



Proverbs Daily Dose of Wisdom Devotional



Chapter 15 By Becky Duncan

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Most of us have heard many messages on the importance of our words, and woven throughout Proverbs 15 are several reminders about the impact of positive and negative words. For instance, positive words turn away wrath (v. 1); are a tree of life (v. 4); are pleasant (v.26); and make bones healthy (v. 30). Conversely, negative words stir up anger (v. 1); are foolishness (v. 2); break the spirit (v.4); and pour forth evil (v. 28). However, if we dig a little deeper into Proverbs 15 we discover another aspect of our speech to consider – the wise use of our words.

Are you aware that it is possible to say all the seemingly right words, yet not be using words wisely? Since on the average each of us speaks 16,000 or more words per day, it is important to get this right, and Proverbs 15 gets us moving in the right direction! We discover the wise use of our words includes:

- Using knowledge rightly (v. 2)
- Spreading knowledge (v. 7)
- Speaking in due season (v. 23)
- Studying how to answer (v. 28)

Using the context of these scriptures, take a little time to examine a few of your conversations over the past few days and thoughtfully answer the following questions:

1. Did you use knowledge rightly? Rightly is a word we don't use or hear much today. The Hebrew definition of rightly includes: to be good, to be pleasing, to be well, to be well-placed. In applying this concept to our words: Did your words build up others (Eph. 4:29)? Were your words kind or were you contentious (Eph. 4:31-32)? Were your words honest (Col. 3:9)? What were your motives (Prov. 16:2)?

2. Did you spread knowledge? In 1 Corinthians 2: 14-17, Paul talks about diffusing the fragrance of God's knowledge everywhere we go. The Good News that we have is to be shared. Did your words leave a sweet smell of someone who has been with Christ? Did your words provide help, comfort, instruction or counsel to others in humility and love?

3. Did you speak in due season? Was what you said necessary, or would it have been better left unsaid (Isaiah 50:4; Prov. 10:19)? Was your conversation full of grace and seasoned with salt (Col 4:6)?

4. Did you study how to answer? Were your words reckless, or did you take a moment to breathe and think before speaking? Reckless words are nearly impossible to retrieve and are almost always damaging (James 1:19; Prov. 15:1).

Using our words wisely does not mean that we do not address situations that need to be addressed. We are called to be salt and light in our world and to speak the truth in love. However, there is a time and a place and way to say everything. Growing in wisdom and spiritual maturity requires that we not only speak the right words but also that we use our words wisely - at the right time and for the right reason.

Take Action:

As you reviewed your past conversations, did the Holy Spirit reveal to you occasions in which you could have used your words more wisely? As you engage in conversations this week, make it a point to go the next step and not only use right words but to use right words wisely. Make Psalm 141:3 your prayer: Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Dig chapter 15 of Proverbs today.

What verse stood out to me _____

What is God's wisdom to me _____

What can I do today to go forward with God's wisdom in my life _____

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