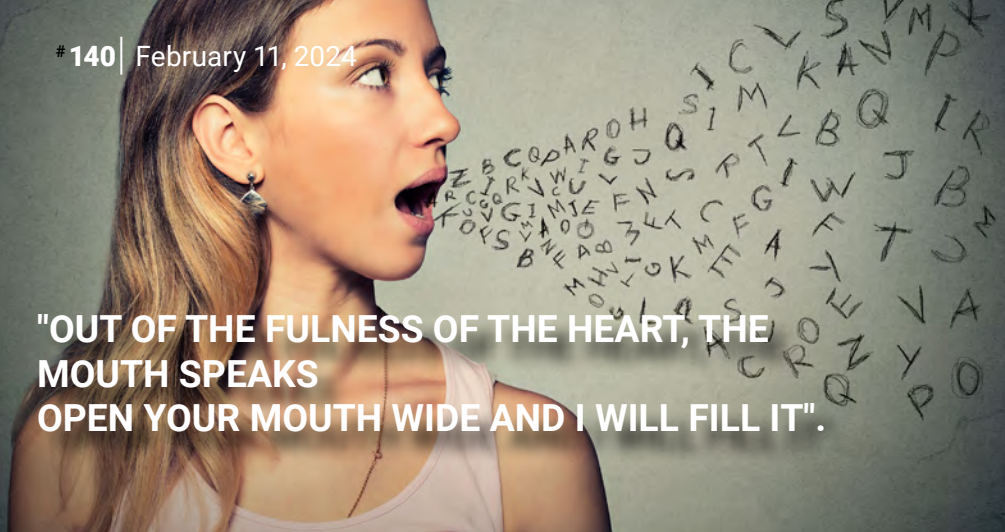




"OUT OF THE FULNESS OF THE HEART, THE MOUTH SPEAKS
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND I WILL FILL IT".



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

In this Issue:

My favourite verses and comments about the Tongue and speech.

The Power of the Tongue Bible Study!

Greetings dear Friends,

My favourite verses and comments about the Tongue and speech.

There is so much we could say about our mouths and tongues. In this edition, I have included a beautiful Bible study called 'The Power of the Tongue'. I pray it will help change your life and that you will enjoy the amazing verses in this study. There are well over 100 concerning the Power of the Tongue, speech and words good and evil.

Before that I wish to share a few lessons. This is not my great strength at all. There is



a time to talk and a time to refrain from speaking. Some words can help while others

heal. When we speak in our own spirit rather than in the Lord, we often say many things that are wrong or discouraging or even hurtful.

I'd like to share some of my favourite verses and teachings I have heard on a positive side about our mouths which we can use to glorify God most of all and also be being a blessing to others.



(You will find enough warnings about the tongue and speech in the Bible study!)

Psalms 81:10 I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: **open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

This is a wonderful verse for those of us who feel incapable to speak very well. We also actually have very little knowledge what the impact of our speech or preaching or outreach has or will have on anyone. Only God fully knows that. I often used to pray this verse and ask God to fill my

mouth in my life to bring Jesus to others or give advice or counsel. After I prayed this I usually felt a lot more at ease. Here is a similar one I love:

Isaiah 50:4

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as **the learned**. **We should pray that this verse becomes true in all our lives! Because it is THE LORD who wishes to give us the 'tongue of the learned!' How wonderful.**

Several brethren over the years have told me that something I said to them even just a sentence or paragraph or a short talk, was the difference to them going on for the Lord at a crossroads time in their lives. Until they told me that, many years later, I had no idea that was the case.

Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD!

Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for



thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

God called Jeremiah, and the first thing Jeremiah did was say: 'I cannot speak: for I am a child'. He went on to be fearless and unashamed to speak whatever God told him. But sometimes that's how we all often begin, in weakness and trembling, and in a way we should stay like that and depend on the Lord. Let us also pray for all our youth who wish to know and follow Jesus Christ around the world, that the Lord will raise them also to be fearless like Jeremiah, Daniel, Nehemiah and many others.

Exodus 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Here is the best description of this above verse I have seen anywhere.

