



PROVERBS 15:1-15

A SOFT ANSWER OVER WRATH—October 18, 2026

SYNOPSIS:

¹**Proverbs 15** is a collection of thirty-three individual sayings. While there is no unifying theme to the chapter, certain verses focus on topics such as speech, accepting rebuke, prayer, and taking things into perspective.

LESSON:

I. PROVERBS 15:1-4

SPEECH

15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. if you want to be gentle or harsh; if you want to bring forth a gentle answer or stir up anger. There are choices in everything in life. ²If we choose our words carefully, then we will get a good reaction. When we tell people about God, we should not use angry words that will upset people. God does not want us arguing about Him! ³The power for good and evil that lies in the human tongue is awesome. A soft word will often disarm a man whose heart is bent upon great harm, whereas harsh words serve only to stir up great anger. How can you argue with someone who's whispering? You can't because you will be arguing with yourself. Their grievous words will not change the one whispering when you do it God's Way.

SPEECH

15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. We love to listen to wise people. Their words teach us and encourage us. We do not benefit from the words of a foolish person, who hates wisdom. A fool will say many things, however, everything that he says is foolish. And you will soon figure that out. The wise man masters the art of producing the right answer at the proper time and place. He often allows angry words to pass unchallenged, for he has learned to put his personal feelings in subjection. He knows when to speak, and when he does, he uses his knowledge in such a way that his words are statements that have great profit for his hearers. Those words will linger with you. The fool is always ready with an answer, but men are seldom profited by his foolish contribution.

OMNISCIENCE

15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. God sees all—El Roi and knows all—Omniscience—God knows everything (1 John 3:20). He already knows what the result of our actions will be. He watches over the wise and the foolish; the evil and the good. There are evil intentions and evil actions running rampant in the world today. And the Lord's eyes are everywhere and in every place surveying; keeping watch. What is He watching?—evil and good! Not one word or deed escapes His knowing eye. He beholds the evil man and weighs each action until his iniquity is full (Gen.15:16). He compassionately watches the good man and is ever ready to come to his aid (Ps.25:15-17; 2 Chron.16:9; Ps.33:18-19; Ps.32:8)).

¹ <http://thedailychapter.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/proverbs-15-%E2%80%9Cvarious-sayings-proper-speechacceptingrebuke%E2%80%9D/>

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/proverbs-lbw.htm#proverbs15>

³ The KJV parallel Bible Commentary

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

SPEECH

ACCEPTING REBUKE

REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS VS THE WICKED

15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

The wholesome tongue should be understood as the healing tongue, the tongue that issues forth healing speech, and brings forth gratefulness from the receiver being ministered to. However, the perverse tongue belongs to the man who sows discord. Those around him suffer much, but he is the ultimate loser; for perverse speech will ultimately cause a breach in his spirit, literally a fragmentation of his own personality. Our words should comfort, help, and encourage other people. Lies never achieve these good things. Lies hurt, upset, and cause great problems in other people.

II. PROVERBS 15:5-7

15:5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. The world is filled with young men who think that their insight is superior to those of their fathers. The young often register disdain for the reproof of their elders. The fool seldom cares for the advice of one who has been over the path before him. He is so full of self-confidence or full of themselves that he feels no need for the slightest assistance. The man who regards reproof and thankfully acknowledges correction is sure to finish life's journey in better fashion than the fool. If someone hates wisdom, then he hates instruction, and he's angry if someone corrects him. A wise person learns from correction. He wants to know if he is wrong, because he learns from correction, for then a wise person becomes even wiser. We all need each other!

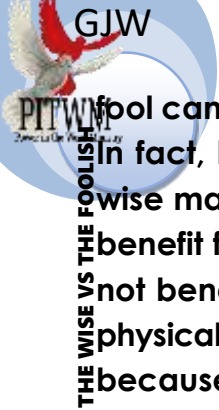
15:6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. God's blessings rests upon the house of the righteous. A good man has precious possessions; treasures that he cannot buy with money, and he cannot sell them. They are not physical objects, but they are real. They are treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and are really valuable. Whatever the wicked or evil man may pile up or gain in increase and earnings, he shall never be truly rich; for he has no part in the true riches of the righteous, nor the favor of God (cf. Luke 16:11), but he earns something else. He earns what people value as highly, is detestable in God's sight. Luke 16 says,

10He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? 13No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

"In the revenue of the wicked is trouble" means that wealth obtained through unrighteous means will inevitably bring distress and instability. Unjust riches do not endure and cannot deliver a sinner from death (Proverbs 10:2; 11:4). The wicked may appear prosperous for a time, but their profit becomes trouble in their homes and before the Lord. Jesus likewise warned that earthly treasure is temporary and called His people to store up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). The righteousness brings enduring treasure and peace.

15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so. The lips of the wise are committed to evangelism and discipleship, constantly spreading abroad the knowledge God has given them for the profit, blessing, and edification of all humanity. The





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

THE WISE VS THE FOOLISH
A fool can only utter what is in his heart, and such nonsense is of no permanent value to anyone. In fact, his words, when believed, often produce great harm. It's like spreading heresy. The wise man teaches the things that he knows God has given him. Other people hear, and they benefit from his advice. If we are wise, then we can help many people. The fool's heart does not benefit anyone. A fool hates God, and hates wisdom. Solomon does not mean the fool's physical heart. Solomon means the fool's emotions, thoughts and spirit. There is no wisdom there, because the fool's thoughts are all evil.

