

## Righteous Speech in Proverbs

### I. Introduction

Winston Churchill's "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" speech, given on June 4, 1940, is one of the greatest motivational speeches ever. It was a scary time—World War II was raging, France was losing, and Britain was next in line for a Nazi invasion. Churchill's words turned fear into courage, making people ready to stand strong.

His speech was powerful because he used simple but strong words that stuck with everyone. He repeated, "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the streets." This made people feel like they could fight anywhere, no matter what. His deep, serious voice made the words hit hard, and he didn't hide the truth—he said things looked bad but promised Britain would never give up.

Although Churchill spoke to leaders in Parliament, his words reached all British people through the radio. He motivated them to stay tough, join the fight, and keep going even when bombs fell, or food was short. He made them believe they could protect their home and freedom, no matter how hard it got.

1. What was the result of Churchill's speech?
2. Why was Churchill's speech so impactful?
3. Can you think of any other speeches that motivated people to do great things?

**Lesson Objective** – Just as Churchill's speech inspired his country to stand up and fight against Germany, the Proverbs seek to motivate us to fight against our flesh and speak righteously. In the following lesson, we will observe how the book of Proverbs displays godly speech in a way that makes it attractive so that we will be motivated to speak righteously.

## II. Motivation for Righteous Speech

### Righteous Speech is Valuable

*Proverbs 10:20 - The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.*

*Proverbs 25:11 - A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.*

*Proverbs 25:12 - Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.*

1. What do these proverbs compare righteous speech to?
2. Why is righteous speech so valuable when it is delivered at the proper time?

*Proverbs 19:1 - Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.*

3. What is this proverb teaching us about the value of righteous speech?

*Proverbs 10:11 - The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*

4. Why are righteous words compared to a fountain of life?
5. What is the source of this fountain? (see also Psalm 36:9)
6. Can a righteous mouth act independently from this source of life? Why is this an important observation?

7. Considering all the Proverbs listed above, which one motivates you the most to speak righteously?

### **Righteous Speech is Wise**

*Proverbs 16:23 - The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.*

8. How would you explain what “judicious speech” means?
9. What is the source of this “judicious” speech?
10. According to the book of Proverbs who are the “wise”?
11. According to this verse, what else is added to wise speech?

*Proverbs 10:13 -14 - On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense. The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.*

*Proverbs 15:2 - The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.*

*Proverbs 15:7 - The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.*

12. In these proverbs what relationship does knowledge have with wisdom?
13. What kind of knowledge should the wise seek after?

*Proverbs 15:28 - The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.*

*Proverbs 16:1 - The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.*

14. From these two verses what kind of effort do the wise put into their speech?

15. How does God aid in the effort of the wise to help them in their speech?

### **Righteous Speech is Nourishing**

*Proverbs 16:24 - Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*

16. What interesting effect do gracious words have on a person?

17. Have you ever experienced this type of healing speech from wise people in your life?

*Proverbs 12:14 - From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.*

*Proverbs 18:20 - From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips.*

*Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

18. How can righteous words bring satisfaction to us and to others?

19. According to Proverbs 18:21, what should we consider before we speak?

### **Righteous Speech is Restoring**

*Proverbs 12:18 - There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

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

*Proverbs 15:4 - A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

20. What come to your mind when you think of the word "restoring"?

21. As we seek to be wise with our words, how can these proverbs motivate us to bring restoration to those around us?

*Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

*Proverbs 21:23 - Whoever keeps his mouth, and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.*

22. When it comes to restoring a damaged relationship with someone, how can these proverbs be helpful?

### **Righteous Speech is Truthful**

*Proverbs 24:26 - Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.*

*Proverbs 12:17 - Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.*

*Proverbs 12:19 - Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.*

*Proverbs 13:5 - The righteous hates falsehood, but the wicked brings shame and disgrace.*

23. What incentives do these proverbs give us to speak the truth?

### **Righteous Speech is Encouraging**

*Proverbs 15:23 - To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!*

*Proverbs 25:13 - Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.*

24. Can you recall a time in your life when someone spoke to you the perfect words at the perfect time?

25. What steps can you take to be the type of person God can use to speak these encouraging words to someone else?

### **Righteous Speech is Influential**

*Proverbs 16:13 - Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.*

*Proverbs 25:15 - With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.*

*Proverbs 16:21 - The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.*

*Proverbs 18:23 - The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.*

26. In which situations might it be appropriate or necessary to influence another individual?

27. What principles can we take from these proverbs that would help us in this task?