'Many a servant of the Lord

is slow of speech, and when called upon to plead for his Lord, he is in great confusion lest he should spoil a good cause by his bad advocacy. In such a case it is well to remember that the Lord made the tongue which is so slow, and we must take care that we do not blame our Maker. It may be that a slow tongue is not so great an evil as a fast one, and fewness of words may be more of a blessing than floods of verbiage. It is also quite certain that real saving power does not lie in human rhetoric, with its tropes, and pretty phrases, and grand displays. Lack of fluency is not so great a lack as it looks.

If God be with our mouth, and with our mind, we shall have something better



than the sounding brass of eloquence, or the tinkling cymbal of persuasion. **God's teaching is wisdom; his presence is Power. Pharaoh had more reason to be afraid of stammering Moses than of the most fluent talker in Egypt; for what he said had power in it; he spoke plagues and deaths.** If the Lord be with us in our natural weakness we shall be girt with supernatural power. Therefore let us speak for Jesus boldly, as we ought to speak.'

(Taken from The Cheque Book of the bank of Faith' by C.H. Spurgeon page of August 2nd)

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out

of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Only the Lord can help us with this also

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of [b]faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6:10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. Men to whom God gave power due to their righteousness and calling, often had the ability to speak by the Spirit so that others could not effectively contradict them. Jesus of course is the best example of this along with many of the Prophets. The example of Stephen here in Acts chapter 6 shows us that these two gifts work in tandem for those who are hungry and thirsty after it.

Psalms 71:8

Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. The best way we can use our tongues and lips etc. is to praise God as much as we can.

And here are perhaps a couple of terrifying verses just to end. Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

For most of my Christian life I have had a struggle even reading these verses, knowing how badly I have failed in speaking good things, and to think of how EVERY idle word is going to come up in the

judgement scares the ---out of me. I can only rejoice I have been saved by Grace and the Blood of Jesus in this matter and many other things.
Matthew 12:34

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

Luke 6:45

A good man **out of the** good treasure **of his heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man **out of the** evil treasure **of his heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart** his mouth speaketh.

Sometimes, there are things building up in our hearts over time. Sometimes even a few hours or days. We should pray about those things and share them first with the Lord, wait on Him, and certainly not just blurt out of our mouths what we feel, which could be negative as this is a 'trial' I am talking about. If we don't do that, we can be mistaken about the event or person, people involved. If we are right, it still pays to wait and pray and ask the Lord to work in the situation. We can also ask Him if He has anything to say about it to us or if He wants us to say anything.

Also at times the Lord leads us to a person, possibly we don't even know and we are able to share what is in our hearts. We find since the Lord set up that meeting we can also receive some comfort or other encouragement. In fact I met a woman yesterday who has something to do with my son's education. I let her

know my son could not attend her events any longer due to other commitments. One thing led to another and she was able to give me a whole new perspective about him and his character and personality, which was a blessing to hear. Sorry I can't be more specific, perhaps in the future! **But whatever your problem that is building up, the Lord will supply some 'release valve' with Himself and or with others at the right moment.**

May God help us all to speak God's Words, speak positively by the Spirit and let God give us all the Wisdom and knowledge others will be unable to oppose. Praise the Lord.

Until Next week,
Jerry and the WCF TEAM



The Power of the Tongue Bible Study!

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

"Death & life are in the power of the tongue" (Pro.18:21)

▶ 1. The power of positive speech:

A. Loving, wholesome speech has a great effect:

2Chr.10:7 If thou be kind unto this people...& speak good words to them, they will be thy servants forever

Pro.15:1a A soft

answer turneth away wrath
Pro.15:23 A word spoken in due season, how good is it

Pro.25:15 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, & a soft tongue breaketh the bone

B. Wise speech is health & life:

Pro.10:11a The mouth of the righteous man is a well of life

Pro.12:18b The tongue of the wise is health

Pro.15:4a A wholesome tongue is a tree of life

Pro.16:24 Pleasant words are...sweet to the soul, & health

C. Other points on wholesome speech:

Pro.8:6 The opening of my lips shall be right things

Pro.14:3b The lips of the wise shall preserve them

Pro.31:26b In her tongue is the law of kindness

Eccl.10:12a The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious

Jam.3:2 If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect (complete, mature) man

(See also Psa.37:30; Pro.10:31; 15:7; 24:26; Mal.2:6,7.)

