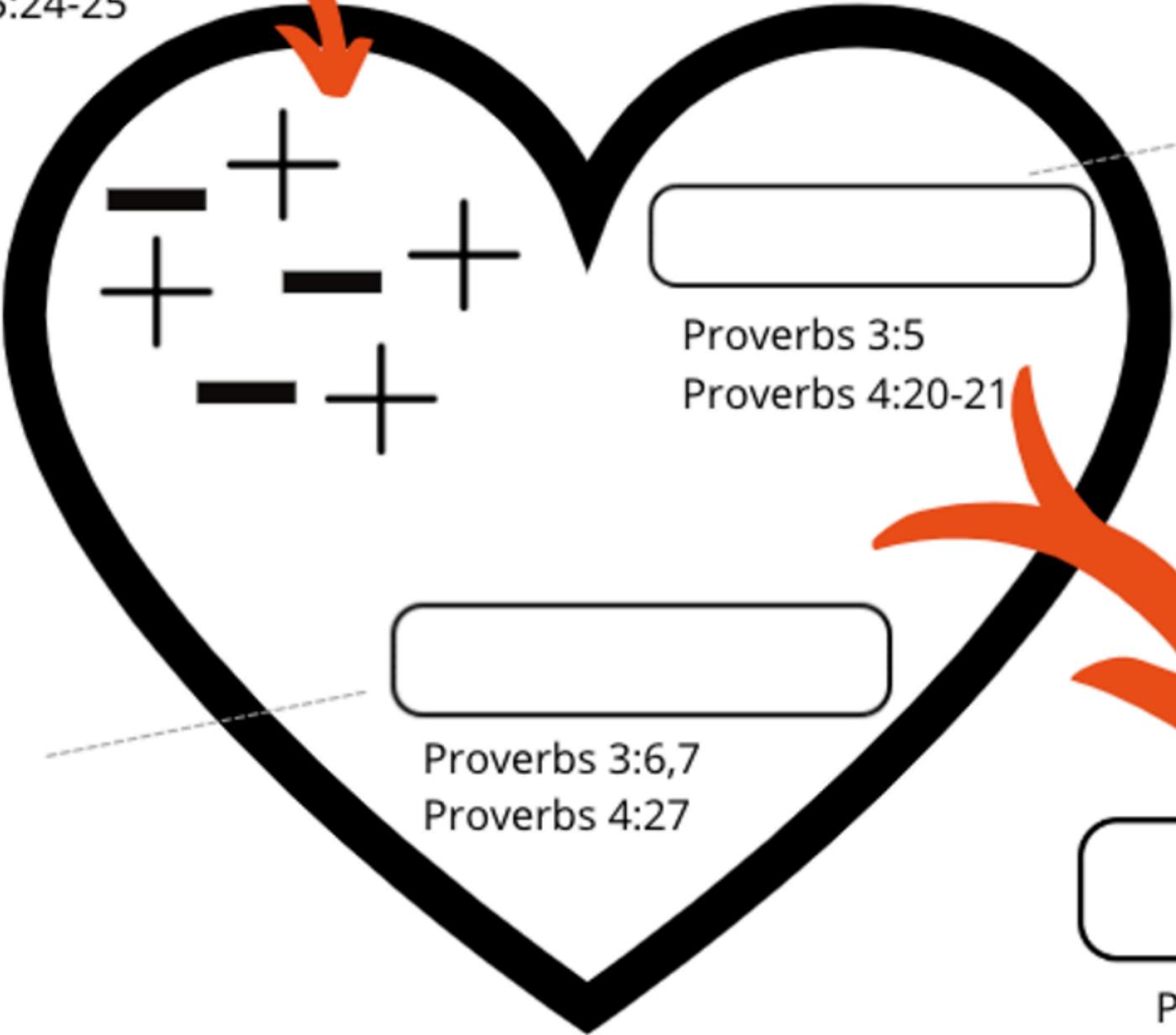
- In these verses, Moses urged the Israelites to chase after the things of God and to let that chase change their behavior forever.
- Moses urged them to live a changed life in light of how God saved them from slavery and decades of wandering.
- Even more so, to teach these truths to their kids so that they share the same devotion to God despite not having experienced the same journey with God directly.

