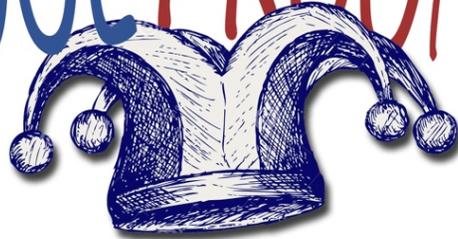


FOOL PROOF



WISDOM *from* PROVERBS

Part 8

Words

mouth

lips

tongue



words

our words matter

“Glorify God in your body”

1 Corinthians 6:20



*why do our words
matter so much?*

1. words are POWERFUL

Words have the power to wound

“Reckless words pierce like a sword ...”

Proverbs 12:18



*why do our words
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“Reckless words pierce like a sword ...”

Proverbs 12:18

“The tongue has the power of life and death . . .”

Proverbs 18:21

Physical life

Inner or Emotional life

Social or Communal life



*why do our words
matter so much?*

1. words are POWERFUL

Words have the power to kill



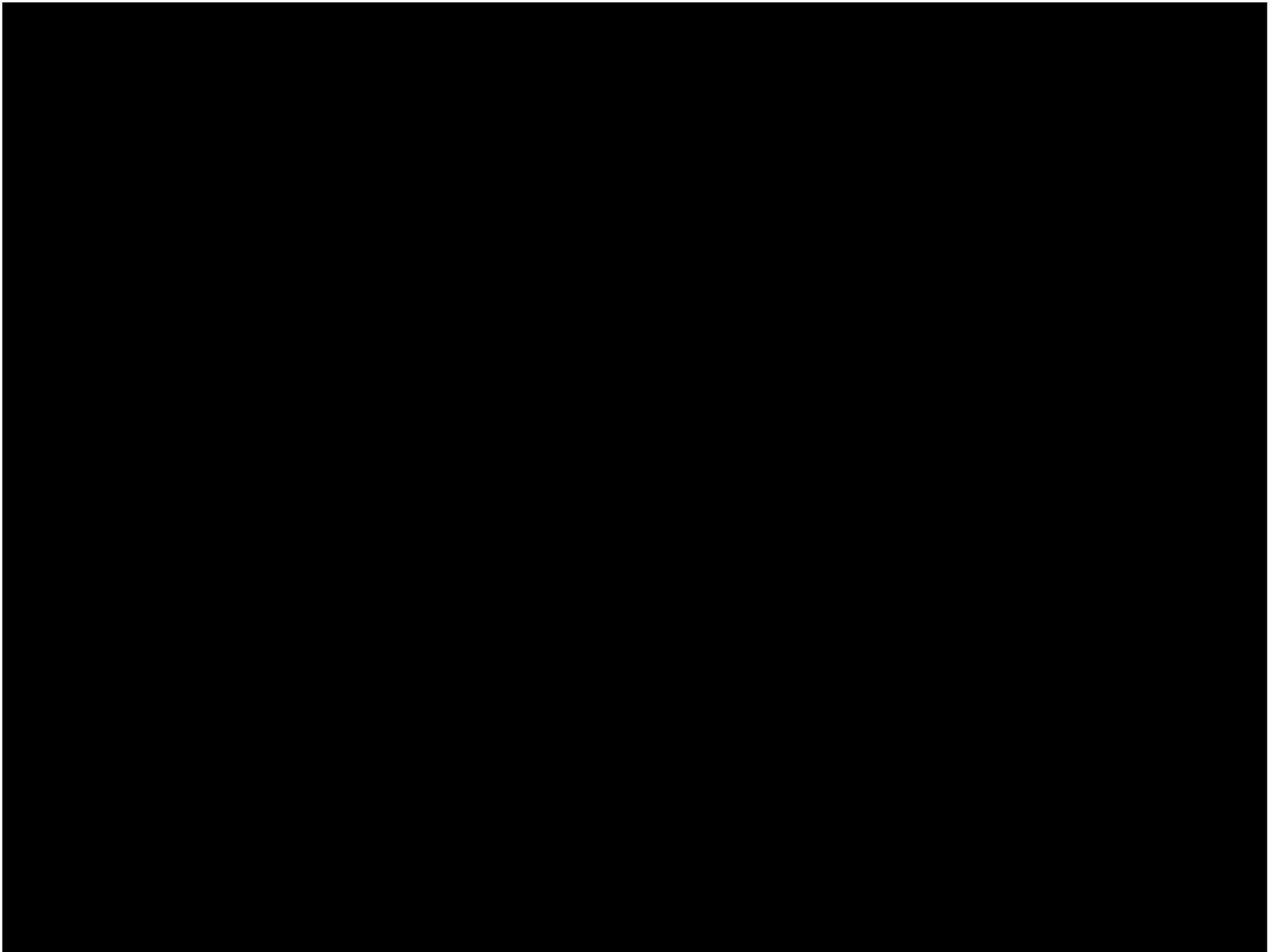
“Let them eat cake.”