D. Speaking the right things at the right time:

Pro.10:32a The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable

Pro.25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver

Eccl.8:5b A wise man's heart discerneth both time & judgment

E. Speaking encouraging words to strengthen others:

Gen.50:21b And he

comforted them, & spake
kindly unto them
Deut.3:28a Encourage
him, & strengthen him
Job 4:4 Thy
words have upholden him
that was falling, & thou hast
strengthened the feeble knees
Job 16:5 I would
strengthen you with my mouth
Isa.35:3,4 Strengthen
the weak hands...say to them,
Be strong
Isa.50:4 Speak a
word in season to him that is
weary

F. Speaking & talking about the Lord's Word:

Deut.6:6,7 Thou shalt
talk of (the Word) when thou
sittest...when thou walkest...
when thou liest down...& risest
up

Psa.119:172 My tongue
shall talk of Thy Word

Jn.6:63 The Words
I speak unto you, they are
spirit, &...life

Eph.5:19 Speaking
to yourselves in psalms &
hymns &...songs

1Pet.4:11 If any man
speak, let him speak as the
oracles of God

G. Sharing testimonies about the great things God has done:

Psa.9:11 Sing
praises...declare among the
people His doings

Psa.35:28 My tongue
shall talk of Thy righteousness
& of Thy praise all the day long

Psa.66:16 I will
declare what He hath done for
my soul

Psa.145:1-7, I will
speak of...Thy majesty, & of
Thy wondrous works

10,12,21...make known
to men His mighty acts

Acts 12:17 He...
declared unto them how the
Lord had brought him out of

the prison
(See also Psa.37:30;
40:9,10; 71:17; Isa.12:4.)

H. Have a sense of humour & be able to laugh:

Pro.17:22 A
merry heart doeth good
like a medicine (See also
Pro.15:13,15)

Psa.126:2 Then was
our mouth filled with laughter
(See Job 8:21)

(See also Gen.21:6;
Eccl.3:4; 10:19a.)

2. Silence & restrained speech:

Eccl.3:7 [There is]
a time to keep silence, & a time
to speak

A. The dangers of speaking too much:

Pro.10:19a In the
multitude of words there
wanteth (lacks) not sin

Pro.14:23 In all
labour there is profit: but the
talk of the lips tendeth only to
penury (poverty)

B. The wisdom of being slow to speak:

Jam.1:19 Let every
man be swift to hear, slow to
speak

Pro.18:13 He that
answereth a matter before he
heareth it, it is folly & shame
unto him

Eccl.5:2,6 Be not
rash (hasty) with thy mouth...
wherefore should God be
angry...& destroy the work of
thine hands?

Jn.8:1-9 [Example
of Jesus avoiding being rushed
into answering]

C. It is usually wise to speak little:

Pro.17:27 He that
hath knowledge spareth his
words

Eccl.5:3b A fool's
voice is known by multitude of

words

(See also Mat.5:37)

D. It is often wise not to speak at all:

Job 13:5 O that ye
would altogether hold your
peace. And it should be your
wisdom

Pro.10:19b He that
refraineth his lips is wise

Pro.11:12b A man
of understanding holdeth his
peace

Pro.17:28 Even
a fool, when he holdeth his
peace, is counted wise: & he
that shutteth lips is...a man of
understanding

Pro.21:23 Who
keepeth...his tongue keepeth
his soul from troubles

E. Watch your words:

Psa.39:1b To...sin
not with my tongue: I will keep
my mouth with a bridle, while
the wicked is before me

Psa.141:3 Set a
watch, O Lord, before my
mouth; keep...my lips

Pro.13:3a He that
keepeth his mouth keepeth his
life

Mat.12:36 Every idle
word that men shall speak,
they shall give account thereof
in the day of judgment

F. Keeping secrets:

Pro.11:13 A
talebearer (gossip) revealeth
secrets: but he that is of a
faithful spirit concealeth the
matter

Pro.25:9 Debate
thy cause with thy neighbour
himself; & discover (disclose)
not a secret to another

Mic.7:5 Keep the
doors of thy mouth from her
that lieth in thy bosom (See
also Judg.14:15-17; 16:4-6; 15-
21.)