Biblical parents must be intentional

- The reason these verses call us to love God with our heart, soul and might is so that every aspect of our being – our heart – is grounded on all things of God, because within Scripture, our heart is the center of our existence.
- That is why Proverbs 4:23 warns us so clearly to “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”
- It is from our heart that: our life is sustained, we discern right from wrong, we experience fear, depression, anxiety and joy, we make decisions, desires originate, the Enemy can influence and manipulate us toward evil.

[Empty box]

Gal 5:24-25



[Empty box]

Proverbs 3:5
Proverbs 4:20-21

[Empty box]

Proverbs 3:6,7
Proverbs 4:27

[Empty box]

Proverbs 4:23
Luke 6:45

Our behavior is an overflow of our heart

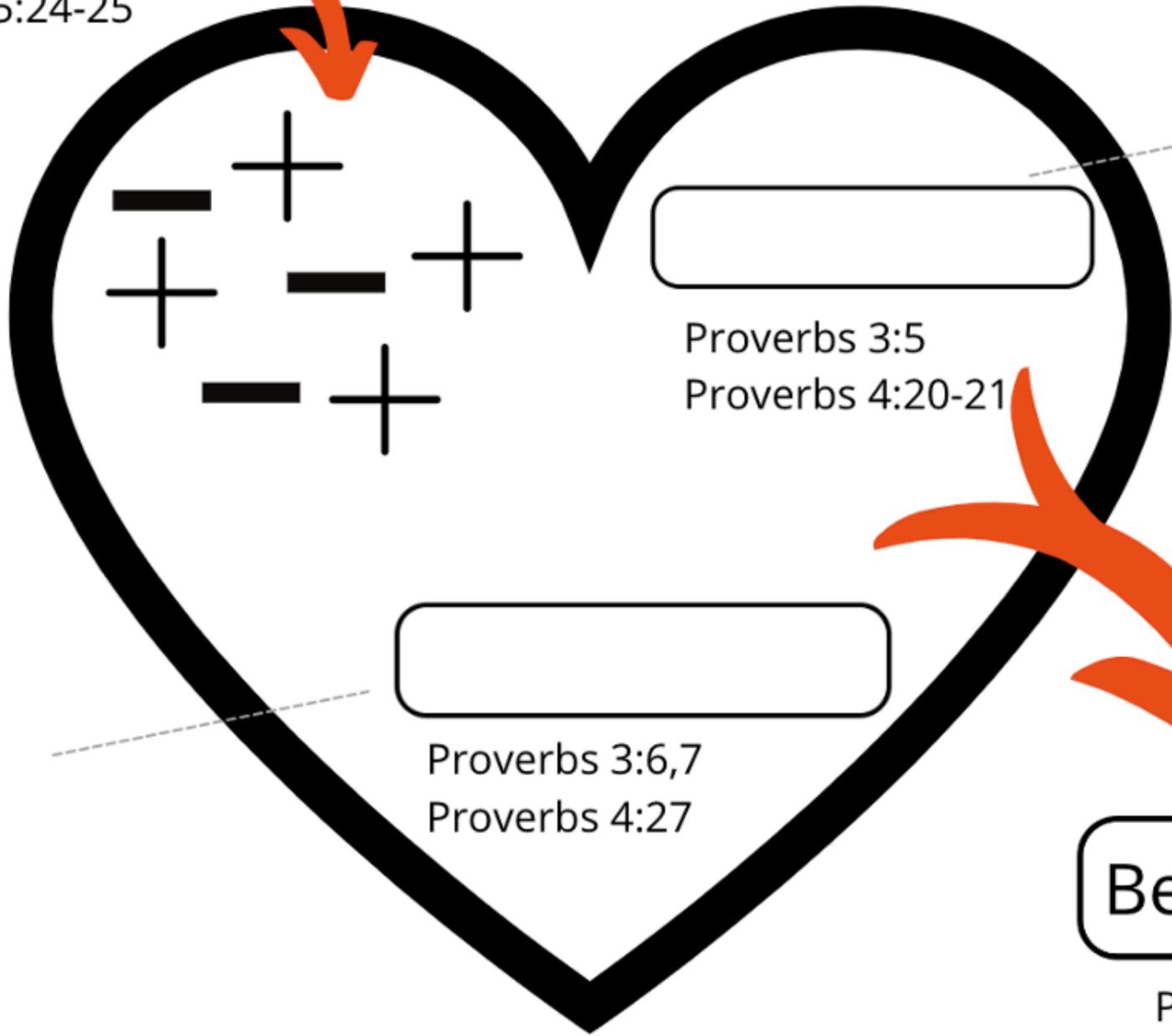
- Luke 6:45
- Jesus speaks to many different behavior issues that are common to all of us. Issues such as loving and caring for people we like and don't like.
- He talks about the harm we experience in judging others while warning about being aware of our own shortcomings.
- He even talks about the upside of living a life built upon His truth ... not just an acceptance of His truth, but a full devotion to His truth.

