

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 15:1-18

1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.

7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves him who pursues righteousness.

10 There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die.

11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD; how much more the hearts of the children of man!

12 A scoffer does not like to be reproofed; he will not go to the wise.

13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.


14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.

16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.

17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 15:1-18

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May I have a minute to talk about myself? Can I share a little inside scoop about me? I am not perfect. I hide behind a quiet personality more often than I want to admit. I have a degree in communications but some days, I'm the worst communicator.

The words in Proverbs 15:1-18 hit me at just the right time. This passage is a blueprint for a peaceful existence.

These verses highlight both the foolish and the wise ways we speak. Fools like to hear their own voice; they speak before they think and are left with the rubble and damage their words cause. They despise corrections and refuse good advice. The wise know how to hold their tongue, speak kindly, and share sound advice.

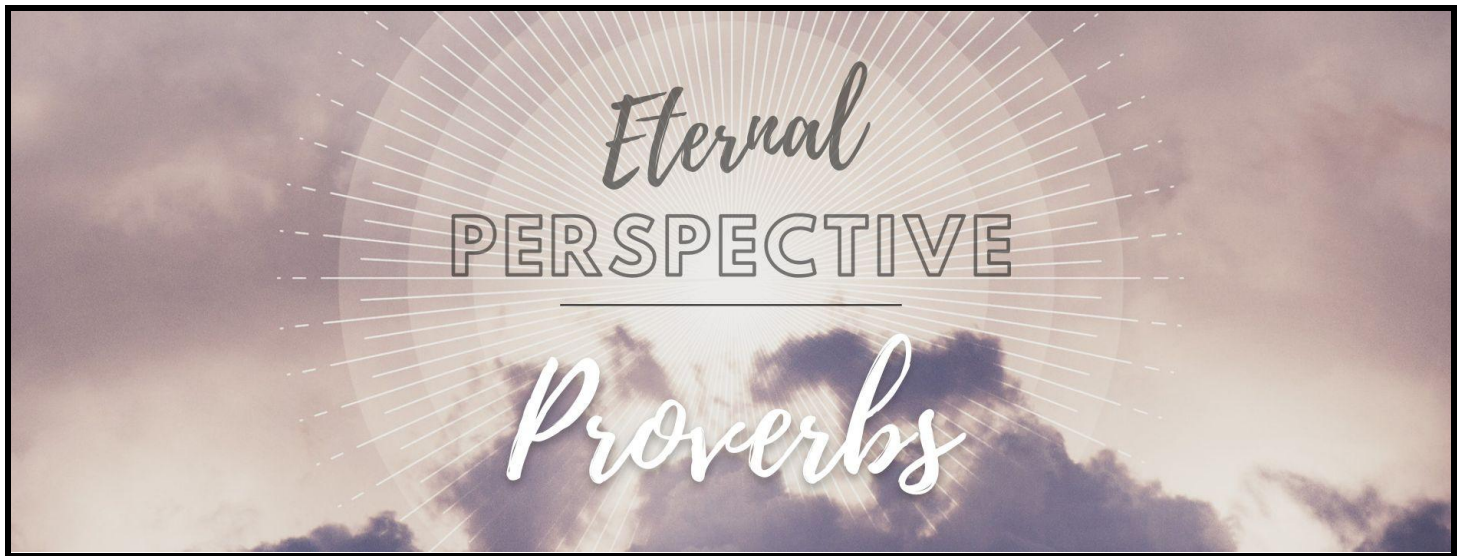
In Proverbs 15, we read how Solomon explains what kind words produce and what harsh words leave in their wake. A harsh or unkind word stirs up anger while a gentle word turns away wrath (verse 1). For an example, we can go to the book of Judges (Judges 8:1-3) and see how the Ephraimites' anger subsided when Gideon responded to them with kind words, wrapped in meekness.

Each word we speak today can either build up others or tear them down. Our words today will either give God glory or push our own agendas to the forefront. So, let's do our best, with the Lord's help, to use our words wisely today.

I would like to lead us in a prayer now— "God, help us speak with kind words and from hearts that are loving and not critical, defensive, or angry. Amen!"

Matthew 12:36

I tell you, on the day of judgment, people will account for every careless word they speak.



Questions:

1. When was the last time your words hurt/encouraged a family member, close friend, or co-worker?
2. Is there someone you need to forgive for hurting you with their words?
3. Is there someone you need to thank for encouraging you with their words?