*why do our words
matter so much?*

1. words are POWERFUL

Words have the power to kill
psychologically





*why do our words
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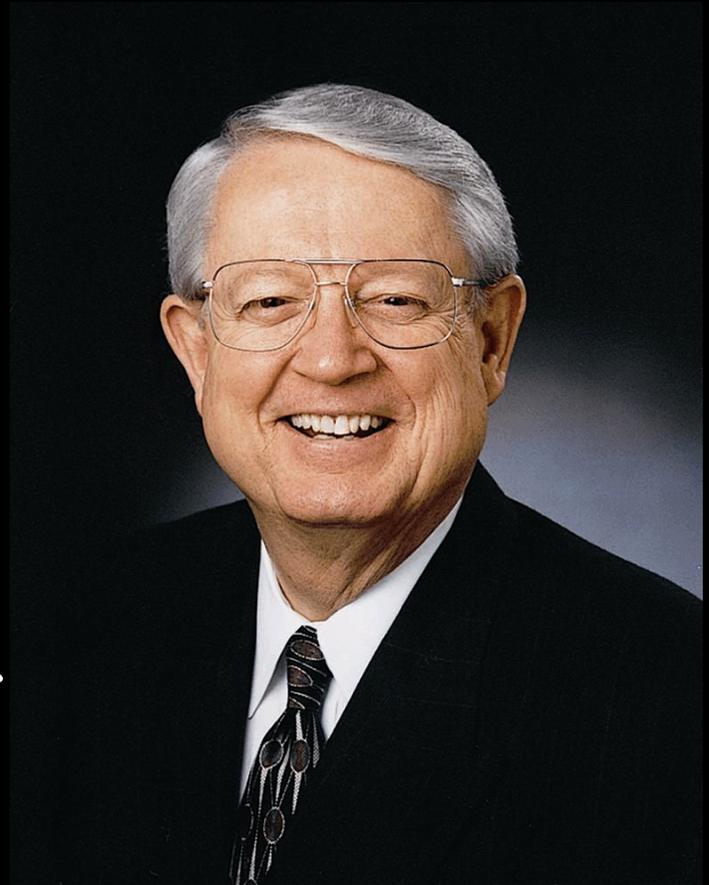
Words have the power to destroy
relationships

“A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip
separates close friends.”

Proverbs 16:28

“Who hasn’t been hurt by the wagging tongue of a gossip? By gossip, I mean any talking that causes people to divide into camps. Usually, this speech reduces someone in the estimation of the hearer. Gossip almost always conveys false or exaggerated information maliciously. Throughout Scripture, God reserves some of his harshest rebukes for gossips. He despises this sin.”

(Living the Proverbs, p. 84, Charles Swindoll)





*why do our words
matter so much?*

1. words are POWERFUL

Words have the power to calm
conflict or stir it up

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh
word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 15:1



*why do our words
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Words have the power to calm
conflict or stir it up

“A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the
one who is patient calms a quarrel.”

Proverbs 15:18



*why do our words
matter so much?*

1. words are POWERFUL

Words have power over the
speaker as well as the hearer

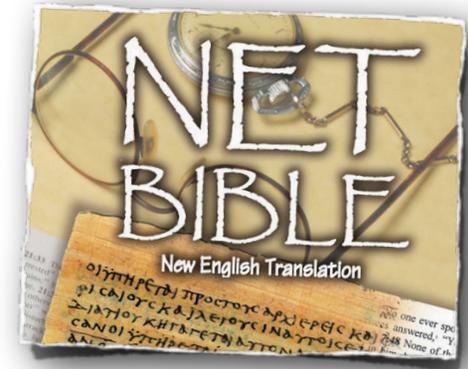
“The wicked are trapped by their own words, but
the godly escape such trouble.” Proverbs 12:13 (NLT)



Why is language so powerful?

