

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person is standing on a dark, rocky hillside, looking up at the vast expanse of the universe. The Milky Way is visible as a bright, pinkish-purple band of stars stretching across the sky. The background is a deep purple and black, with many individual stars scattered throughout.

“The Fruit of the Lips”

Proverbs 16:21-33

James 3:6

“...the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”

James 3:6

“God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak.” (Watson)

James 3:6

“Learn to hold thy tongue; five words cost Zacharias forty weeks of silence.” (Fuller)

Pro 15:4; 18:21

“A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life...”

“Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Pro 15:4; 18:21

“When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.” (Piper)

Pro 16:21

Psa 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

Psa 119:104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way

Pro 16:22

When you correct someone who is in error, you hope they have an understanding heart... IOW: You hope they are teachable, that they get it the get the why...

Pro 16:23-24

The art of effective communication is a very worthwhile study.

Pro 16:25

Ps 119:105 Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

It isn't enough to feel good about our path or to follow our heart on life's way. God's revelation and word are always truer and safer than what seems right to a man.

Pro 16:26

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Pro 16:26

The Bible recognizes the principle of personal property (Exo 20:15) and that the reward of work properly belongs to the worker (“labors for himself”).

Pro 16:27-28

Whisperer: a malicious gossip who misrepresents a situation purposefully

“What he finds he spreads; his speech is like scorching fire—the simile speaks of the devastating effect of his words.” (Ross)

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Pro 16:29-30

Gen 16:6 “May the wrong done to me be upon you!”

Pro 16:31

“If you’re walking in rightness and your hair is turning gray, you’re coming to the richest part of your life and ministry because now you have some maturity and experience behind you.” (Courson)

Pro 16:32

“There have been many kings who had conquered nations, and yet were slaves to their own passions. Alexander, who conquered the world, was a slave to intemperate anger, and in a fit of it slew Clytus, the best and most intimate of all his friends, and one whom he loved beyond all others.” (Clarke)

Pro 16:32

*“This is a proverb that is constantly quoted, and very little believed. If men only recognized that there is more valor and heroism in self-control than in ... violent deeds which others acclaim in song and story, how different our world would be.”
(Morgan)*

Pro 16:33

“Man rolls the dice, picks the straw, casts his vote, but the outcome is determined by the Lord. Oh, how comforting I find this to be. Yes, we are to be responsible citizens. Yes, we are to be aware of the issues. But ultimately, it’s God who is in complete control—using any given outcome for His sovereign purpose.”

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