Mat.9:30 Jesus
straitly charged them...See that

no man know it

Mat.12:14-16 (Jesus)
charged them they should not
make Him known

Mk.1:43-45 See thou
say nothing to any man (See
also Mat.8:4a)

Mk.9:9,10 (Jesus)
charged them that they should
tell no man what things they
had seen (See also Mat.17:9;
Lk.9:36.)

Lk.8:56 He
charged them that they should
tell no man what was done
(See also Mk.5:43)

Lk.9:20,21 He...
commanded them to tell
no man that thing (See also
Mat.16:20)

Acts 23:22 Tell no
man that thou hast shewed
these things to me

(See also Josh.2:14,20)

G. Learning how to be quiet:

Job 6:24a Teach me,
& I will hold my tongue

1Thes.4:11 Study to be
quiet, & to do [mind] your own
business

H. The foolish simply cannot keep their mouth shut:

Pro.15:2b The
mouth of fools poureth forth
foolishness

Pro.20:3 Honour...
to cease...but every fool will be
meddling

Pro.29:11a A fool
uttereth all his mind

3. The damage an uncontrolled tongue will do:

A. An uncontrolled tongue will defile you & others:

Mat.15:11 That which
cometh out of the mouth...
defileth a man

Mat.15:18 Those
things which proceed out of
the mouth come forth from the
heart; & they defile a man

Jam.3:6 The

tongue is...a world of iniquity...
it defileth the whole body

B. A talebearing (gossiping) tongue is a fire:

Jam.3:5,6 The tongue
is a fire...it setteth on fire...& is
set on fire of hell

Pro.16:27 Ungodly
man...in his lips there is as a
burning fire

C. A slanderous, wicked tongue is deadly poison:

Jam.3:8 The
tongue...is...full of deadly
poison

Psa.140:3 Adders'
poison is under their lips

Eccl.10:11 The
serpent will bite without
enchantment; & a babbler is no
better

Rom.3:13b The poison
of asps is under their lips

D. A vainbabbling tongue destroys like cancer:

2Tim.2:16,17 Profane &
vain babblings...their word will
eat as doth a canker (cancer)

E. A sharp, malicious tongue can inflict deep wounds:

Pro.12:18a There is
that speaketh like the piercings
of a sword

Pro.25:18 Man that
beareth false witness...is a
maul, & a sword

Pro.26:22 The words
of a talebearer are as wounds,
& they go down into the
innermost parts (deep)

F. A malicious tongue destroys & kills:

Pro.11:9a An
hypocrite with his mouth
destroyeth his neighbour

Pro.18:21 Death
& life are in the power of the
tongue

Pro.26:28 A flattering
mouth worketh ruin

G. It destroys love & friendship:

Pro.16:28b

A whisperer (gossiper)
separateth chief friends

Acts 14:2 Made their
minds evil affected against the
brethren

4. Foolish & evil speech:

A. Evil speech comes from an evil heart:

Pro.15:2b The
mouth of fools poureth out
foolishness

Pro.15:28b The mouth
of the wicked poureth out evil
things

Mat.12:35b An evil
man out of (heart) bringeth
forth evil things

B. Evil, foolish speech corrupts & stinks:

Eccl.10:1 Dead
flies...send forth a stinking...so
doth a little folly in him that is
in reputation for wisdom

1Cor.15:33 Evil
communications corrupt good
manners

C. The perverse (polluted) & froward (defiant) tongue:

Pro.8:13 The
froward (defiant, contrary)
mouth do I hate

Pro.15:4
Perverseness [in a tongue] is a
breach in the spirit

Pro.26:18,19 As
a madman who casteth
firebrands & death, so is the
man that deceiveth...& saith,
Am not I (joking)?

