

A Mouth that Moves Intentionally, Not Rashly

The mind of grace continually thinks *"never worthy, always loved; never desiring, always chosen; never perfect, always embraced; never seeking, always pursued, never finishing, always completed."* These are the principles of grace in the mind. When I think grace, the words from my mouth are *gracious* words. "Out of the abundance of the heart (e.g. 'mind') the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). "For as a person thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). The 'heart' is the 'mind' of a person. Parents, that means when your child says, "I asked Jesus into my heart," it would be wise to explain what that means by encouraging your child to "always think about Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:8) and to "set your mind on things above" (Col. 3:2).

I. The Bible compares rash words to the *thrusts of a sword*.

"Rash words are like sword thrusts." (Proverbs 12:18) This is the person who either does not think about what he is saying and slashes others, or other times in a cold, calculating rage, thrusts the sword of rash words at a person to destroy them. Jesus said, "'I hate you' is equivalent to murder, because murder begins in the heart (see Matt. 5:21-22). Rash words are attempts to injure another.

"The sins of the flesh are bad, **but they are the least bad of all sins**. All the **worst** pleasures are purely spiritual: the pleasure of putting others in the wrong, of bossing and patronizing, back-biting, and the pleasures of power and hatred. For there are two things inside of me, competing with the human self which I must try to become. They are the Animal self, and the Diabolical self. The Diabolical self is the worse of the two. That's why a cold self-righteous prig who goes regularly to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute." (C.S. Lewis)

A. Rash words are symptoms of a diseased soul.

"With our speech we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brother, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring bring forth from the same opening fresh and salt water?" (James 3:9-11). They say more of the one speaking than the one who is spoken of. Remember that next time you hear harsh words.

B. Rash words are one's attempts at relieving personal pain.

As a soldier bears a sword in combat to defeat an enemy, so too, a human will wield his tongue in an attempt to protect himself from wounds of the soul. Mend your soul and your mouth will mind.

C. Rash words are given specific descriptors in the Bible.

Proud words (Daniel 4:28-35); gossip words (I Timothy 5:12); lying words (Psalm 109); vulgar words (Ephesians 5:3-5); destructive words (James 3:2-12); mischievous and wicked words (Psalm 10:7); backbiting words (Proverbs 25:23); and flattering words (Psalm 5:8-9). Rash words are destructive.

II. The Bible compares intentional words to *apples of gold*.

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver" (Prov. 25:11). The Hebrew word translated "apples" is the word jewelry. ***Speech that is well thought through, patient in delivery, and designed for the purpose of the other person's ultimate good*** is like a piece of gold jewelry encased in silver. It's valuable, beautiful, and memorable. It's a gift. It costs nothing but it carries a high price. Intentional words are a beautiful gift. They are spoken to the person, not about a person. And...

A. Intentional words come from a heart touched by God's grace.

How can I destroy another person when the God of all grace edifies me and seeks my good?

B. Intentional words come from a heart that finds healing in God alone.

When I speak rashly, I reveal the pain of my own dissatisfaction with God.

C. Intentional words have the good of the other person always in focus.

Lashing out at another with words (like sword thrusts) happens. Be quick to seek forgiveness.