The tongue has the power of life and death . . . Proverbs 18:21

What people say can lead to life or death. The Midrash on Psalms shows one way the tongue can cause death: “The evil tongue slays three, the *slanderer*, the *slandered*, and the *listener*.”



*why do our words
matter so much?*



2. words are NECESSARY

“Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

*why do our words
matter so much?*



2. words are NECESSARY

We need words that teach,
correct, and advise

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but
whoever hates correction is stupid.” Proverbs 12:1

“The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise
listen to advice.” Proverbs 12:15

*why do our words
matter so much?*



2. words are NECESSARY

We need words that encourage
and affirm

“A man is commended according to his good sense . . .” (ESV) Proverbs 12:8

“Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.” (NLT) Proverbs 12:25

*why do our words
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2. words are NECESSARY

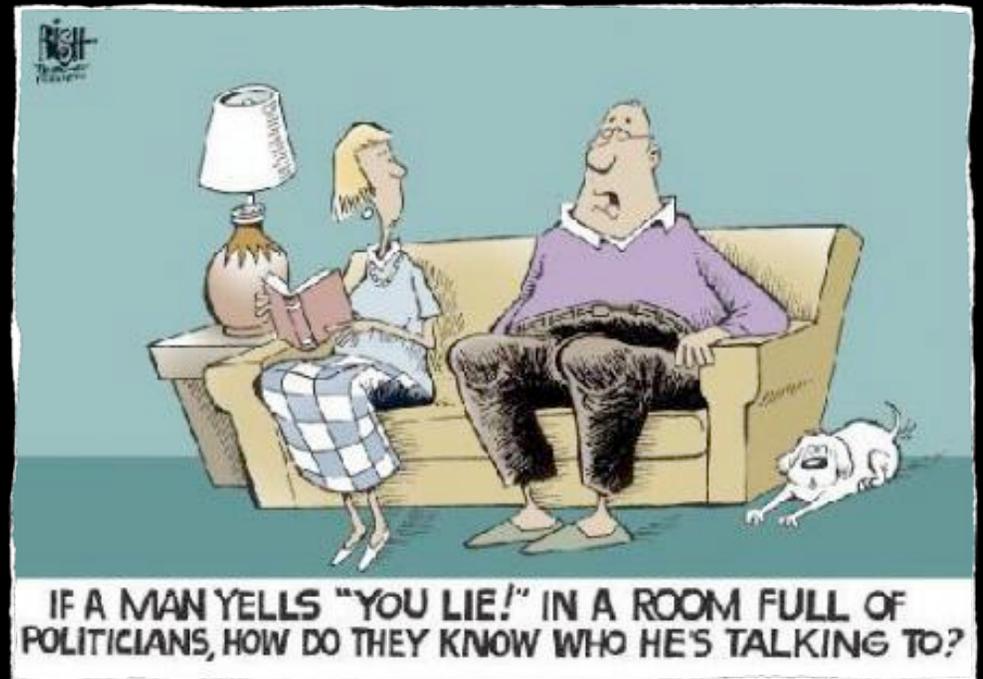
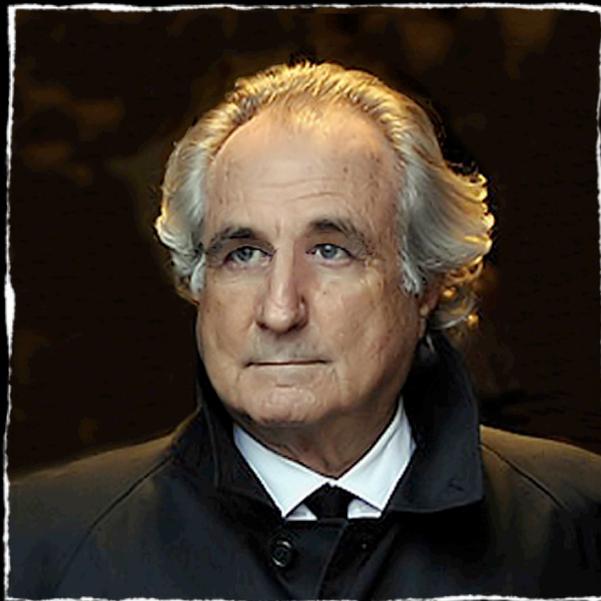
We need honest words

“The one who tells the truth will endure forever, but the one who lies will last only for a moment.”

