

# Wise speech

*The book of Proverbs (ESV)*

By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,  
but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown. – 11:11  
There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,  
but the tongue of the wise brings healing – 12:18  
Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits. – 18:21

## **Careful**

When words are many, transgression is not lacking,  
but whoever restrains his lips is prudent – 10:19  
Whoever restrains his words has knowledge,  
and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.  
Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise;  
when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent. – **17:27-28**  
A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing his opinion. – **18:2**  
A fool's lips walk into a fight,  
and his mouth invites a beating. – **18:6**  
If one gives an answer before he hears,  
it is his folly and shame. – **18:13**

## **Honest**

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,  
but those who act faithfully are his delight – **12:22**  
A dishonest man spreads strife,  
and a whisperer separates close friends – **16:28**  
Whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right,"  
will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations,  
but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight,  
and a good blessing will come upon them. – **24:24-25**

Whoever gives an honest answer  
kisses the lips – **24:28**

### **Gentle**

A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger. – **15:1**  
A gentle tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit – **15:4**  
Gracious words are like a honeycomb,  
sweetness to the soul and health to the body – **16:24**  
With patience a ruler may be persuaded,  
and a soft tongue will break a bone. – **25:15**

### **Builds others up**

Whoever belittles his neighbour lacks sense,  
but a man of understanding remains silent. – **11:12**  
Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets,  
but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered. – **11:13**  
To make an apt answer is a joy to a man,  
and a word in season, how good it is! – **15:13**  
The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels;  
they go down into the inner parts of the body. – **18:8**  
Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold  
is a wise reprover to a listening ear. – **25:12**

Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.  
Put away from you crooked speech,  
and put devious talk far from you. – **4:23-24**  
The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious  
and adds persuasiveness to his lips. – **16:23**