III. PROVERBS 15:8-11

15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The people of Israel sacrificed (killed) animals as a gift to God (Leviticus chapters 1 to 7). If an evil person did this, God would not accept the gift. God wants us to be holy. He wants us to ask Him to forgive us. He wants us to trust in Him. No gift can forgive us. Only God, who loves us, can forgive us. See Psalm 51:16-17 and Luke 18:10-14. Sacrifices without righteousness is meaningless. It gains no favor with God. The term abomination is found only in Proverbs and Deuteronomy (Deut.7:25, 26; 18:12). The Lord delights in the prayers of the righteous, for such utterances from the heart brings delight unto God, not an abomination to Him.

15:9 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness. The way of the wicked is an abomination. Those who choose righteousness over wickedness can be assured of the presence and protection of God. Our behavior shows what sort of people we are. God hates the actions of wicked people—their evil thoughts and plans. Therefore, knowing what God loves, we should trust and obey His instructions, for He will help us by His Spirit in us to do right.

15:10 Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die. A “grievous” (serious; dangerous) correction awaits those who forsake the way of wisdom. If people start to do evil, God will correct them. Sometimes, as a father whips his child, this correction will be bitter. Our God corrects us so that we will return to Him. That means the Lord will first bring correction that is designed to bring them back into the way (Lev.26:14 ff). John 15:2 says “*Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*” If a man hates this reproof from the Lord and does not move to the place of repentance, he shall die—Not merely figurative. It's that persistent rebellion that leads to physical, spiritual, and eternal ruin (Romans 6:23; James 5:19-20). But we must encourage that person to return to God. God forgives even very evil people, if they confess their bad behavior; their wrong doing to Him.

15:11 Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men? Some people think that God does not know their thoughts and actions. They are wrong. No man will be able to fool Yahweh. His evaluation takes into account all the facts, for He is the Perfect Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, and all our actions He knows. He even sees beyond the grave into hell and destruction. All are open unto Him. “**Destruction**” is a synonym of Sheol, the grave. Hell is Real! We cannot escape from God, even when we die, for God is our judge.

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

IV. PROVERBS 15:12-15

15:12 A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise. The

ACCEPTING REBUKE

“scorner” is an arrogant or mocking person that cannot be corrected, reformed or taught no matter how much advice or discipline they receive. It means the scorner is incorrigible, and he will not tolerate the company of the wise man who could teach him the way of life. **“Incorrigible”** means they stubbornly resist change and reject all efforts to correct their bad behavior. This person shows extreme contempt or disdain by insulting other people, because he is proud. Nobody can correct him. He always thinks that he himself is right. He will not ask for advice, and he does not respect a wise person.

15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit

EMOTIONS

is broken. Joy in the heart brightens the countenance. The inner condition of a man always shows in his outward appearance, for when pain is in the heart, the spirit of a man is broken; and the power for effective living, vanishes. Your thoughts and emotions control your whole body. We smile when we are glad. We are sad if our experiences upset us, so then pray, pray, God will comfort us with a merry heart to sing psalms (James 5:13).

15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools

THE WISE VS THE FOOLISH

feedeth on foolishness. The heart possessed by understanding moves briskly toward knowledge. They desire Bible Study, Sunday School, and more! While the heart of the fool ushers him toward greater participation in foolishness. Both a fool and a wise man have important desires. The wise man wants more knowledge. The fool wants more of foolishness. The mouth of fools don't know that ⁴wisdom leads to growth, while foolishness leads to stagnation and spiritual harm. This is like his need for food. He's hungry, but it's foolishness that satisfies his curiosity, entertains him, or distracts him from deeper thinking. Just as food nourishes the body, foolishness “nourishes” the mind of the fool, keeping them in a cycle of ignorance and self-deception. When we feed our minds on the Word of God, we prosper.

Proverbs 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

What you feed your mind influences your total health and well-being.

15:15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual

AFFLICTED VS A MERRY HEART

feast. This verse is connected with the thirteenth verse. The man who is depressed sees in each day only those dismal events that serve to increase his already extensive fear. When someone is unhappy, he feels miserable every day. However, the man whose heart is possessed by a merry heart sees such evidence of God's faithfulness, that his days are bright and his soul has a continual feast. Real happiness is always determined by the state of the heart. So, for a cheerful person, every day is like a party.





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

SUMMARY:

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. **2** The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool spouts folly. **3** The eyes of the LORD are in every place, observing the evil and the good. **4** A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit (**15:1-4**).

5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction is prudent. **6** Better a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with turmoil. **7** Better a small serving of vegetables with love, than a fattened calf with hatred (**15:5-7**).

8 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast. **9** The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. **10** A man takes joy in a fitting reply—and how good is a timely word! **11** Even Death and Destruction hold no secrets from the LORD. How much more does He know the human heart! (**15:8-11**).

12 Those who sneer (mock) at others don't like to be corrected, and they won't ask for help from someone with sense. A scoffer, [unlike a wise man] resents one who rebukes him and tries to teach him; Nor will he go to the wise [for counsel and instruction]. **13** A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit. **14** A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash. **15** All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast (**15:12-15**).

APPLICATION:

You have power to lower your voice when it seems loud. When is the last time someone corrected you? Did you get loud? May God's Spirit gently nudge you because there is value in what you say. Use your voice for God instead of the enemy (the inner me).

