

A SAMPLING OF PROVERBS

Holding Tongue and Listening

Prov 10:19: When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Prov 11:12: A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

Prov 13:3: He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

Prov 15:28: The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Prov 17:27-28: A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Prov 18:13: He who answers before listening--that is his folly and his shame.

Prov 20:5: The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.

Prov 21:23: He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Prov 29:20: Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Listening To Advice

Prov 1:5: let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.

Prov 10:8: The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

Prov 12:15: The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Prov 19:20: Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Timing

Prov 15:23: A man finds joy in giving an apt reply--and how good is a timely word!

Prov 25:20: Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

Prov 27:14: If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

Sinful Speech

Prov 8:13: To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Prov 17:20: A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble.

Prov 18:8: The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.

Prov 25:23: As a north wind brings rain, so a sly tongue brings angry looks.

Prov 26:22-25: The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts. Like a coating of glaze over earthenware are fervent lips with an evil heart. A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations fill his heart.

Prov 26:28: A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Prov 12:18-19: Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Prov 15:4: The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Gentle, Kind Words

Prov 12:25: An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.

Prov 15:1-2: A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

Prov 16:21: The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

Prov 16:23-24: A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Prov 18:21: The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Prov 20:15: Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

Prov 24:26: An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

Prov 25:15: Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Power of a Rebuke

Prov 15:30-31: A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

Prov 25:11-12: A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

Prov 27:5-6: Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Prov 28:23: He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.