D. Foolishness & vain talk leads to mischief & ungodliness:

Pro.14:7 Go from
the presence of a foolish man,
when thou perceivest not in
him the lips of knowledge

Pro.15:14b The mouth
of fools feedeth on foolishness

Eccl.10:13 The
beginning of (his) words...is
foolishness: & the end of his

talk is mischievous madness
2Tim.2:16 Shun
profane & vain babblings: for
they will increase unto more
ungodliness

**E. An uncontrolled tongue
brings disaster:**

Psa.109:17-20 As
he loved cursing, so let it come
unto him

Pro.10:14b The
mouth of the foolish is near
destruction

Pro.10:10b A prating
(idly chattering) fool shall fall
Pro.12:13a The wicked
is snared by the transgression
of his lips

Pro.13:3b He that
openeth wide his lips shall have
destruction

Pro.17:20 He that
hath a perverse tongue falleth
into mischief

Pro.18:7 A fool's
mouth...& his lips are the snare
of his soul

Eccl.10:12b The lips of
a fool will swallow up himself

5. Controlling your tongue:

**A. Refrain from corrupt
communication:**

Pro.4:24 Put away
from thee a froward mouth, &
perverse lips

Eph.4:29a Let no
corrupt communication

proceed out of your mouth

Eph.5:4 Neither
filthiness (obscenity), nor
foolish talking, nor jesting, but
rather giving of thanks

Col.3:8 Put...filthy
communication out of your
mouth

1Tim.6:20a Avoiding
profane & vain babblings

**B. Speak edifying things, not
corrupt:**

Eph.4:29 No corrupt
communication....but that
which is...edifying, that it may

minister grace unto the hearers

Col.4:6 Let your
speech be alway with grace,
seasoned with salt

Tit.2:8 Sound speech,
that cannot be condemned
Pro.8:8,9 All the
words of My mouth are in
righteousness; there is nothing
froward or perverse in them
(See also Rom.15:2)

**C. You can't control your own
tongue by yourself:**

Jam.3:8 The tongue
can no man tame

**D. Only God can, so yield to
Him:**

Psa.45:1b My tongue
is the pen of a ready writer [the
Lord]

Pro.16:1 The
preparations of the heart of
man, & the answer of the
tongue, is from the Lord

Isa.50:4 The Lord
God hath given me the tongue
of the learned, that I...know
how to speak [an encouraging]
word

Lk.12:12 The Holy
Ghost shall teach you...what ye
ought to say

1Pet.4:11a If any man
speak, let him speak as the
oracles of God

**E. Read & obey God's Word, &
let it change you:**

Psa.119:9 (How)
shall a young man cleanse his
way? By taking heed...to Thy
Word

Jn.15:3 Now ye are
clean through the Word

Eph.5:26 That He
might sanctify & cleanse it with
the washing of water by the
Word

1Pet.1:22a Ye have
purified your souls in obeying
the truth

(See also Pro.6:20-23;
Heb.10:22.)

**6. Gossiping, backbiting &
slander:**

**A. The Lord forbids you to
gossip:**

Lev.19:16 Thou
shalt not go up & down as a
talebearer (gossip or slanderer)
among thy people: I am the
Lord

Exo.23:1a Thou shalt
not raise a false report

Eph.4:31 Let all...evil
speaking, be put away...with all
malice

Tit.3:2a Speak evil
of no man

Jam.4:11 Speak not
evil one of another, brethren
1Pet.2:1 (Lay) aside
all malice, & guile...& all evil
speakings

B. Warning against backbiting:

Pro.25:9 Debate
thy cause with thy neighbour
himself; & [tell] not a secret to
another

2Cor.12:20 I fear...I
shall not find you such
as I would...lest there be
...backbitings, whisperings

C. Gossiping shows a lack of
true faith & love:

Pro.10:18 He that
uttereth a slander, is a fool

1Tim.5:11-13 When they
have begun to wax wanton
against Christ ...they learn to
be...tattlers & busybodies

Jam.1:26 If any man
seem to be religious, & bridleth
not his tongue...this man's
religion is vain

D. Gossiping is born of hatred:

Psa.38:12 They
that seek my hurt speak
mischievous things, & imagine
deceits

Psa.41:7 All that
hate me whisper together
against me

E. Gossiping is of the devil:

1Tim.3:11 So must
their wives be grave, not

slanderers [literally: "diabolos", meaning false accuser, devil]

Rev.12:10 [The devil,] the accuser of our brethren

▶ 7. The punishment for gossiping:

