

December 17, 2017  
Proverbs Part 5  
“Proverbs: Speech”  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

We know from research studies that the average man or woman will spend approximately 20% of his or her life talking. The question is: How well do we use our words? Are we careful about what we say, how we say it, why we say it, and when we say it? There are many important aspects of verbal communication that the Bible challenges us about. Words are so critical, that Jesus even said we will “*have to give account for every careless word.*” In today’s study, Pastor Gary shares many Scriptures from the book of Proverbs, which will address the content, tone, purpose, and timing of our speech.

### Speech

1. **James 3:2** - “*We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.*”
2. **Proverbs 12:13-14, 17-19** - “*An evil man is trapped by his **sinful talk**, but a righteous man escapes trouble. From **the fruit of his lips** a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him... A **truthful witness** gives honest testimony, but a **false witness** tells **lies**. **Reckless words** pierce like a sword, but **the tongue of the wise** brings healing. **Truthful lips** endure forever, but a **lying tongue** lasts only a moment.*” (Emphasis added)
3. “It is estimated that the average person spends one-fifth of his or her life talking. On average, a single day’s words would fill a 50-page book. Within a year, our words would fill 132 books of 200 pages each!”<sup>1</sup>

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[https://books.google.com/books?id=YaAF6WCU\\_NkC&pg=PA151&lpg=PA151&dq=person's+words+would+fill+a+132+books+of+200+pages+each!&source=bl&ots=ICs2XJZiSr&sig=MERYYCMi86GJG1ZRZxOgoW](https://books.google.com/books?id=YaAF6WCU_NkC&pg=PA151&lpg=PA151&dq=person's+words+would+fill+a+132+books+of+200+pages+each!&source=bl&ots=ICs2XJZiSr&sig=MERYYCMi86GJG1ZRZxOgoW)

4. Good communication is extremely important, no matter whether it's written, verbal or non-verbal, because good communication is important to how well we connect to one another.
5. [John 12:49](#) - *"For I [Jesus] did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me **what to say** and **how to say it.**"* (Emphasis added)
6. [Matthew 12:36-37](#) - *"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*
7. Pastor Gary shared several humorous examples which demonstrated the fact that culture, gender, and generational differences are natural barriers to good communication.

### Content - What We Say

8. Slander - Evil, malicious talk intended to damage or destroy another person.
  - a. [Proverbs 10:18](#) - *"He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool."*
  - b. [Colossians 3:8](#) - *"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."*
9. Gossip - Rumors or revelation of personal or sensational facts about others.
  - a. [Proverbs 11:13](#) - *"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."*
  - b. [Proverbs 20:19](#) - *"A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much."*
10. Lies - False statements about something or someone.
  - a. [Proverbs 12:22](#) - *"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful."*
  - b. [Proverbs 6:16-17](#) - *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him... a lying tongue... a false witness, who pours out lies, and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers."*
  - c. [John 8:44](#) - *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

11. Flattery – Insincere or excessive praise of another person.
  - a. **Proverbs 26:28** – *“A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”*
12. Deception – The act of misleading or misinforming another person.
  - a. **Proverbs 24:28** – *“Do not testify against your neighbor without cause, or use your lips to deceive.”*

### Tone – How We Say It

13. “I’m careful of the words I speak, I keep them soft and sweet; I never know from day to day, which ones I’ll have to eat.” – Anonymous <sup>2</sup>
14. Pleasant
  - a. **Proverbs 16:24** – *“Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”*
15. Gracious
  - a. **Proverbs 22:11** – *“He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.”*
16. Kind
  - a. **Proverbs 12:25** – *“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”*
17. Gentle
  - a. **Proverbs 15:1** – *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

### Purpose – Why We Say It

18. To Promote Healing
  - a. **Proverbs 12:18** – *“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

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[https://books.google.com/books?id=BmNcDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT77&lpg=PT77&dq=i%27m+careful+of+the+words+I+I+never+know+from+day+to+day+which+ones+i%27ll+have+to+eat&source=bl&ots=ucFxJ6cEgU&sig=OEDIX8DcbbboxN6u9AYW9qw\\_AAg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiArrH59ZjYAhXjT98KHensBcgQ6AEIKTAB#v=onepage&q=i'm%20careful%20of%20the%20words%20I%20speak%20I%20never%20know%20from%20day%20to%20day%20which%20ones%20i'll%20have%20to%20eat&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=BmNcDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT77&lpg=PT77&dq=i%27m+careful+of+the+words+I+I+never+know+from+day+to+day+which+ones+i%27ll+have+to+eat&source=bl&ots=ucFxJ6cEgU&sig=OEDIX8DcbbboxN6u9AYW9qw_AAg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiArrH59ZjYAhXjT98KHensBcgQ6AEIKTAB#v=onepage&q=i'm%20careful%20of%20the%20words%20I%20speak%20I%20never%20know%20from%20day%20to%20day%20which%20ones%20i'll%20have%20to%20eat&f=false)

19. To Cheer Someone Up
  - a. [Proverbs 12:25](#) - *“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”*
20. To Instruct
  - a. [Proverbs 16:21](#) - *“The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.”*
21. To Correct
  - a. [Proverbs 25:12](#) - *“Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man’s rebuke to a listening ear.”*
22. To Compliment
  - a. [Proverbs 27:2](#) - *“Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.”*

#### Timing - When We Say It

23. “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt.” Unknown<sup>3</sup>
24. [Proverbs 10:19](#) - *“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”*
25. [Proverbs 21:23](#) - *“He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.”*
26. [Proverbs 17:27-28](#) - *“A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.”*
27. “Broadly speaking, the short words are the best, and the old words best of all. In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet. Eating words has never given me indigestion. We are masters of the unsaid words, but slaves of those we let slip out. I have never developed indigestion from eating my words. By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.” - Winston Churchill<sup>4</sup>
28. “I have never been hurt by anything I didn’t say.” - President Calvin Coolidge<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://quoteinvestigator.com/2010/05/17/remain-silent/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://voiceseducation.org/content/considering-other-peoples-thoughts>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.presidential-power.org/quotes-by-presidents/calvin-coolidge-quotes.htm>

29. [Proverbs 15:23](#) - *“A man finds joy in giving an apt reply - and how good is a timely word!”*
30. [Proverbs 25:11](#) - *“A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”*
31. [Proverbs 29:20](#) - *“Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”*
32. [Proverbs 18:13](#) - *“He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame.”*

#### New Testament Counsel

33. [James 1:19](#) - *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read [Proverbs 12:13-14, 17-19](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss the Scriptures Pastor Gary shared in each of the five points he made in this message: Speech (#1 through #7 above); Content (#8 through #12 above); Tone (#13 through #17 above); Purpose (#18 through #22 above); and Timing (#23 through #33 above).
3. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).