

THE TONGUE IN PROVERBS

“LOOK WHO’S TALKING NOW”

When it comes to our speech, no better place is found in all of Scripture to inform and correct our communication than the book of Proverbs. Chapter **18:21** sums it up, “**Death and life are in the power of the tongue.**” I trust that the man or woman who loves wisdom will find this topical arrangement of the proper use of our words very helpful in the quest for godliness.

A. UNWHOLESOME WORDS: WAYS THAT WE SHOULD STOP SPEAKING.

(Listed first from the greatest number of references to the least in the book of Proverbs, and then alphabetically)

1. Deceitful words - **Proverbs 4:24; 6:12, 17, 19; 12:5, 17, 19, 22; 14:5, 25; 17:4, 7; 19:5, 9, 22; 20:14; 21:6, 28; 23:7; 24:28; 26:18-19, 23, 25, 28; 30:8.**
2. Perverse words - **Proverbs 2:12; 8:13; 10:31-32; 15:4; 16:28; 24:24; 28:24.**
3. Flattering words - **Proverbs 2:16; 5:3; 6:24; 7:5, 21; 22:14; 28:23; 29:5.**
4. Wicked words - **Proverbs 10:6, 11, 32; 11:11; 12:5; 15:28; 17:4; 19:28.**
5. Foolish words - **Proverbs 9:13-16; 10:10; 14:3; 15:2; 18:2, 6-7; 26:7.**
6. Hasty words - **Proverbs 6:2; 12:18; 13:3; 18:13; 20:25; 25:8; 29:20.**
7. Gossiping words - **Proverbs 11:13; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20, 22.**
8. Destructive words - **Proverbs 11:9, 11; 17:4; 22:12; 30:14.**
9. Slandorous words - **Proverbs 10:18; 16:28; 20:19; 30:10.**
10. Argumentative words - **Proverbs 3:30; 17:14; 20:3.**
11. Arrogant words - **Proverbs 25:14; 27:2.**
12. Babbling words - **Proverbs 10:10; 18:2.**
13. Biased words - **Proverbs 18:17; 20:6.**
14. Cursing words - **Proverbs 20:20; 30:11.**
15. Enticing words - **Proverbs 1:10-11; 7:21.**
16. Excuse-making words - **Proverbs 22:13; 26:13.**

17. Evil words - **Proverbs 12:13; 24:2.**

18. Harsh words - **Proverbs 15:1; 18:23.**

19. Backbiting words - **Proverbs 25:23.**

20. Brazen words - **Proverbs 7:13.**

21. Idle words - **Proverbs 14:23.**

22. Presumptuous words - **Proverbs 20:22.**

23. Vengeful words - **Proverbs 24:29.**

B. CONSEQUENCES OF UNWHOLESOME WORDS: WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO SPEAK SINFULLY.

(Listed in order as they appear chronologically in Proverbs)

1. Will be thrown down – **Proverbs 10:8-10.**

2. Tongue will be cut out – **Proverbs 10:31.**

3. Words will become a snare for his soul – **Proverbs 12:13; 18:7.**

4. Will last only for a moment – **Proverbs 12:19.**

5. Will come to ruin – **Proverbs 13:3; 18:7.**

6. Deserves a beating – **Proverbs 14:3.**

7. His lamp will go out in darkness (a time of need) – **Proverbs 20:20.**

8. Death – **Proverbs 21:6.**

9. He will perish – **Proverbs 21:28.**

10. God will overthrow him – **Proverbs 22:12.**

11. Others will curse and abhor him – **Proverbs 24:24; 30:10.**

12. Others will become angry at him – **Proverbs 25:23.**

13. He will be publicly rebuked and shamed **Proverbs 26:26.**

C. WHOLESOME WORDS: WAYS THAT WE SHOULD START SPEAKING.

(Listed first from the greatest number of references to the least in the book of Proverbs, and then alphabetically)

1. Reprovingly – **Proverbs 9:7; 15:31-32; 17:10; 19:25; 24:25; 25:12; 27:5-6; 28:23.**
2. Wisely – **Proverbs 13:14; 14:3; 15:7; 16:23; 22:17-21; 31:26**
3. Righteously – **Proverbs 10:11, 20-21, 32; 16:13; 23:16; 31:8-9.**
4. Practically (with counsel) – **Proverbs 11:14; 12:20; 27:9; 29:19.**
5. Correctly – **Proverbs 9:7; 16:10; 22:21.**
6. Guardedly – **Proverbs 13:3; 21:23; 23:9.**
7. Rarely – **Proverbs 11:12; 17:27-28; 30:32.**
8. Discretely – **Proverbs 11:13; 17:9; 25:9-10.**
9. Discerningly – **Proverbs 10:13; 26:4-5.**
10. Pleasantly – **Proverbs 15:26; 16:24.**
11. Softly – **Proverbs 25:15; 27:14.**
12. Timely – **Proverbs 15:23; 25:11.**
13. Truthfully – **Proverbs 12:17; 14:25.**
14. Authoritatively – **Proverbs 26:4-5.**
15. Briefly – **Proverbs 10:19.**
16. Circumspectly – **Proverbs 15:3** (see context of v. 2-4).
17. Encouragingly – **Proverbs 31:28.**
18. Excellently – **Proverbs 17:7.**
19. Faithfully – **Proverbs 25:13.**
20. Gently – **Proverbs 15:1.**

21. Graciously – **Proverbs 22:12.**
22. Humbly – **Proverbs 27:2.**
23. Instructively – **Proverbs 9:9.**
24. Kindly – **Proverbs 31:26.**
25. Peacefully – **Proverbs 12:20.**
26. Preparedly – **Proverbs 5:2.**
27. Productively – **Proverbs 18:20.**
28. Thoughtfully – **Proverbs 15:28.**
29. Uprightly – **Proverbs 12:6.**
30. Winsomely – **Proverbs 15:2.**