Proverbs 12:19 (NET)

“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.” Proverbs 12:22 (NIV)

“... a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.” Proverbs 15:4



IF A MAN YELLS "YOU LIE!" IN A ROOM FULL OF POLITICIANS, HOW DO THEY KNOW WHO HE'S TALKING TO?

I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.

Your eyesight's almost perfect.



*why do our words
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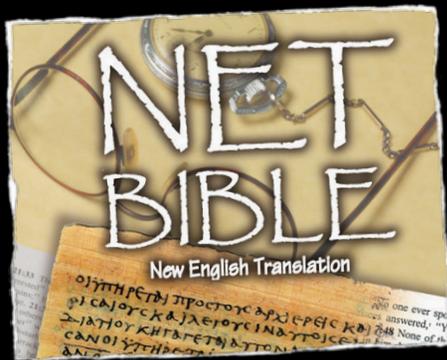


2. words are NECESSARY

We need gentle words

“A gentle answer turns away wrath ...” Proverbs 15:1

“Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.” Proverbs 25:15



The idea of breaking a bone uses the hardest and most firm part of the body in contrast to the “softness of the tongue.” Both are figurative, forming a comparison. A gentle speech . . . calm patient persuasion . . . can break down any stiff opposition.

(NET Bible note on Proverbs 25:15)

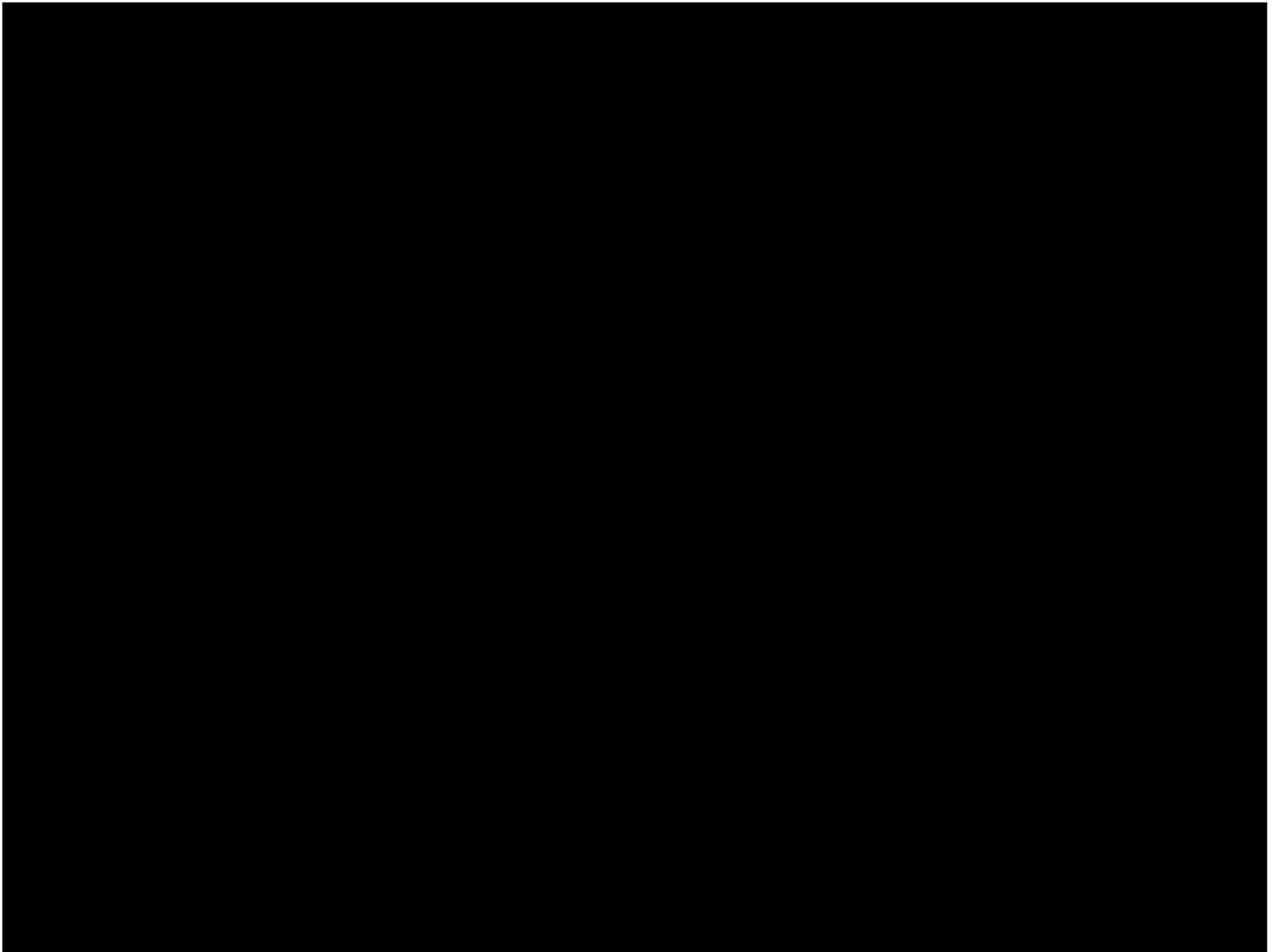
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*why do our words
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2. words are NECESSARY