Our behavior is an overflow of our heart

- So if Jesus has identified the heart as the source of behavior, then let's shift our attention to what is within the heart.
- As long as you are breathing, sinful desires are going to create challenges for you because it is our desires, both good and bad, that take up real estate in our heart.
- The goal is, over time, that the desires of our heart are more in step with that of the Spirit within us than of the flesh. That is the truth laid out in Galatians 5:24–25.

Desires

Gal 5:24-25



Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 4:20-21

Proverbs 3:6,7

Proverbs 4:27

Behavior / Words

Proverbs 4:23

Luke 6:45

Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

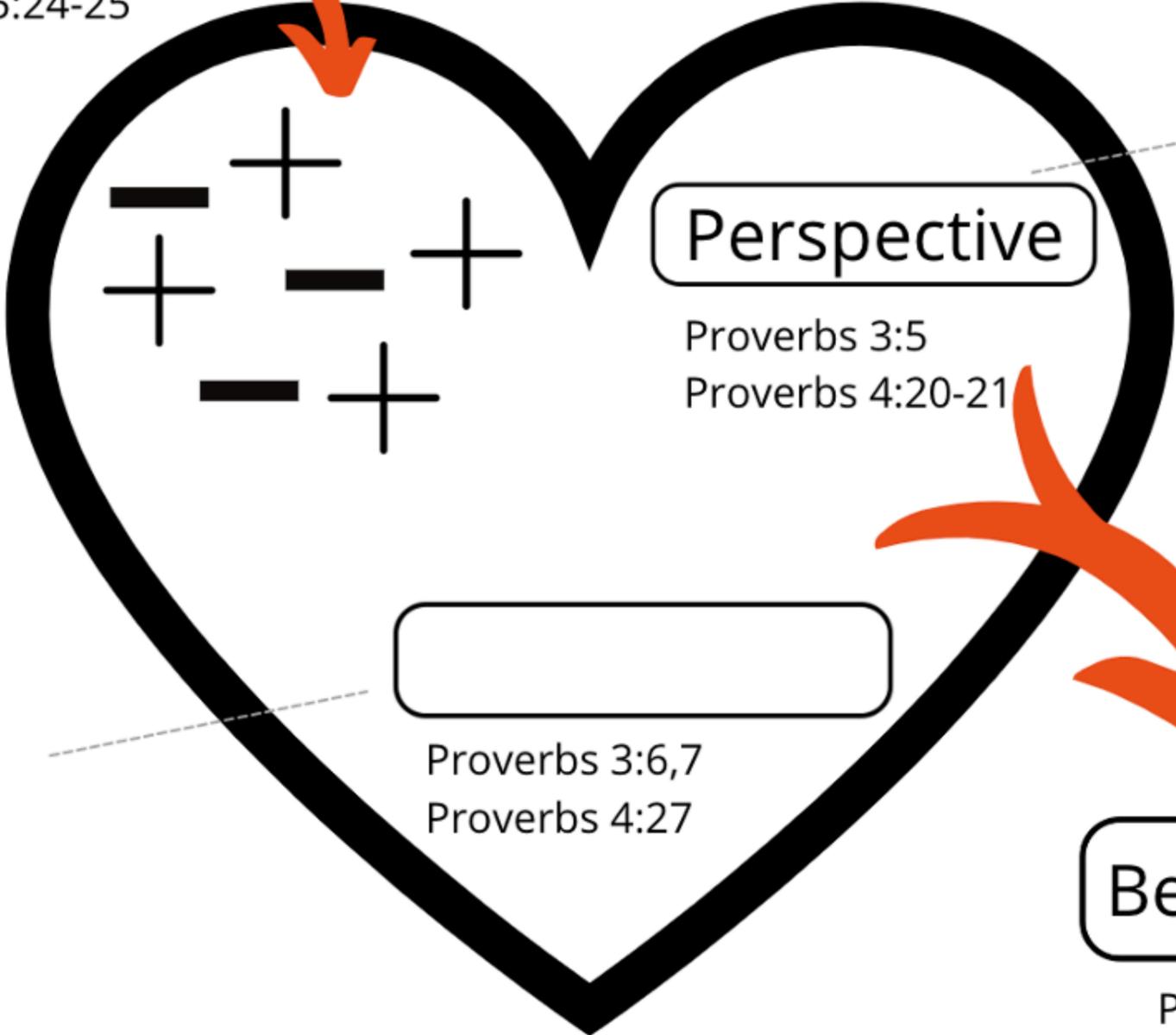
- Paul is telling those of us who have surrendered our life to Jesus Christ that the enslavement to sin that once held us bondage has been crucified. We now have the ability to pursue righteousness. But he then goes on to add a condition to it with “if.”
- There is a premise to the promise. We have to do the work and “live by the Spirit.” As we keep in step with the Spirit, the prominence of the righteous desires within our heart will overpower the sinful desires. Again, if we are breathing ... we are sinning. But walking in step with the Spirit, over time, strengthens us in our pursuit to be more like Jesus.

Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

- That is revealed to us in Proverbs 3:5–7:
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.”
- Within these three verses, we see two very clear decision filters that reside within our heart.
- The first is a filter of perspective, and the second is a filter of values.

Desires

Gal 5:24-25



Perspective

Proverbs 3:5
Proverbs 4:20-21

[Empty rounded rectangular box]

Proverbs 3:6,7
Proverbs 4:27

How we believe
the world works.

Behavior / Words

Proverbs 4:23
Luke 6:45

Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

- We are not the Creator, and it is foolish of us to assume we have a full understanding of His created world.
- Isaiah 55:8–9 also speaks to this truth:
- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

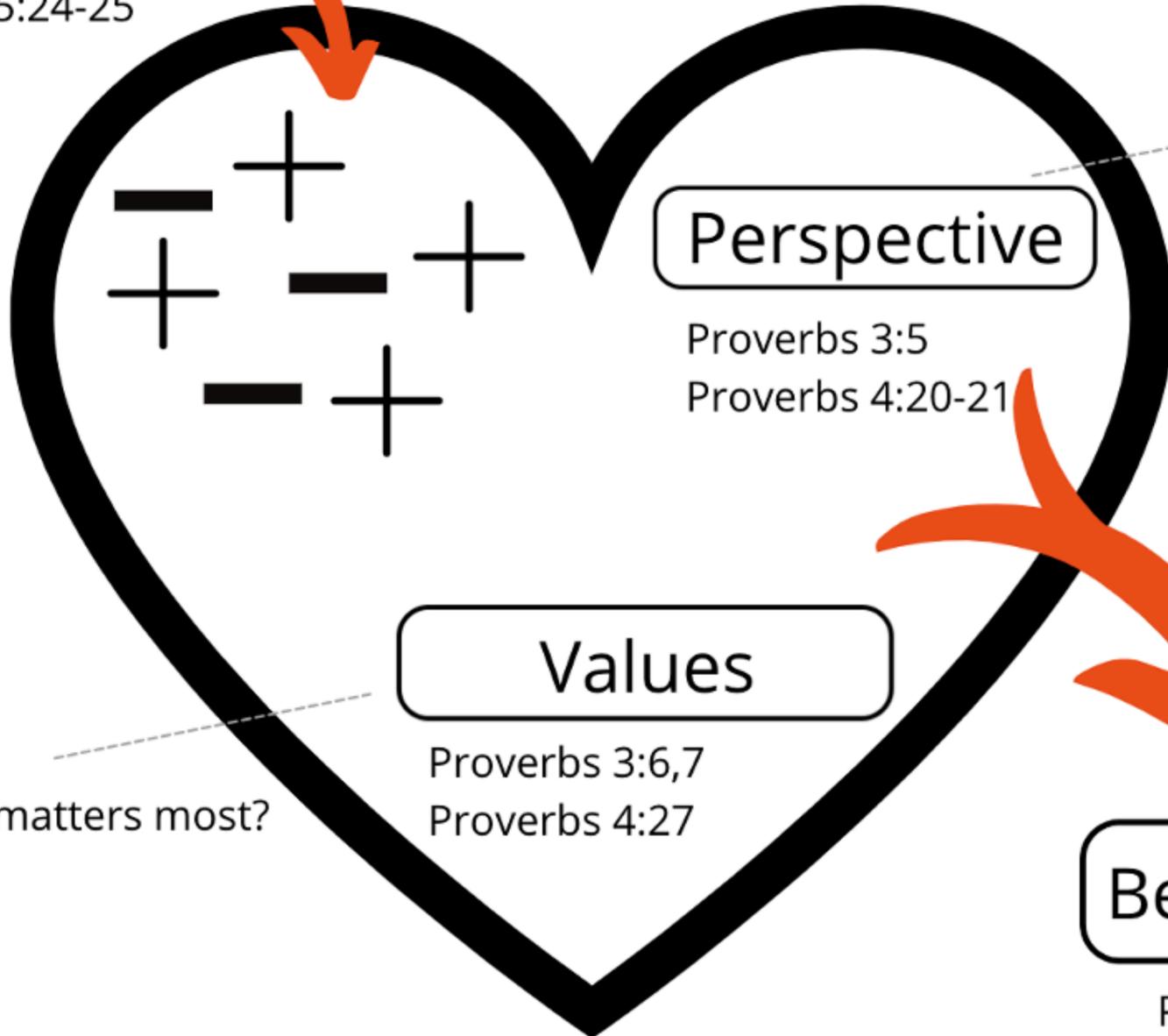
- There are many things in our world that shape our perspective.
- Our family upbringing, media, culture, overall personal experience, and of course, the Bible shape our perspective.
- Unfortunately, most Christians give more significance to their personal experience than the Bible when it comes to shaping perspective.
- A Christian magazine reported that 80 percent of self-identified Christians have had sex before marriage. At the time of this survey, the non-Christian segment reported back with 88 percent having had sex before marriage.

Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

- The Scriptures speak very clearly that sex is to be reserved for marriage, so why would 80 percent of Christians have sex outside of marriage?
- James 1:14–15 gives us a glimpse as to why:
- “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Desires

Gal 5:24-25



Perspective

Proverbs 3:5
Proverbs 4:20-21

How we believe
the world works.

