

The Tongue

How important are the words we speak?

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Words are very powerful, powerful enough to produce either death or life.

James 3:5-6 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! (6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

The words we speak have great influence over the course of our lives.

James 3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

The tongue is capable of producing deadly poison.

What is God's plan for our tongues?

Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

God expects us to use knowledge in a way that pleases Him.

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

God expects us not to say everything that pops into our heads, but to exercise self-control.

Prov 10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out.

God wants us to speak wisely.

Prov 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

God desires kindness and wisdom to be on our lips at all times.

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;

It isn't enough to speak the truth; it must be spoken in love.

How can the tongue be misused?

Prov 6:24 To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress.

The tongue can be used to seduce a person into sexual immorality.

Prov 25:23 The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

Backbiting is a misuse of the tongue.

Prov 26:28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Lying and flattery are displeasing to God.

Prov 17:4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

Spitefulness is a misuse of the tongue.

What are the benefits of godly speech?

Prov 12:18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.

Good health is one of the benefits of godly speech; this may not necessarily just apply to physical health.

Prov 21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

Watching your words can guard you from a great deal of inner turmoil.

Prov 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Godly speech brings life.

Prov 25:15 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

A gentle tongue is very powerful, especially in dealing with angry people.

Prov 12:19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Speaking the truth brings an enduring foundation.