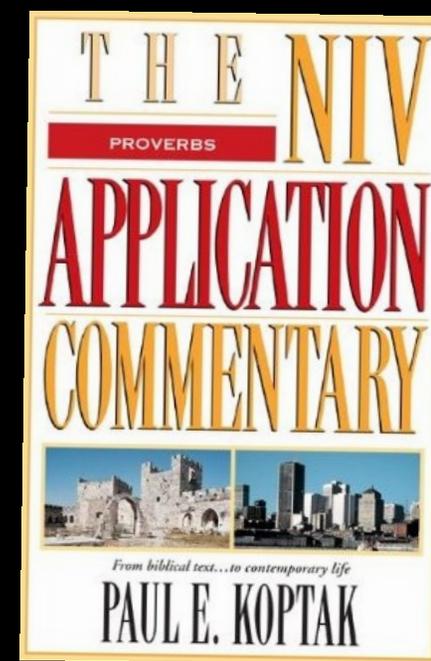
We need wise and appropriate
words

“The lips of the righteous know what is fitting...”

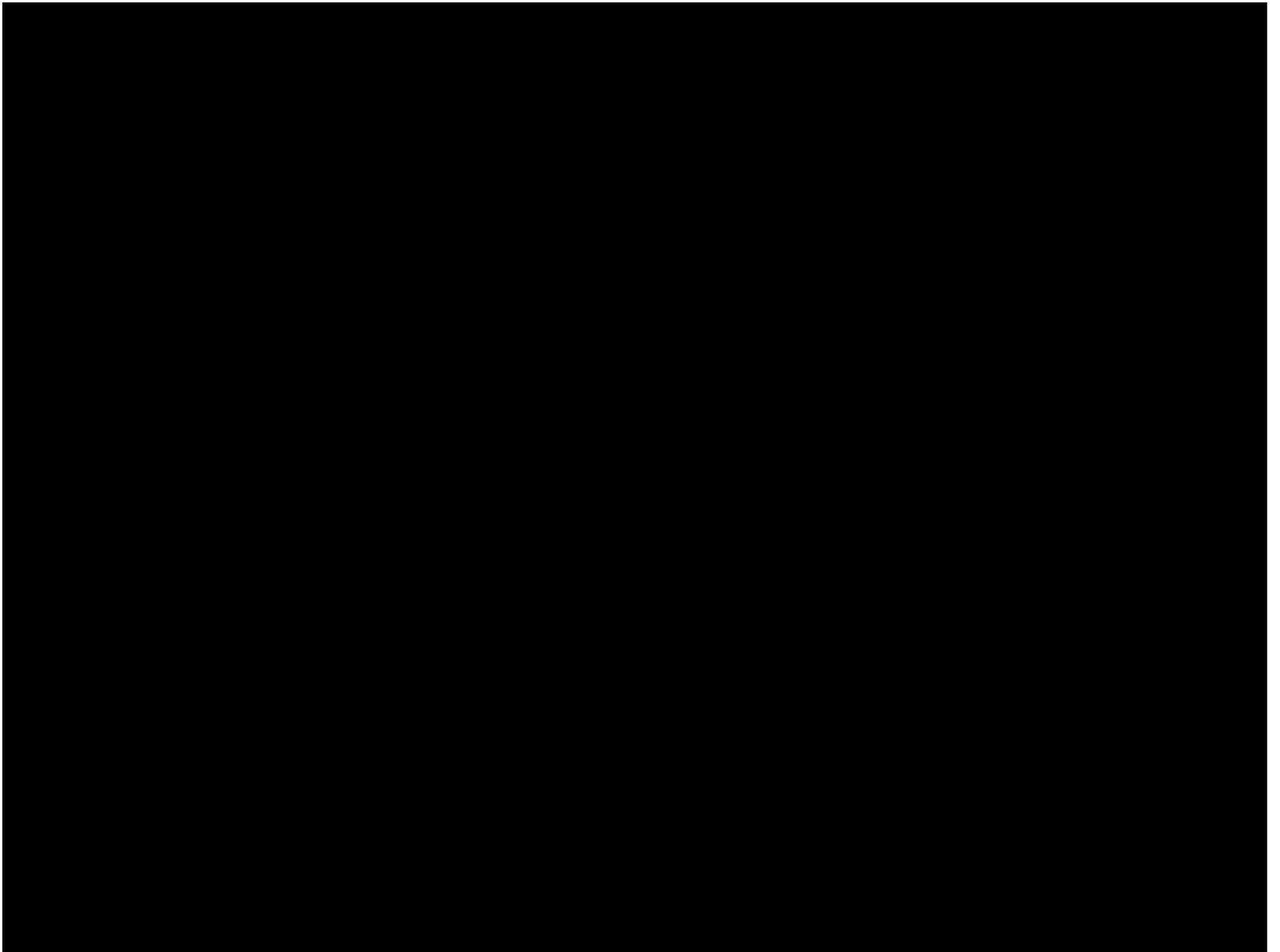
Proverbs 10:32

“A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in
settings of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

Just as a jewelry maker sets a finely wrought apple of gold into its silver setting, wise people know how to bring the right word to a situation. Each displays a beauty that is the mark of a skilled artist. What is the “word aptly spoken”? It can be a word of reproof or correction, yet it must find a receptive listener. The sender must be careful not only to craft persuasive words but also to exercise discernment in determining when it is best to speak and when to keep silent.



(NIV Application Commentary, p. 579)



*why do our words
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2. words are NECESSARY

We need to be frugal with
our words

“When words abound, transgression is inevitable,
but the one who restrains his words is wise.”

Proverbs 10:19 (NET Bible)

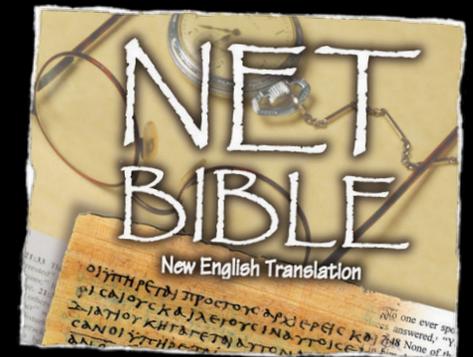
“Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep
your mouth shut.” (NLT)

