

Reckless Words

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.--
Proverbs 12:18

Many verses emphasize the power of words both for good and for evil. My favorite verse about words is, Proverbs 25:11—"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." God has given us the ability to talk so that we can give good instruction to our children, give words of encouragement to our friends, and bless those we come in contact with. Our words can be used to read the Bible, sing hymns, and pray. It is with words that we share the way of salvation with others. There are so many good things our words can do.

James 3 tells that the tongue is difficult to control. We can all think of times we have said something and regretted it. Perhaps we have said something impatient, disrespectful or unkind. Maybe we have snapped at a child or a spouse. We may have even been untruthful.

God gave us specific instructions about how to use our words. Ephesians 4:29 states, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers."

None of us want trouble and Solomon tells us how a man can keep from trouble. "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble" (Proverbs 21:23).

Luke 4:22 tells us how Jesus used words, "And all bear Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth . . ." We need to let Jesus be our example and speak the gracious words that will glorify our Lord.