Values

Proverbs 3:6,7
Proverbs 4:27

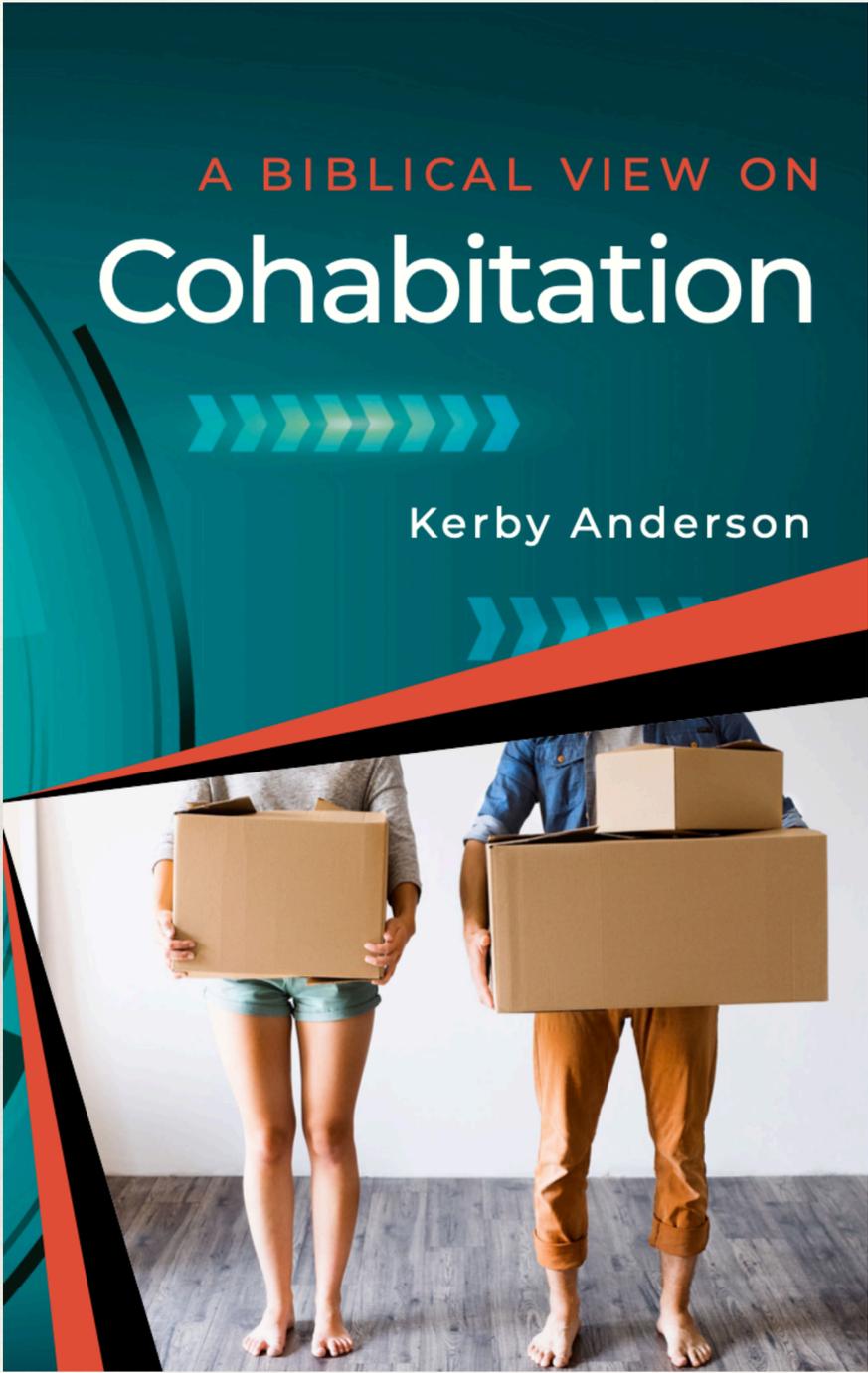
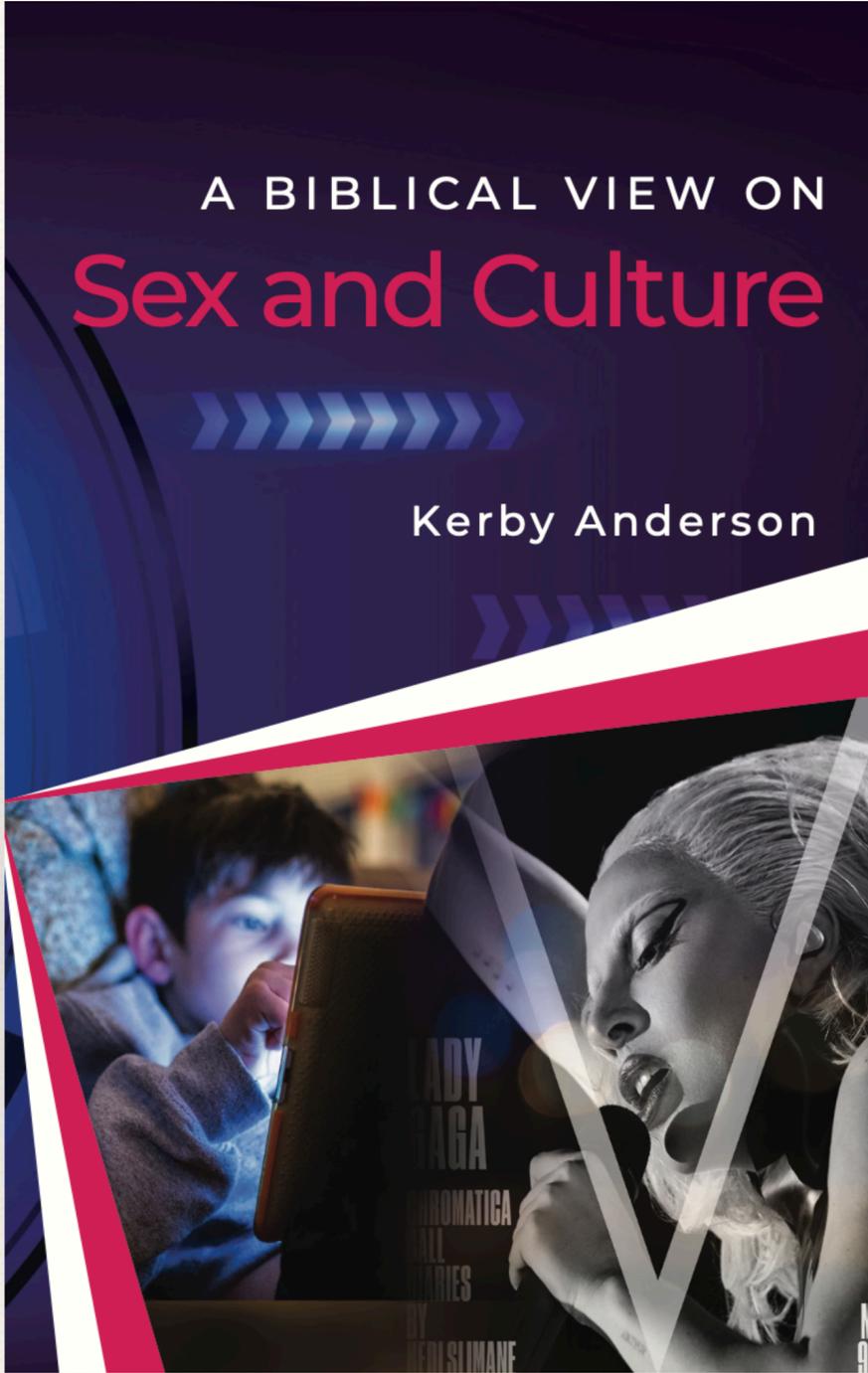
What matters most?

Behavior / Words

Proverbs 4:23
Luke 6:45

Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

- To go back to the premarital sex discussion, is there a chance that a believer might not actually know that the Bible calls us to purity until marriage?
- Yes, but if there is anything the Church has messaged well, it is that.
- So the issue is not that Christians do not know what the command is, but that they value self-gratification far more than obedience.
- Every time we exhibit a behavior that is in opposition to God's teaching and design, we are choosing self over obedience.



Our heart is full of sinful and righteous desires

- We value public opinion, importance, entertainment, happiness, inclusion, comfort, peace, and we even value honoring God.
- The problem though is that, more often than not, we value one of those other categories more than we value honoring God.
- Each of us values various things in varying degrees of significance, but within the United States, “entertainment” and “inclusion” certainly rank high.