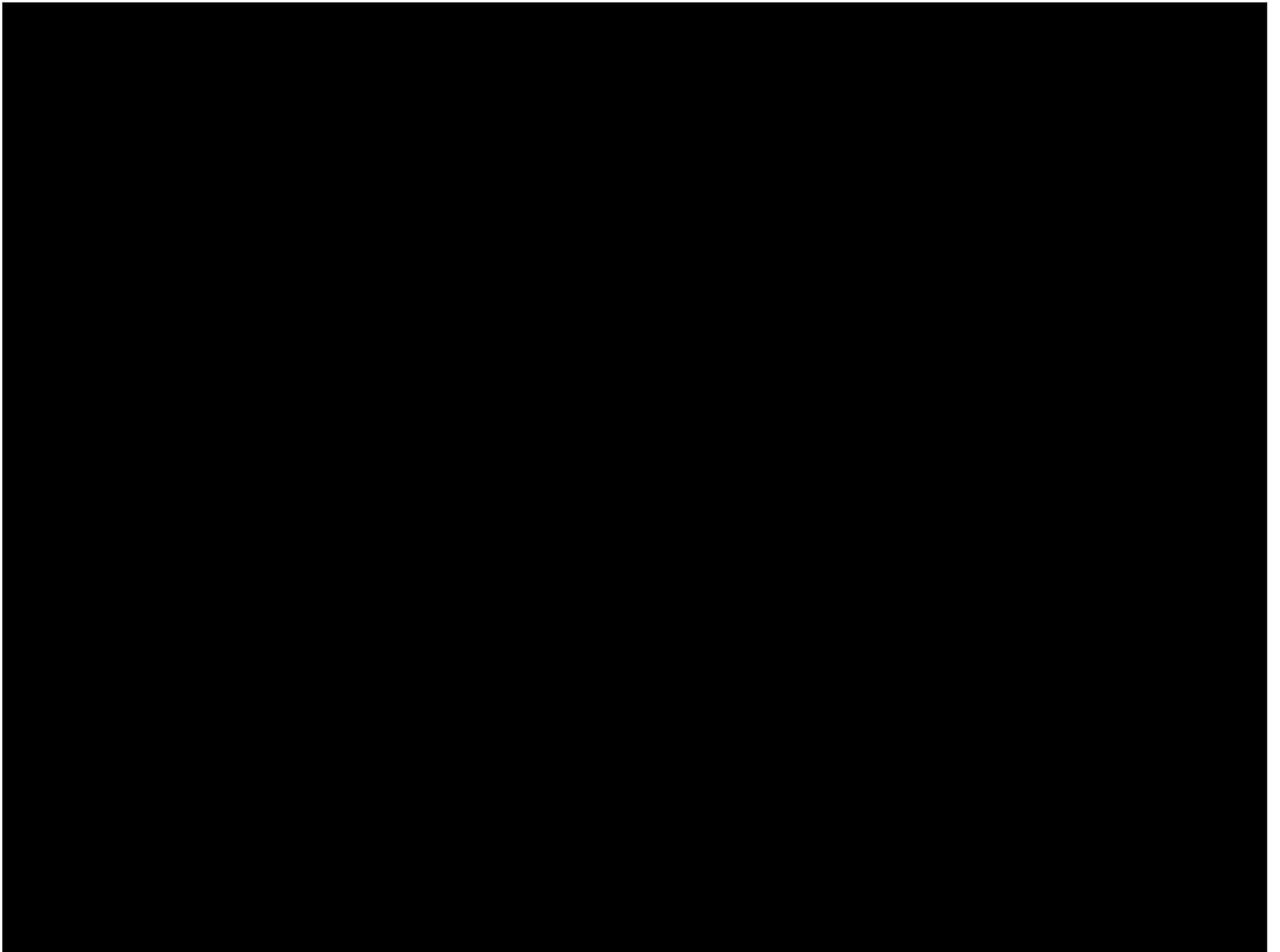
The tongue has the power of life and death,
those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21

"it" = the tongue
"its fruit" = death and life
a warning to the talkative

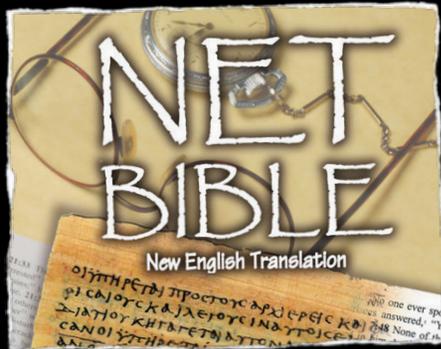
Those
in i
g

expression
"eating the fruit" is an implied
comparison; it means accept the
consequences of loving to talk.

