

How's Your Tongue?

- Some Proverbs on the Tongue -

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the **tongue** of the wise brings healing (Proverbs 12:18).

Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying **tongue** is only for a moment (Proverbs 12:19).

The **tongue** of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly (Proverbs 15:2).

A soothing **tongue** is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit (Proverbs 15:4).

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

Death and life are in the power of the **tongue**, And those who love it will eat its fruit (Proverbs 18:21).

He who guards his mouth and his **tongue**, Guards his soul from troubles (Proverbs 21:23).

He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor than he who flatters with the **tongue** (Proverbs 28:23).

She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her **tongue** (Proverbs 31:26).

Sentence Sermons

- God makes promises, but he doesn't make deals.
- The person who works only to please himself, is engaged in a very unprofitable business.
- You have no strong conviction unless you stand for it.
- Which is worse: to be false to a true God, or to be true to a false god? Actually, both are wrong!

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

What Good Does Prayer Do?

Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

The supplication of a righteous man avails much in its working.

- James 5:16 -

The child in school asks, “What good will all this learning do me?” The musician or athlete asks, “What good will all this practice do me?” We naturally want to know what is the practical value and advantage in doing something. So, when it comes to being a Christian, sometimes we ask, “What good will all this prayer do me?”

Why, as James writes in James 5:16, does the supplication or prayer of a righteous man avail much in its working? Well, let’s consider some of the great benefits and blessings of prayer.

We pray because we are commanded to pray (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:13). God knows what is best for us and he commands us to pray for our own good. Prayer obeys God.

We pray because we recognize that we have needs to be supplied by God (Acts 8:22; Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 2:18; 4:16; 7:25;

James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 3:12; 5:7; 1 John 1:9). God will bountifully bless us with what we need, but he wants us to ask him in prayer for those needs and not simply assume that we will get them from him. Just like we want our children to ask nicely, so God wants us to ask nicely.

We pray because it can influence God to act in ways he would not otherwise act without prayer (2 Kings 20:1-6; Jeremiah 33:3; James 5:17-18). Yes, God will actually change his mind. He will change what he has planned for us and act accordingly as we have prayed to him. God is not some cosmic ATM, computer, or robot. He is a person with feelings who actually hears us and personally responds to us accordingly.

We pray because communication is always a part of a healthy relationship between Father and child (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12; 9:28; John 11:42; 1 John 5:14). We want our children to talk to us (we would be seriously worried if they didn’t) and God wants his children to talk to him. It’s that simple. The more we communicate, the better our relationship with God will be.

We pray because prayer demonstrates our trust in God (Matthew 6:8-15,32; Acts 17:24-28). We offer up petitions in prayer because we actually believe in the exist-

ence of God and we trust that he will give us what is good for us. We also pray because we believe that we cannot take care of ourselves alone without help from God. We offer up praise in prayer to God because he is great.

We pray because prayer demonstrates our gratitude and thanks to God (1 Timothy 2:1; 4:4-5). We offer up thanksgivings in prayer because we do not want to be a selfish people who are ungrateful.

We pray because prayer is the best gift we can give others (Genesis 18:23ff; Exodus 32:11,30; Numbers 12:13; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; James 5:16; 3 John 2). We offer up intercessions for others in prayer because we know that God will hear us and help those for whom we are praying.

Finally, we pray because it develops the necessary spiritual exercise and growth we need (1 Timothy 4:8) and failure to pray is a sin against God (1 Samuel 12:23).

Now you know what good prayer does. Get on praying terms with God by becoming a New Testament Christian and then pray everyday. Prayer, it does a body good! - Chris Reeves