

A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

Looking at *A Lifestyle of Honoring*, takes us to a study of our speech. One of the most common ways to honor someone is by what we say. Words such as "praise," "compliment," "appreciation," and even "thankful" carry the idea of honor. One of the quickest and most visible ways of dishonoring someone is by the words that we use. Through the book of Proverbs we learn about the power of the tongue. Not only are we to honor the Lord through our lips, but we show respect to God's people as we do the same.

Our words are windows into our heart. They are expressions of our beliefs and opinions. In Proverbs we learn that "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov 18:21a).

It is through the words of Proverbs that we understand "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (18:21a). **What would be examples of "death and life" in the tongue?**

The Deadly Use of the Tongue

1. Words can _____

- 11:9a "With his mouth the godless man _____ his neighbor..."
- 12:18a "There is one who speaks rashly like the _____ of a _____"
- 16:27b a worthless man "words are as a _____"



Why are apologies often inadequate for what has been said?

2. Words can _____

- 15:4 "perversion in it (tongue) _____ the spirit"

3. Words can create _____

- 15:1b "but a harsh word _____ up anger."

What is an example of this?

4. Words destroy _____

- 14:25b "But he who speaks lies is _____"

5. Words can ruin _____

- 17:9b "But he who _____ a matter _____ intimate friends."



Our culture abounds in the deadly use of the tongue. How can we keep that from changing us?

The Life found in the Tongue

1. Words can bring _____

- 10:11a "The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of _____"
- 16:24 "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the souls and healing to the _____"
- 25:25 "Like cold water to a weary soul, so is _____ from a distant land."

Often we find ourselves in situations where something tragic or bad has happened. We struggle to know what to say? What do you see the Scriptures reminding you?

2. Words can _____

- 12:25 "Anxiety in the heart of a man _____ it down, but a _____ word makes it glad."

3. Words can _____

- 27:5 "Better is open _____ than love that is concealed"
- 28:23 He who _____ a man will afterward find more favor than he who _____ with the tongue"

4. Words can _____

- 15:7a "The lips of the wise spread _____"

5. Words can _____ a situation

- 15:1a "A _____ answer turns away _____"
- 15:18 A hot tempered man stirs up strife, but the _____ to anger _____ contention."

What Helps (from Proverbs):

1. Be _____ what you say

- 13:3 "The one who _____ his mouth _____ his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to _____"
- 15:28 The heart of the righteous _____ how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."
- 10:19 "When there are _____ words, transgression is _____, but he who _____ his lips is wise."
- 21:23 "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from _____"

2. Be _____

- 26:18-19 "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man who _____ his neighbor, and says, "Was I not _____?"

3. Avoid _____ tongues

- 20:19 "He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not _____ with a _____"
- 22:24 "Do not associate with a man given to _____; or go with a _____ man."

