

“Obey my commands and live! Guard my instructions as you guard your own eyes. Tie them on your fingers as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.” Proverbs 7:2-3 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 7:1-5

Just yesterday we were looking at Jesus words about losing an eye to gain access to heaven (March 11, Matthew 5:27+). Here the wisdom writers not only write about guarding your eyes, but also to tie things on your fingers to REMIND us of maintaining a life of wisdom - being especially smart about being carried away from seductive, alluring people that will eat our lives and spit out nothing but broken shards. To say, “it’s not worth it,” is too little too late for so many. No one on a euphoric high of testosterone or estrogen wants to hear the word “NO” or “STOP.” The consequences of such regular, repetitive actions are clear - “like an ox going to the slaughter, like a stag caught in a trap, awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart, like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost them their life.” It does not matter for one to know how it ends, because at some level, we are all stupid enough to think WE will be the one to outsmart, outrun, out manipulate whatever is waiting just beyond that door. I don’t use this wisdom method of tying fingers to remember things. Instead, I move my wedding ring to my pinky finger to remember super important things. The unusual fit prompts me to think about why I moved it and I remember to do it. How many string-rings would you need to wear to remember wisdom’s warnings? How many finger reminders will it take to SNAP your brain back from the edge of destruction, back to reality and safety? Wisdom begs us - OBEY and LIVE!

## oratio

Dad,  
I haven’t had any close calls with a seductive, but I’ve had far too many close calls with stupidity! Again, I am thankful for your far-reaching and rescuing grace. As a youth, most of us do really dumb things and most of them are not catastrophic, cataclysmic disasters that destroy our future before we even have one. But I have seen some youthful decisions not only end in death or prison or life-long shame, but have witnessed the extremely wide impact of the crater it left on family and friends. We do not exist as individuals, but as a community! And with self centered decisions I’ve seen horrific consequences that others must pay because of the decision of one. We need, I need your wisdom! Not only for protection from my own selfishness, but to actually build a life and future worth living.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root