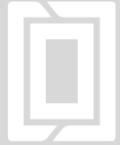


# TRUST WISDOM a study in proverbs

## WISE WORDS part 1 Selected Proverbs



December 2, 2018 | DAVID ANDERSON

Can we push pause on all the hustle and bustle of this season and ask ourselves - how are we doing? Is there something the Holy Spirit is targeting in us this season, a place He wants to pour out his healing love? What does God want to do in us this Christmas season?

Jesus would say that one of the most reliable indicators of how we are doing can be found in the words that come off our lips. If we want to get an accurate assessment of the state of our hearts and brokenness, look no further than the words bouncing off our tongues.

Jesus says in Luke 6 that just as a bucket draws water from a well, so the tongue dips down and draws from the treasures of our hearts. If the Spirit is allowed to produce good in that heart, the tongue will bring forth good; if there is evil in that heart that is not allowed to be healed by God's grace, the tongue will bring forth evil. Jesus says - for out of the abundance of the heart his or her mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).

James says that the most powerful tool in our possession is our tongue - the words that come out of our mouths, the words that we so eloquently pen on Facebook, and the words that we text and email. Our tongues are like a rudder that controls and navigates massive ships through the ocean and like a fire that destroys acres (James 3:2-12).

Proverbs reveals 4 ways our unrestrained words reveal a sick heart that needs to be healed by Jesus:

BOASTING	DECEITFUL FLATTERY	TOO MANY WORDS	GOSSIP AND SLANDER
<p>Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. Let another praise you and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips. (27:1-2)</p> <p>Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (26:12)</p>	<p>Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel. (20:17)</p> <p>He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue. (28:23)</p>	<p>He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent. (17:27-28)</p> <p>When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise. (10:19)</p>	<p>A fool's mouth is his ruin and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body. (18:7-8)</p> <p>A perverse person spreads dissension, and a gossip separates the closest friends. (16:28)</p>
<p>We boast in subtle or not so subtle ways because our prideful brokenness craves attention and loves to take the center stage. We may be in constant motion trying to preserve an image that we want people to have about us or our kids or our marriage or job.</p>	<p>What's the difference between affirmation and flattery? It's motive. If it is truly affirmation, it is about them, encouraging them and building them up. If it's flattery, it's about us. Insincere compliments spoken with deceitful motives is the concern of Proverbs.</p>	<p>Those who struggle in this way speak first and think later. They interrupt without hesitation. They fill the silence when silence would be ok. And for all their talking they remain hard of hearing.</p>	<p>Do we side with God who intercedes for the saints or do we side with Satan who accuses our brothers and sisters all day and night? (Rev. 12:10). We might be telling the truth but we are telling it to the wrong person.</p>

## OUR WORDS AND GOD'S WORDS

In Proverbs Solomon says that death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (18:21). Wisdom says that words are powerful because they penetrate the soul and last a lifetime. Our words bless or curse. They build up or they destroy. They encourage or discourage. They nourish or weaken. They heal or hurt.

*Have your words been aggressive, defensive or attacking?*

*Have you been trying hard to impress people?*

*Are you trying to find acceptance and affirmation from the wrong people?*

Those things might be coming out of your mouth because you have forgotten who you are and who other people are.

We've talked a lot about the destructive power of our words, but God has some words for you too. Listen to the truth of God's words:

*God says you have been fearfully and wonderfully made. If you were to count the thoughts that God has towards you, they would outnumber the sand. He chose you in Jesus before the foundation of the world, that you should be holy and without blame before Him in love.*

*He has clothed you with the garment of salvation; He has covered you with the robe of His righteousness. And you have peace, peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only that, but your old fleshly way of operating was crucified with Him, that your prison of sin might be done away with.*

*You are no longer a slave of sin. You no longer present your body as an instrument of unrighteousness but as an instrument of righteousness to God. You are an adopted son or daughter in Jesus Christ and have obtained an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, kept by the power of God.*

*You are loved. You are loved. You are loved.*

*You are a new, glorious creation of Jesus Christ. Behold the old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.*

Your new heart cries out to bless and not curse, to build up and not destroy, to encourage and not discourage, to nourish and not weaken, to heal and not hurt.