

# Wisdom from the Proverbs

***“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:” — Proverbs 1:5.***

## Sins of the tongue—and words of encouragement

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The Proverbs give us practical and blessed wisdom for every-day living. One of the practical lessons given us in the Proverbs involves sins of our tongue. Some people whisper—others are tail bearers — while others just talk too much.

**Proverbs 10:19 (KJV)** *In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.*

**Proverbs 17:27 (KJV)** *He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.*

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

**Proverbs 18:8 (KJV)** *The words of a **talebearer** are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

**Proverbs 20:19 (KJV)** *He that goeth about as a **talebearer** revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.*

**Proverbs 26:20 (KJV)** *Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no **talebearer**, the strife ceaseth.*

**Proverbs 26:22 (KJV)** *The words of a **talebearer** are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

- Talebearers reveal things that ought not to be revealed. Faithful people do not bear tales about others.
- Many are the hurts that come from those who bear tales about others. The hurt is deep within and hard to remove
- The way to close the mouths of talebearers is to give no answer to the poisonous tongue. If the hearer says nothing—the tales will soon cease—just as a fire goes out when the wood is taken away.

**Proverbs 16:28 (KJV)** *A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

- What is a whisperer? He is a gossiper—one that talks about a person to another person. Such people often say things that cause others to sever long lasting ties and friendships. When this happens, the fault lies at the doorstep of the whisperer. Don't whisper—gossip!

**Proverbs 12:18 (KJV)** *There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.*

- When we do not think about what we are going to say to another—we may blurt out something that cuts and hurts. Such talk ought to be avoided and our speech be seasoned with salt, that is, with grace. Why tear down? Some folks speak that way thinking they build themselves up by so doing. Folly!
- May God give us the tongue of the learned that we may speak a word in season to him that is weary—let us build up instead of tear down with our words.

**Proverbs 25:11 (KJV)** *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*

**Proverbs 15:23 (KJV)** *A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!*

**Proverbs 24:26 (KJV)** *Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.*

- A word spoken judiciously and opportunely is as much in its place, as the golden apples in the silver baskets. Such words are things of beauty and grace which edify saints. These words encourage even if they are words of exhortation.
- Are words important? Is the way we speak our words important? Yes, on both counts. Let us guard ourselves so that our words come forth from the fountain of the new heart—not the flesh.

**James 3:2 (KJV)** *For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

--Leon King