

Communication, Gossip, Lying

1. The psalmist has given us a model prayer for good speech. Ps. 19:14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

2. Commit yourself to speaking only what is right and true. Prov. 8:6–8. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.

3. Do not speak harshly. Eph. 4:29. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

4. Avoid harsh words. Prov. 15:1. A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

5. Be quick to listen, slow to speak. James 1:19. So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

6. Listen before you speak. Prov. 18:13. He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

7. God forbids us to lie; he wants us to speak the truth. Exod. 20:16. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” **Eph. 4:25.** Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.”

8. The Lord detests lying. Prov. 12:22. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

9. All lying is of the devil, the father of all lies. John 8:44. “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

10. Lying will be punished. Prov. 19:9. A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish.

11. Do not hurt your neighbor by gossip or careless talk; control your tongue. Prov. 11:11–13. By the

blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace. A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. **Prov. 12:18.** There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health. **Prov. 17:27–28.** He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive. **Prov. 29:19.** A servant will not be corrected by mere words; For though he understands, he will not respond. **Prov. 21:23.** Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

12. Tame the tongue; it can be very destructive.
James 3:1–12.

13. We must help stop gossip and strife. Prov. 26:20.
Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

14. Be careful. Don't speak rashly. Prov. 13:3. He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.