

Be careful what we say!

When it comes to your tongue, Weigh Your Words Carefully. Here are three rules to consider:

(1) Don't speak too quickly. 'We all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we... could also control ourselves in every other way.' Because you can never be totally aware of all the sensitivities of a person, you must rely on the Holy Spirit to direct your speech in a way that doesn't tap into their pain or other negative experiences. Everybody has a different sensitivity level, depending on their past experiences. That includes you too. So practise not being easily offended, and giving others the benefit of the doubt when they say something that could be misconstrued as offensive. (2) Don't respond too quickly. 'To answer before listening—that is folly and shame. Before you speak, listen carefully and make sure you understand what is really being said. And if you don't—say so. Your need to 'look good' can cause you to lose respect in the eyes of the person you're seeking to impress. (3) Don't commit too quickly. Solomon writes, 'Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. Then he goes on to explain how we shouldn't try to drop out of a commitment by saying we made a mistake. Your word is your bond, and when you break a promise, you hurt people and forfeit their trust. So pause before you speak, and if need be, take time to pray. Your time and your words are two things that can never be taken back, so carefully weigh what you say.

Proverbs 18:12-14

12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

13 He who answers a matter before he hears it— this is folly and disgrace to him.

14 The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but who can survive a broken spirit?...

Ecclesiastes 5:1-3

1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Draw near to listen rather

than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. 2 Do not be quick to speak, and do not be hasty in your heart to utter a word before God.

After all, God is in heaven and you are on earth. So let your words be few. 3 As a dream comes through many cares, so the speech of a fool comes with many words.