A. Scriptural response to backbiters & talebearers:

Tit.1:10,11 There are many unruly & vain talkers... whose mouths must be stopped

Psa.32:9 [They] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit & bridle

Pro.25:23 Angry countenance (driveth away) a backbiting tongue

B. Part company with them if they don't change:

Psa.101:5 [King David said:] Whoso (privately) slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off

Psa.101:7 He that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight

Pro.20:19 He that goeth about as a talebearer (gossip) revealeth secrets: therefore [have nothing to do] with him

Pro.22:10 Cast out a scorner, & contention shall go out

Pro.26:20 Where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth

C. The Lord will judge them:

Mat.12:36,37 Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment

▶ 8. How to avoid criticising & gossiping about others:

A. Think about their virtues:

Phi.4:8 Whatsoever things are...pure... lovely...if there be any virtue... think on these things

(See also Phi.1:3)

B. Remember the blessings for not backbiting:

Psa.15:1,3 Who shall abide [before God]? He that backbiteth not ...nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour

1Pet.3:10 He that will...see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, & his lips (from) guile

Rev.14:5 In their mouth was...no guile: they are before the throne

C. Make an effort to not speak evil:

Psa.17:3b I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress

Psa.39:1a I will take heed...that I sin not with my tongue

Pro.30:32 If thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth [before you speak what you were thinking]

D. Don't even think evil:

Psa.19:14 Let the words of my mouth, & the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight

Eccl.10:20 Curse not the king, no not in thy thought

Mk.7:21 For out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts

2Cor.10:5 Bringing... every thought to the obedience of Christ

E. You can't speak good if your heart is full of evil:

Mat.12:34 How can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh

F. Beware of hypocritical flattery:

Psa.12:2 They speak vanity...with flattering lips & double heart

Psa.28:3 Wicked...

speak peace, but mischief is in their hearts

Psa.55:21 The words of his mouth were smoother than...oil, yet were they drawn swords

Psa.62:4 They bless with their mouth, but curse inwardly

Pro.26:23 Burning (fervently agreeing) lips (with) a wicked heart are like (earthenware) covered with silver

Pro.26:25,26 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are ...abominations in his heart

Ezk.33:31b With their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness

▶ 9. Warning against judging others:

Mat.7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged

Mat.7:2 With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged

Mat.7:3-5 Why beholdest the mote...in thy brother's eye, but considerest not beam that is in thine own eye?

Jn.7:24 Judge not according to appearance...but righteous

Rom.2:1,2 Thou art inexcusable...wherein thou judgest another...for thou that judgest doest the same things

Rom.2:3 Thinkest thou...that judgest...& doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Rom.14:13a Let us not therefore judge one another any more

▶ 10. What to do when others speak evil of you:

A. Ignore it if you can; don't be offended:

Eccl.7:21,22 Take no heed unto all words spoken... thine own heart knoweth thou thyself likewise hast cursed others

Psa.119:165 Great peace have they which love Thy (Word): & nothing shall offend them

B. Don't speak evil of them in return:

1Pet.2:21-23 Follow (Christ's) steps...Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again (See also Isa.53:7,9)

1Pet.3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing

C. Let your good works disprove their lies:

Tit.2:7,8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is... contrary...(have) no evil thing to say of you

1Pet.2:12 Whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, glorify God

1Pet.2:15 With well doing...put to silence...foolish men

1Pet.3:16 Having a good (way of life); that, whereas they speak evil of you...they may be ashamed

D. Jesus remained silent before His accusers:

Isa.53:7 He was oppressed...yet He opened not His mouth

Mat.27:14 (Jesus) answered him (Pilate) to never a word

Lk.23:9 He (Herod) questioned Him (Jesus) in many words; but He answered him nothing

Lk.22:67,68 [Jesus knew that answering His

enemies was pointless]

E. But there are times to speak out & give answer:

Acts 21:40 [Paul gave his defense to the mob in Jerusalem]

Acts 24:10 [Paul defended himself from his accusers before Felix]

Acts 26:1 [Paul's self-defense before Governor Festus & Agrippa]

