

Intro:

We have been talking about Wisdom and the Tongue. Proverbs has a lot to say about this kind of wisdom.

What is wisdom? Spiritual skill, the ability to apply Biblical commands to daily living

Of course, even people in the world who do not know God speak wisdom concerning the tongue. The power of the tongue is well known.

Proposition: Wisdom involves spiritual skill in the use of the tongue according to God's Word.

Last week:

I. Potent words: when you speak, be aware and beware

II. Powerless words: when it is no use to speak

This week

III. Measured words: when **less is more**

"One of the principle differences between a wise man and a fool is that the wise man exercises restraint in his use of words, while the fool has a hair-trigger lip."¹

Pr 10.19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable,
But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Pr 15.28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,
But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

Pr 17.27 He who restrains his words has knowledge,
And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

See also: *Prov 12:16, 23; 15:1-2, 28; 17:27, 18:2, 13, 15, 17; 21:23; 29:11, 20*

A. Restraint is necessary to hear what others are saying.

B. Restraint is necessary to gain control of strong emotions.

C. Restraint gives the wise time to consider what to say and how to say it.

¹ Deffinbaugh, p. 78

IV. Verboten words: when you **must not** speak

Pr 11.13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

Pr 20.20 He who curses his father or his mother,
His lamp will go out in time of darkness.

Pr 20.25 It is a trap for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!"
And after the vows to make inquiry.

See also: Proverbs 6:1-5; 19:5, 28; 20:3; 23:9; 25:9-10; 26:28; 28:23; 29:5, 9; 30:11

- A. A breach of confidence
- B. Hasty commitments or vows made without thinking
- C. Contention and strife
- D. Attempting to correct or instruct a fool
- E. Cursing of one's parents
- F. False testimony
- G. Flattery
- H. Gossip and slander
- I. Lying and deception
- J. Self-acclaim

V. Golden words: when you **must** speak

- A. When our words are given in serious **submission** to God's will

Pr 16.1 The plans of the heart belong to man,
But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

1. This involves, first, a heart that practices personal meditation on God's Word so that it knows God's will
2. Secondly, this involves a dependence on God's guidance as to when to speak
3. Thirdly, this involves a readiness to speak up for God as soon as it is appropriate, with no fear of man, but fully ready to give God's answer to life's problems.

B. When our words are words of **wisdom** and **knowledge**

Pr 15.7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge,
But the hearts of fools are not so.

See also: Proverbs 31.1, 26

C. When we are giving out the life changing words of the **gospel**

Pr 13.14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,
To turn aside from the snares of death.

See also: Proverbs 14.25; 24.11

D. When we are rebuking or correcting a **wise** man

Pr 25.12 *Like* an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold
Is a wise reprovor to a listening ear.

See also: Proverbs 27.5-6; 28.23

E. When we speak up for the **afflicted**

Pr 31.8-9 Open your mouth for the mute,
For the rights of all the unfortunate.

⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously,
And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

F. When we open our mouth to **heal** the afflicted; to edify, to build up

Pr 12.18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

See also: Proverbs 12.25; 15.4; 16.24

VI. Refined words: when a **fit** word is **fitly** spoken

Pr 15.23 A man has joy in an apt answer,
And how delightful is a timely word!

Pr 25.11 *Like* apples of gold in settings of silver
Is a word spoken in right circumstances.

Pr 15.1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.

See also: Proverbs 16.23; 22.11; 25.15

- A. The speaker has the wisdom to know what to say and when to say it, which results in...
- B. The hearer receiving the exact message that was intended

Conclusion:

Wisdom involves spiritual skill in the use of the tongue according to God's Word.