

The Mouth of the Righteous

“The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.” (Psalm 37:30-31)

Introduction

1. Having addressed the various sins of the tongue, we now turn our attention to developing the righteous use of speech.
2. The Bible speaks of “the mouth of the righteous.”
3. The righteous first guard their lips and teach their mouths what is good, then they speak excellent things to the benefit of all who hear.

Discussion

I. The Righteous Guard their Mouths and Lips.

- A. They guard (holds back, restrain) and ask God to guard their mouths.
 1. Ps. 141:3: *“Set a guard, Oh Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.”*
 2. Prov. 10:19: *“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”*
 3. 1 Pet. 3:10; Ps. 34:12-14: *“He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.”*
- B. They use their words sparingly.
 1. Prov. 17:27: *“He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.”*
 2. James 1:19: *“Be quick to hear and slow to speak.”*

II. The Righteous Teach Their Lips.

- A. Beginning with the preparation of the heart.
 1. Prov. 16:1: *“The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.”*
 2. Prov. 4:4: *“Let your heart retain my words; keep my commands, and live.”*
- B. They store up knowledge from God, creating a pool or resource from which to speak.
 1. Prov. 10:14: *“Wise people store up knowledge...”*
 2. Prov. 15:4, 28: *“The heart of him who has understanding **seeks** knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.”*²⁸ *“The heart of the righteous **studies** how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”*
 3. Prov. 16:23: *“The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.”*

III. Having Taught Their Lips, the Righteous Speak Excellent Things.

- A. From that knowledge, the righteous teach and train their lips to speak right things.
 1. Prov. 8:6-7: *"Listen, for I will speak excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things."*
 2. Prov. 10:13: *"Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding."*

- B. Excellent things include:
 1. God's righteousness: Ps. 35:28: *"My tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long."*
 2. Wisdom: Ps. 37:30: *"The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice."*
 3. Praise toward God:
 - a. Ps. 63:3, 5: *"My mouth shall praise you with joyful lips."*
 - b. Ps. 119:171-172: *"My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes."*
 - c. Heb. 13:15: Our praise to God is described as the fruit of our lips.
 4. God's judgments: Ps. 119:13: *"With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth."*

- C. They provide spiritual food, help and healing.
 1. Prov. 10:21a, 32: *"The lips of the righteous feed many... know what is acceptable."*
 2. Prov. 12:18: *"Promotes health."*
 3. Prov. 10:11: *"The mouth of the righteous is a well of life."*
 4. Prov. 15:4: *"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life."*

- D. The words of the righteous are pleasant and helpful.
 1. Prov. 15:7: *"The lips of the wise disperse knowledge."*
 2. Prov. 15:26: *"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but the words of the pure are pleasant."*
 3. Prov. 18:4: *"...The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook."* With flowing benefit.
 4. Prov. 31:26: Like the worthy woman. *"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness."*

- E. The words of the righteous are like a precious treasure to those who hear.
 1. Prov. 20:15: *"There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel."*
 2. Like Job: Job 29:7-17: Consider how Job was viewed by others because of the wisdom and righteousness of his words. What benefits did he provide to others?

Conclusion

1. God has given great power to use in the use of our words.
2. If we are to use our words for good, we must prepare our hearts and seek knowledge and understanding from God.
3. Then we will have a resource from which to find right words to speak to the glory of God and benefits of all who hear.