

LifeCode

DAVID H. MCKINLEY

WORD COUNT: BECOMING A PERSON OF VERBAL INTEGRITY

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. —PROVERBS 15:1-4 NKJV

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so... A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!... The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. —PROVERBS 15:7, 23, 28 NKJV

There are several types of tongues described and presented in Proverbs:

- **Steady Tongue** (Proverbs 10:19)
- **Smooth Tongue** (Proverbs 5:3-4)
- **Sharp Tongue** (Proverbs 12:18)

“A sharp tongue is the only edge tool that grows keener with constant use.” —WASHINGTON IRVING

Word Count for Verbal Integrity

1. Count Wise Words

The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness... The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

—PROVERBS 15:2, 28 NKJV

“Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact.” —GEORGE ELIOT

“If our lips would keep from slips, five things observe with care: to whom you speak; of whom you speak; and how and when and where.” —WILLIAM NORRIS, American Journalist

A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. —PROVERBS 18:7 NKJV

2. Count Positive Words

The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

—PROVERBS 10:11 NKJV

3. Count Honest Words

Put away from you a deceitful mouth, let perverse lips be put far from you. —PROVERBS 10:31

He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

—PROVERBS 20:19 NKJV

Truthful witness by a good person clears the air, but liars lay down a smoke screen of deceit... Truth lasts; lies are here today, gone tomorrow... God can't stomach liars; He loves the company of those who keep their word. —PROVERBS 12:17, 19, 22 MSG

4. Count Loving Words

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. —PROVERBS 18:21 NKJV

It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell. This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer.

—JAMES 3:5b-8 MSG

...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

—ROMANS 10:9-10 NKJV



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