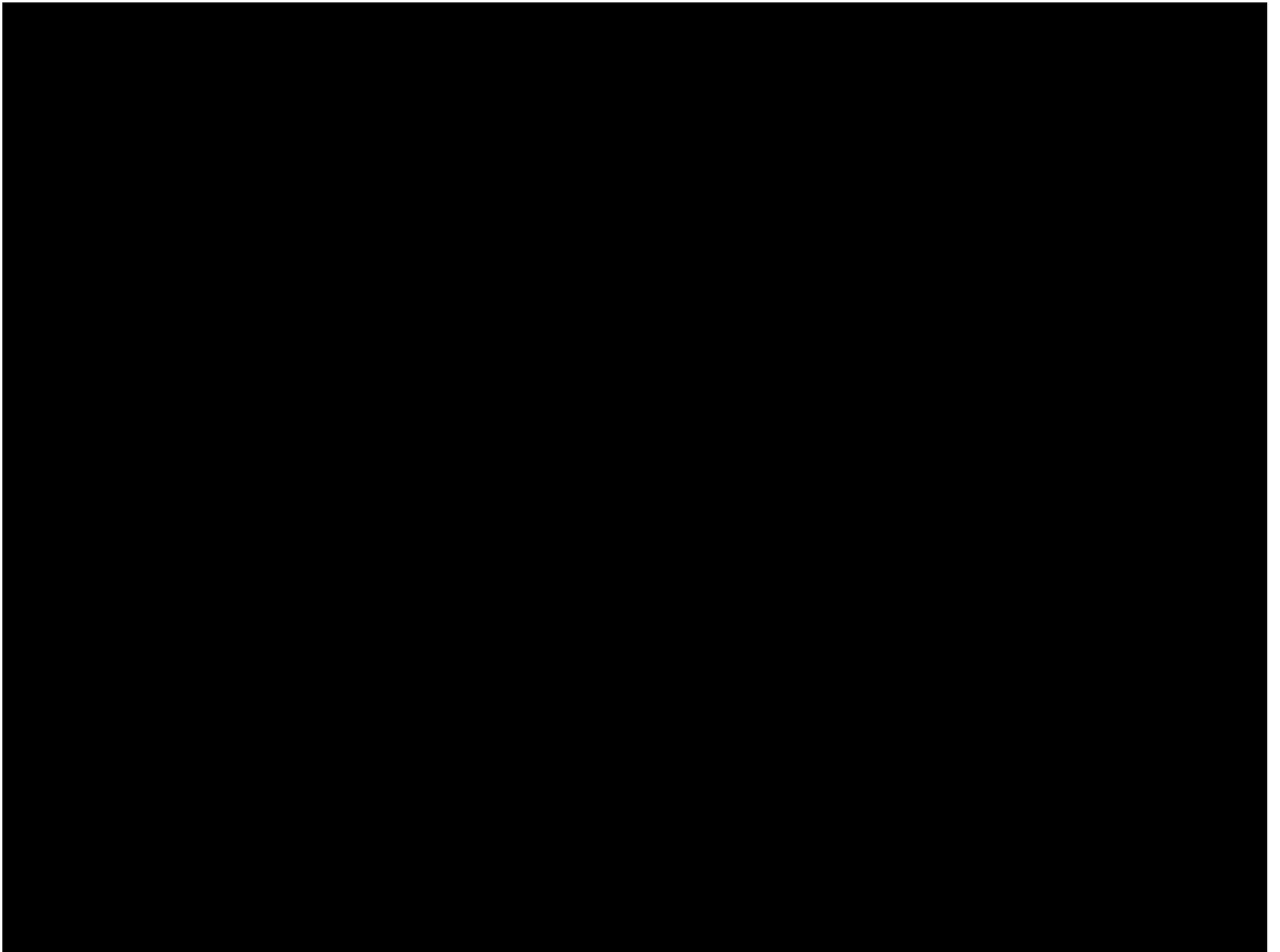




Even a fool who remains silent is considered wise, and the one who holds his tongue is deemed discerning. Proverbs 17:28 NET Bible



A fool who takes this advice is no longer a complete fool. He does not, of course, become wise – he just hides his foolishness.



*why do our words
matter so much?*



3. our words NEED TO BE
HEALED

“A wise man’s heart guides
his mouth . . .” Proverbs 16:23

GIGO = **G**arbage **I**n, **G**arbage **O**ut

