

MOMENTS of INSPIRATION

Rein In Your Tongue

by Iona Simmonds

Proverbs 4: 24

Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

You can use the long strap, or rein, on a horse to control its speed and direction, and you can rein in your own tongue by closing your mouth. This verse cautions us strongly regarding our mouth and lips. A froward mouth is literally a mouth that distorts or twists the truth. Perverse lips are lips that "turn aside" from the truth. James 3:10 lets us know that our tongue wields both the power of life and death. Therefore, we must pay attention to the words that we speak. Sometimes we find it necessary to summarize, paraphrase or even translate what someone else has said or done. When placed in such situations, we must ensure that we represent the other person's words or actions 100%. We must not add or subtract anything. Why? Firstly, God commanded us not to lie against our neighbour (Exodus 20:16).

Secondly, Jesus likened liars to the devil. This is what He said in John 8:44: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Seeing you have put off the old man and all his deeds, whatever you say and do MUST represent Christ. Romans 3:4 states: "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please help me to guard my lips. May the words of my mouth be forever acceptable in Thy sight. For Christ's sake, Amen.