

# THE GIFT OF SPEECH, Pt 1

## Christian Character in Action: Lesson 17

17 June 2022

The Bible gives a lot of instruction concerning our speech, good and bad. Today we will focus on the GOOD that can be done with the gift of speech that God has given us.

**Mat 12:34-37** From this passage, the Lord is teaching us that the tongue is directly connected to the heart. The words we speak are simply a manifestation of what is actually in our heart.

- We must FILL our heart with scripture, truth, love, and grace. What we fill our heart with will come out in our speech.
- Don't expose your heart to sinful, harmful things that will manifest themselves in your speech.
- We're going to answer to every word we say at the Judgment Seat (vs 36; 2 Cor 5:10).

**Prov 10:20** Your tongue can be of great value, or of little worth. Notice again, the tongue is connected to the heart.

- Your words can be worthless if you speak of the vanities, sins, and trivial things of the world.
- Your words can be a great treasure as you speak of God's justice, truth, righteousness, holiness, salvation, etc.
- Jesus' words were valuable. The Sower sowed the word of God (Mk 4:14).

**Prov 15:4** If you are saved, you have the words that can provide eternal life to an unsaved person.

**Prov 12:14** Good words can be an asset in your employment. Skills and knowledge of the job are not enough. You need to make yourself valuable by your consistently good speech.

**Prov 18:20** Your ability to speak properly to people will affect how well you can provide food for yourself and your family. People will reward you if you've spoken kind words to them.

**Prov 18:4** Words are "as deep waters," "the wellspring of wisdom," and "as a flowing brook."

- If you're a believer, "rivers of living water" ought to be flowing out of your belly (Jn 7:38).
- We have the ability to provide satisfying refreshing words to this lost world. Don't waste your opportunities by speaking from your worldly well. Give the **Holy Ghost** use of your tongue so the living water can refresh somebody.

**Prov 10:11** “The mouth of a righteous *man* is a well of life.” Your words can save somebody from their hell bound life.

**Prov 12:18** “The tongue of the wise is health.” “A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine” (Prov 17:22).

- The words of our mouth ought to make somebody feel better, not worse.

**Prov 15:1** “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

- By our words, we choose whether to escalate a quarrel or mend a relationship.

**Prov 15:26** When we speak to people, if they reject what we tell them, let it not be because we were not pleasant toward them. Never be rude.

**Prov 25:12** Sometimes it is necessary for us to reprove somebody. (To charge somebody with a fault).

- Use wisdom and tact when reproving someone. It is not necessary to publicly shame people or ridicule them. If you reprove privately and respectfully, people will be more likely to hear you.

**Prov 28:23** If it becomes necessary to rebuke someone (to express sharp disapproval of someone because of their behavior or actions), make sure your goal is to help them, not to shame them.

**Prov 11:9**

**Prov 14:3**

**Prov 14:25**

**Prov 12:6**

With our mouth, we can deliver souls from death, save people from a life of destruction, help young people to not make mistakes, and rescue people from a devil’s hell.

**Prov 15:7**

**Prov 16:21**

**Prov 16:23**

**Prov 20:15**

With our mouth, we can teach people the truths of God, imparting wisdom and knowledge to others.

**Prov 25:25** Jesus Christ has gone away into a far country (Luke 20:9). We are His representatives here on Earth in the meantime. We have the Lord’s good news (gospel), which we can deliver to thirsty souls with our wonderful gift of speech.