

PROVERBS

The Way of Wisdom

The Power of the Tongue





Once upon a time, a donkey found a lion's skin. He tried it on, strutted around, and frightened many animals. Soon a fox came along, and the donkey tried to scare him, too. But the fox, hearing the donkey's voice, said, "If you want to terrify me, you'll have to disguise your bray."

Aesop's Moral is:



Clothes May Disguise a fool but
his words will give him away.

Luke 6:45



“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

Thought



You may know the quality of the water in a well by that which is brought up in the bucket! The words we speak will depend on what's filling the heart.



**“A SHARP TONGUE IS THE ONLY EDGE TOOL
THAT GROWS KEENER WITH CONSTANT USE.”**

WASHINGTON IRVING

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James 3: Ways of the TONGUE



- ☞ The Tongue has power to direct (v.3-4)
- ☞ The Tongue has power to destroy (v.5-8)
- ☞ The Tongue has power to delight (v.9-12)

Power to Direct



☞ Proverbs 18:20-21, 15:4

- We have to accept whatever comes our way when it is the result of what we have said, good or bad. The consequences of one's words should produce satisfaction and fulfillment.

Power to Destroy



- ❧ Destructive to Self and others: 10:19; 11:9,12; 18:6-7; 12:13
- ❧ Lying: 12:19-22; 21:6; 20:17; 19:5,9; 10:18-21; 26:24-26
- ❧ Flattery: 26:28; 29:5; 28:23



☞ Gossip/Slander: 16:28; 17:9; 11:13;
16:27-30; 26:20-23; 11:9; 25:9-10;
Ephesians 4:29-31, 5:4; Numbers 12

Power to Delight



- Words that are refreshing, life-giving, encouraging, and edifying.
- 10:11,20-21; 16:24; 25:11; 15:23; 12:25; 15:28

Controlling and Guarding



Psalm 141:3-4

☞ 17:4; 20:19; 13:3; 21:23; 17:27-28;
Matthew 12:35.