



## Proverbs Part 8: Words (1/2)

*Words can encourage or tear down, cause forgiveness or strife.*

What are your words going to do today? Pray that the Lord will soften your heart to learn the power your words have on those around you.

1 Peter 3:10 Whoever would love life and see good days  
must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

*Gossip destroys communities.*

Be wise of disguising gossip in the form of a prayer request. This is not the same as gaining perspective from a wise, trusted person in your life. Are you moving toward being charitable or critical?

Look at Jesus' example of behavior towards the prostitutes, tax-collectors, and other lost people. (i.e. Luke 7:36-50) How will you choose to follow his example today?

Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Do you choose to speak with words of life and a gracious manner or with an attacking, angry way?

*The more you practice, the more your speech will be a blessing  
to those around you.*

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

How can you specifically bless your children and spouse with words that give life today?

Proverbs 4:24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put perverse lips far from you.

When you practice deceiving yourself, the more you will believe them. What are you telling yourself today that is not the truth?

Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 8:8 All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; There is nothing crooked or perverted in them.

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Proverbs 10:11 The mouth of the righteous *is* a well of life,  
But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

What treasures are you storing in your children's hearts and minds? Are you growing in maturity so that words of life will come out of your mouth?

Proverbs 10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable,  
But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of understanding.

Proverbs 10:30-31 The righteous will never be removed,  
But the wicked will not inhabit the earth.  
The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,  
But the perverse tongue will be cut out.

Proverbs 11:9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor,  
But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets,  
But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Are you trustworthy? Pray that the Lord would teach you to hold your tongue.

Proverbs 12:13-14 The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips,  
But the righteous will come through trouble.  
A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth,  
And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.

Proverbs 17:28 Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they  
hold their tongues.

Proverbs 13:2-3 A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth,  
But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.  
He who guards his mouth preserves his life,  
But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

Write down what God convicted you about as you listened and read these verses. Write down three things that happen to people who have unwise lips. What is one thought that you will ponder today as you grow in the direction of righteousness?