

The Tongue's Power



MEMORY VERSE: The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.
Proverbs 18:21

What is powerful enough to either destroy life or give life- medicine, surgery, bombs, weapons, car or plane accidents, starvation, disease, healthy food, clean water...? The Word of God says that the TONGUE has this kind of power, so we would do well to understand this and to know how we can use our words to bring life to others rather than death.

(Consider highlighting verses about the tongue in pink in your Bible so you can find them at a glance.)



The Power of the Tongue

1. Are you a person who tends to talk a lot, or use words sparingly? Proverbs 18:21
2. Do you feel a need or desire to learn to speak differently? If so, why?
3. What powerful “consequences” or results have you seen in people’s lives from words spoken to them, either positive or negative?
4. Look at James 3:1-12. What points does James make about the tongue in verses 1-2?
5. How does James describe the power of the tongue? 3:3-6?
6. What dilemma, warning and contradictions does James point out in verses 3:7-10?

7. What point is James making in 3:11-12?

B The Power of Our Words on Our Own Lives

8. What we say greatly affects our **personal lives**. What insight do these Proverbs give you about the connection between our speech and the impact it has on our lives? If it helps, you can jot down phrases or words in the following categories:

Negative Character
Traits



Negative
Actions/Results



Positive Character
Traits



Positive
Actions/Results

10:19

10:31-32

12:14

12:15

12:19

13:3

19:9

9. Which of the truths in these verses especially speak to you as a personal warning?

10. Which verses encourage you or motivate you to use your tongue for good?



The Power of Our Tongue in Other People's Lives

11. What we say also affects other people. What does Proverbs teach us about the power or influence of our tongues **in the lives of others**? Again, if it is helpful, you can jot down words or phrases in the following categories:



10: 11,12

10:20,21

11:9,11

11:12,13

12:6

12:18

15:1,2,4

15:18

18:4

25:14-15

12. Proverbs 26:17-28 lists all negative attitudes and actions. What truths stand out to you in these verses?

13. How does God feel about our use of the tongue? Proverbs 12:22

14. Why do you think it is so important to keep our word?

15. What ideas come to mind that can help us avoid speaking death and avoid failing to keep our word?

16. When we do speak death instead of life, or fail to keep our word, what should we do?
1 John 1:9,10

WALK IN TRUTH



Our tongues are living proof that we are sinful creatures. We long for life but often speak death. We speak without thinking. We hurt others by our insensitive or evil words. Woe is me! But remember that the goal of Proverbs is to fear the Lord and thus gain wisdom and life. The wonderful truth is that if you love the Lord and trust Christ as your Savior, you are safe in Him. Ask Him to help you tame your tongue and use it to glorify Him and edify people. *“And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.”* *Philippians 1:6*