

# Proverbs

## Your Words

### Introduction

Whenever wisdom and folly are illustrated in Proverbs, when the author wants to explain what a fool or a wise person is like, we are told what sorts of things they say. Words are clothing to our character.

### Discussion Questions

- Discernment and thoughtfulness are virtues that accompany wise speech [16:20-21]. Are your words more thoughtful or careless? Are you prone to speak more than you listen? Do you spend as much time considering when to speak as what to say?
- Your speech indicates the type of person you are [16:23-24] If someone were to use the criteria in Proverbs to evaluate you based on your own words, would they consider you to be among the foolish or the wise? The scoffer or the prudent? The simple or judicious?
- Controlling our tongue is the first step in quieting our own spirit [17:27-28]. When do you feel you just have to say something? Can you remember a time when you wish you would have kept your mouth shut?
- Words reveal the very heart of the speaker, which can be humbling [18:2,13]. Would others consider your words as controlling or encouraging? Do you talk more about what is wrong or what is right in your life? Is your speech best described as gracious or gossip?
- Words have the power of life and death [18:21]. How have you been deeply impacted, for better or worse, by the words of another? Who are those that are most impacted by your words?

### Think About It

Words can crush your spirit, pierce your heart, and torment your soul. Yet, they can also be reassuring, comforting, healing, and uplifting. How we use our words will deeply impact others. Additionally, our words will be the indicators that reveal the real condition of our own heart.

### What Will You Do?

Consider your own words carefully. Pay attention to how they are impacting others. Examine what they're saying about your own heart. Listen to God's Word carefully. Allow the good news of Jesus to impact your heart. Out of the abundance of a new heart, let your mouth speak.

### Renewing Your Mind

*If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. [James 1:26]*

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. [Eph 4:29]*

*When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. [Prov 10:19]*

*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is! [Prov 15:1, 23]*

*Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. [Prov 16:24]*

*Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent. [Prov 17:28]*

*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. [Prov 18:2,13]*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue. [Prov 18:21]*

*Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble. [Prov 21:23]*

*The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. [Luke 6:45]*

### Prayer Requests