1Pet.3:15 Be ready always to give an answer to every man that [sincerely] asketh you a reason (See also Mat.10:18-20)

11. Arguments & contentions:

A. Avoid getting drawn into arguments:

Pro.17:14 Leave off contention, before it be meddled with

Pro.26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him

Pro.29:11b A wise man keepeth [his comments] in till afterwards

Phi.2:3 Let nothing be done through strife

2Tim.2:24 The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be patient

1Pet.3:9 Not rendering evil (insult) for (insult), or railing (reviling) for (reviling): but contrariwise blessing

(See also 2Ki.18:36)

B. Listen carefully & think about what you say:

Pro.15:28 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer

Pro.18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly & shame unto him

Jam.1:19 Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath

C. Don't get provoked & answer rashly:

Pro.15:18b He that is slow to anger appeaseth strife

Pro.16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty

Pro.25:8 Go not forth hastily to strive

Pro.29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him

Eccl.5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth...(nor) hasty to utter any thing...let thy words be few

D. Speak calmly:

Pro.15:1a A soft answer turneth away wrath
Pro.22:11 For the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend

E. What causes arguments & contention:

Pro.10:12a Hatred stirreth up strifes

Pro.13:10 Only by pride cometh contention

Pro.15:1b Grievous words stir up anger

Pro.15:18a A wrathful man stirreth up strife

Pro.18:6 A fool's lips enter into contention

Pro.26:21 As wood to fire; so a contentious man (kindles) strife

Pro.28:25a He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife

Pro.29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife

Acts 13:45 They were filled with envy, & spake against those things ...contradicting & blaspheming

1Tim.6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions &... words, whereof cometh...strife

Jam.4:1 Wars & fightings...come..of your lusts

(See also Pro.26:17)

F. The futility of arguing:

Job 6:25 How forcible are right words! But what doth your arguing reprove?

Pro.9:7,8 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself...shame ...reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee

Pro.23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: he will despise wisdom

Pro.29:9 If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he (the foolish man) rage or laugh, there is no rest

G. Ending an argument:

Pro.17:9 He that covereth (lets pass) a transgression seeketh love

Pro.20:3a It is an honour for a man to cease from strife

Pro.22:10 Cast out the scorner, & contention shall...cease

Col.3:13 Forbearing (putting up with) one another, & forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any (See also Gen.50:20,21)

H. Warning to those who "love a good argument":

Pro.17:19 He loveth transgression that loveth strife

1Cor.3:3 Whereas there is among you...strife.... are ye not carnal, & walk as [carnal, worldly] men?

Jam.3:14,15 If ye have bitter...strife in your hearts, glory not...this wisdom is devilish

I. The bad fruit of arguments:

Psa.106:33 They provoked his (Moses') spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with this lips

Pro.18:19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city...contentions

are like bars of a castle

Acts 15:39 The contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other

Gal.5:15 If ye bite & devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another

Jam.3:16 Where... strife is, there is confusion & every evil work

J. When it is right to contend:

Pro.26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit

Pro.28:4 Such as keep the law contend with (the wicked)

Pro.28:23 He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth

Acts 15:1,2 "Except ye be circumcised, ye cannot be saved." Paul ...had no small dissension & disputation with them

Jude 3b Ye should earnestly contend for the faith

K. Humbly explain to, correct & instruct the receptive:

Gal.6:1 Restore such an one in the spirit of meekness

2Tim.2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves (See also Jam.5:20)

1Pet.3:15 Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason...with meekness

12. Lying, deceit & bearing false witness:

A. God's Word warns us not to lie:

Lev.19:11 Neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another

Pro.24:28 Be not a

witness against thy neighbour without cause; & deceive not with thy lips

Eph.4:25 Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour

Col.3:9 Lie not to one another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds

B. What God thinks about lying:

Pro.12:22a Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord

C. God's judgment on wicked liars:

Psa.63:11b The mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped

Pro.19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, & he that speaketh lies shall not escape

Pro.19:9 He that speaketh lies shall perish

Acts 5:1-10 [Ananias & Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost & died]

(See also Psa.31:18; 35:11-20; Pro.12:19.)

Special chapter on the tongue: James 3

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