

“Rumble Strips: The Guardrails Of God’s Wisdom”

“My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly...When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, then discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you; to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things...” Proverbs 2:1-7; 10-12 (NKJV)

I. Introduction

Key thought: *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...” Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)*

Key thought: Rumble strips are designed to act as warning signals so as to avoid disasters!

*“The problem with today’s world is that everyone believes they have the right to express their opinion **AND** have others listen to it.”---Brian Cox*

“Offense cuts you off from God. We separate ourselves from the pipeline. I’ve never seen anything block continued blessings from heaven except harboring secret offenses.” –John Bevere

II. Biblical Wisdom “Rumble Strips” For Successful Christian Living

Rumble Strip #1--You can’t _____ what you can’t _____

*“...**Keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck.** Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.” Proverbs 3:21-24 (NKJV)*

*“**Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” I Peter 5:8 (NKJV)*

Key thought: Spiritual _____ is vital, not optional.

Rumble Strip #2—Avoiding the trap of _____

*“**He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,** but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.” Proverbs 28:26*

*“Peter declared to Jesus, “Even if everyone else deserts you, **I will never desert you.**” Matthew 26:33*

*“**The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked.** Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.” Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NLT)*

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **never lean on your own understanding;** in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

Rumble Strip #3--Be diligent to maintain control of _____

*"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but **a wise man keeps himself under control.**" Proverbs 29:11*

***"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise."** Proverbs 10:19*

*"Indeed, we all make many mistakes. But if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And **the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.** People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:2-8 (NLT)*

Rumble Strip #4--Keeping one's heart free from the top demonic trap: _____

*"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love**, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...**So get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**" Ephesians 4:2-3; 31-32*

Two truths about offenses:

- **They often come from those closest to us**

"An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel." Proverbs 18:19

- **They are allowed by God to test our true spiritual depth**

*"When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed Goliath, women...came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy...This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!" **This made Saul very angry.** "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" **So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.**" I Samuel 18:6-9 (NLT)*

Rumble Strip #5--Never falling into the trap of compromising _____

*"Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. **Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?** You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So **you must honor God with your body.**" I Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT)*

*"But **immorality or any impurity** or greed **must not even be named among you**, as is proper among saints..." Ephesians 5:3*

"Nothing has stolen more dreams, dashed more hopes, broken up more families, and messed up more people psychologically than our propensity to disregard God's commands regarding sexual purity. Ignoring those commands will simply destroy you."---Andy Stanley

Answer Key:

1. protect---detect

---discernment

2. trusting in yourself

3. your tongue

4. Offenses

5. sexual purity