

# “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 5”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://churchofgodbigsandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 7, 2026.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a seven-part series. The title of the presentation was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 5.”

The presentation began with the fifth listed characteristic that God hates—that being “feet swift to run to evil (mischief).” From there, I also talked about the fifth characteristic that God loves—that being “feet swift to edification.”

## **Described as evil**

While the King James Version uses the word *mischief*, the New King James Version uses the word *evil*. According to *Strong’s Concordance*, notice the following information about how the Hebrew word *Ra* is translated throughout the King James Version.

- The Hebrew word translated *mischief* in Proverbs 6:18 in the King James Version is translated as *mischief* 19 times throughout the Bible.
- The Hebrew word translated *mischief* in Proverbs 6:18 in the King James Version is translated as *evil* 436 times throughout the Bible.

Hence, I prefer to stress the New King James usage of *evil*.

## **Swift feet to evil of devil**

Feet that are swift in running to evil certainly sounds like the devil. Let’s notice examples of the approach of the devil.

## **Satan against Job**

- Job 1:7—Satan was going to and fro—looking for trouble.
- Job 1:8—The Lord opened the door for trials upon Job.
- Job 1:9-11—Satan was quick to suggest an evil way for Job to suffer.
- Job 1:12—The Lord approved the details, but set up limitations.
- Job 2:2—Satan was going to and fro—looking for trouble.
- Job 2:3—The opened the door for additional trials upon Job.

- Job 2:4-5—Satan was quick to suggest another evil way for Job to suffer.
- Job 2:6—The Lord approved the details, but set up limitations.

### **Wicked one snatching away seed**

- Matthew 13:18—Hear the parable of the sower.
- Matthew 13:19—The wicked one snatched away what was sown in the heart.

### **Enemy sowing tares**

- Matthew 13:24—Hear the parable of the wheat and tares.
- Matthew 13:25—The enemy sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

### **Running to evil**

Notice a few references of running to evil.

- Proverbs 1:15—Do not walk in the way of them (sinners mentioned in verse 10)—keep your foot from their path.
- Proverbs 1:16—Their feet run to evil and they make haste to shed blood.
- Isaiah 59:7—Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity. Wasting and destruction are in their paths.
- Romans 3:15—Their feet are swift to shed blood.

### **Feet swift to edification**

Feet that are swift to edification certainly sounds like the Father and Son. Let's notice examples of the approach of the Father and Son.

### **Cannot be manipulated**

Let me begin by saying that the Father and Son cannot be manipulated—They are cheerful givers.

- Matthew 4:3—The devil tried to manipulate Christ: "If You are the Son of God . . ." The Son of God could not be manipulated.
- Matthew 4:6—The devil tried to manipulate Christ: "If You are the Son of God . . ." The Son of God could not be manipulated.
- Luke 12:13-14—The Son of God did not get sucked into a family conflict about an inheritance. He said: "Who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

### **Swift to help**

Although the Father and Son cannot be manipulated, they are often swift to answer prayers. (It is true that, sometimes, they have a plan for waiting.)

- Genesis 18:23-33—The Lord listened to Abraham's negotiation and answered quickly.
- 1 Kings 19:11-12—Notice four ways that the Lord may answer—in the wind, in the earthquake, in the fire and with a still small voice.
- 2 Kings 6:16-17—The Lord opened the young man's eyes to see the angelic support.
- John 2:1-10—When Christ's mother approached Him about the lack of wine at a wedding, Jesus quickly responded to His mother's request.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-10—The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort helps His children—often very quickly, but not always.

### Quick to listen

- While the Lord criticized the three friends of Job for what they said (Job 42:7), the book of Job reports something wonderful that the three friend did earlier—they said nothing for seven days (Job 2:13).
- James 1:19—Be swift to hear.

### A time for strong words

Although I am going to mention a number of verses about being quick to say kind words, let's at least acknowledge that there is a time for strong words.

- Proverbs 27:5—"Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed."
- Proverbs 27:6—"Faithful are the wound of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

### Quick to say kind words

- Proverbs 10:20—The tongue of the righteous is choice silver.
- Proverbs 15:1—A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- Proverbs 15:4—A wholesome tongue is a tree of life.
- Proverbs 25:11—A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
- Proverbs 25:12—A wise rebuker to an obedient ear is like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold.
- Colossians 4:6—Let your speech always be with grace (seasoned with salt) that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

### Serve the needs

Recognize that there are times to be quick to action and times to be patient.

- Luke 10:25-37—The good Samaritan decided to quickly serve a need.
- Galatians 6:1—Are you the right person to help? Do you have the correct approach?
- Matthew 25:34-40—There is a time to help people (serving needs like food, drink, shelter, clothing, health and visits in prison).