

The Tongue's Potential



MEMORY VERSE: From a wise mind comes wise speech; the words of the wise are persuasive. Kind words are like honey- sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.
Proverbs 16:23,24

A Hearts Determine Words

1. It's been said that, "what's down in the well comes up in the bucket." Our hearts and minds are like the water in the well and our words, attitudes and actions are what come up in the bucket. What is the connection between our **tongues and our hearts**?

10:8

10:20,21

12:20,23

15:7

15:28

15:31,32

16:20,21

17:9,10

18:2

29:20

2. Do any of these Proverbs challenge or convict you regarding your heart and speech?
3. Have you seen growth in your own life in the way you speak?
4. According to previous lessons in Proverbs, how can we have hearts that cause us to speak wise and helpful words?

B Wise Guidance for Speaking and Listening

5. What **rules, warnings and advice** does the Bible give us regarding what we should **say** or to whom we should **listen**?

15:22

17:10

17:27,28

18:2,6-8

18:13

20:3

20:19-20

21:13

21:23

22:10-11

23:9

24:28,29

27:1-2

27:5,6

27:14-16

6. Which do you find most difficult- speaking words of wisdom, remaining silent, or being a good listener?

7. Do you know people who are good at speaking, staying silent or listening? How do you feel when you are with them?

8. Why do you think each is so important?
speaking

being silent

listening

9. Proverbs 26:4-5 seems like a contradiction at first. What do you think these 2 verses actually mean?



God's Plan for Our Tongues

10. How do the following verses inspire you regarding the **power and potential** you have in your own tongue?
14:25

15:23

15:30

16:23,24

18:20-21 (last week's memory verse!)

20:15,21

24:26

25:11-13

11. When have you been dramatically **negatively** impacted by someone's words to you?

12. Think about what lies you might be believing about yourself. Recognize them and find Scriptures that are true and meditate on those. For example:
Lie: I'm ugly. Truth: I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13-18

13. When have you been dramatically **positively** impacted by someone's words to you?

14. What do you feel you need most right now in the area of your speech?

15. What is one thing you can focus on right now to help you to realize the marvelous potential of your tongue?

WALK IN TRUTH



It is really quite fascinating how powerful the tongue is- how easy it is to abuse or bless with our tongues. Left to our own human reasoning, we mistake our own thoughts and words for wisdom; flattery for respect; constructive criticism for rejection; honesty for being judgmental... The potential to bless people is greater than we can imagine if we fear the Lord and walk in His ways. Guard your heart in the Lord, and ask Him to help you fulfill the purpose He has for you in the way you speak.