

PROVERBS BY THE DOZEN

Speaking



Everyone has gotten themselves into a mess because of something they've said or promised.

Do not try to forge ahead or scheme out of it.

Humility and going to the person are the best way out.

"I was wrong," "Please forgive me," and "Let's work together" go a long way to fix a bad situation.

If you have been snared
with the words of your
mouth, have been
caught with the words
of your mouth, do this
then, my son, and
deliver yourself:

...Go humble yourself,
and importune your
neighbor.

Proverbs 6:1



When there are many
words, transgression is
unavoidable,
But he who restrains his
lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:19

*Gabbing mindlessly with friends often ends up with
something said that isn't edifying or that you later regret.*

Going into lengthy detail doesn't make the situation better.



*Anxiety in a man's heart
weighs it down,
But a good word
makes it glad.
Proverbs 12:25*

Not much is needed to encourage someone feeling down: a good word.

It doesn't take a lot of time to share an encouraging word.



*People like to help someone who asks sweetly.
Even when you are “right” and someone else has been
incompetent in their business, pleasant words resolve the
issue and help the other person.
Having logic on your side doesn’t win the argument.
It’s better to win the person than to win the argument.*

*The wise in heart will be
called understanding,
and sweetness of speech
increases persuasiveness.
Pleasant words are a
honeycomb,
Sweet to the soul and
healing to the bones.*

Proverbs 16:21,24



*Even a fool, when he
keeps silent,
is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he
is considered prudent.*

Proverbs 17:28

***People don't know you are ignorant if you say nothing,
but to speak on something you don't know much about
confirms the obvious.***

It takes wisdom to recognize when to say Nothing.



He who gives an
answer before he
hears,
it is a folly and
shame to him.

Proverbs 18:13

How easy it is to assume you know what someone else means and what they are about to say—especially if they speak slowly.

Don't be thinking of how to answer while the other person is speaking.

Don't interrupt someone who is sharing their thoughts.



Death and life are in
the power of the
tongue,
and those who love it
will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21

Words have a very direct and powerful effect on the outcome of a situation.

People are not like brick walls that remain uninfluenced regardless of what you throw at them. They are like trees that flourish under caring words or wither under scorching criticism.



*He who guards
his mouth and
his tongue,
Guards his soul from
troubles.*

Proverbs 21:23

*Watching what you say takes alertness and effort!
It is worth the effort.*



*Like apples of gold in
settings of silver
is a word spoken
in right circumstances.*

Proverbs 25: 11

**Knowing what to say and when to say it is a beautiful art.
Having the right words in a situation is appreciated.**

**Some words are inappropriate not because they aren't true,
but because they are said at the wrong time.**



Like clouds and wind
without rain,
Is a man who boasts
of his gifts falsely.

Proverbs 25:14

It's better to under-promise and over-deliver than to give false assurances of something you cannot make good on.

*Beware of being "all show" while others are listening.
It's better to be the real deal even when no one else but God sees it.*



*Let another man
praise you
and not your own
mouth,
A stranger,
and not your own
lips.*

*It is a common trap to prompt praise from others by
“tooting your own horn,” but unsolicited praise is a true
reward for a job well-done.*

*Even when quality work is not praised by others, or
something difficult is done without anyone noticing,
God SEES and REWARDS. No act of faithfulness goes
unnoticed by Him, no matter how small.*

Proverbs 27:2



A man who flatters
his neighbor is
spreading a net for
his steps.

Proverbs 29:5

Praising someone else's accomplishments might be just the encouragement they need, but watch out that flattery doesn't trip them up in pride.

*Don't give compliments to get a desired response.
Beware of being spoken well of in front of others,
especially by those who don't know you well and have only
heard of you.*

How to Keep a Proverbs Notebook

The Book of Proverbs has 31 chapters and can be easily read by doing **one chapter each day**.

Whichever date it is, read that chapter of Proverbs.

Example: On the 5th of the month, read chapter 5. On the 23rd of the month, read chapter 23.

Do not try to “catch up” on chapters if you miss a day—just read that day’s chapter of Proverbs.

The simplest notebook is **to write your favorite verse** from the chapter. The next month when you read through, choose a different favorite verse. At the end of the year, you will have 12 verses written from each chapter.

Or, for more of a challenge, **look for different themes** each time you read through the book, and write the verses you find in your notebook. Here are some common themes:

- “My son...”
- Wisdom
- Money
- Friends
- Speaking
- Heart matters
- Women
- Fools
- Work

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