



A SOFT ANSWER

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Proverbs 15:1-4*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

King Solomon knew of the great advantages of having God's wisdom and the benefits of applying them to daily living. One example is to be wise in our speech and to use our words carefully to promote kindness, tenderness, and humility rather than stirring up anger, strife, and discord.

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth (James 3:13-14).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. True wisdom is measured by the depth of one's character. It can be unidentified or identified by the way one acts (*Proverbs 9:10; Romans 12:2*).
2. Words spoken in anger and without self-control is often hurtful and will be remembered. Our actions and attitudes can always be changed (*Galatians 5:22-26*).
3. What comes out of our mouths shows what is in our hearts (*Proverbs 18:8; James 1:26*).
4. As true Christians, we represent Jesus Christ all the time (*Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17*).
5. God watches what we say and do (*John 2:24-25; Hebrews 4:13*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

The Book of *Proverbs* instructs and teaches us that “*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger (Proverbs 15:1)*.” Words that are delivered with kindness, humility, tenderness, and care most likely will not trigger ill-will or an angry response. On the other hand, rough, harsh, menacing, scornful, sneering, and hateful responses and words will stir up resentment, anger, and a hurtful emotional response. This will lead to conflict, arguments, and will isolate you from others. To avoid wrath and bad consequences, a soft answer and quiet words are our best choice. When we apply the knowledge and wisdom of God in every situation, our Christian character is on display.

LESSON SUMMARY:

To please our Lord Jesus Christ we must first know what He values. He wants us to live in a way that will bring honor to ourselves and to Him. Our human emotions sometimes get the better of us since emotions come from the heart. Losing control over our emotions affects our behavior which can then become harmful to ourselves and others. When we submit to God and put Him in control of our emotions and attitudes, we reflect the character of God in us, which in turn helps us to direct our actions to be productive rather than destructive. By applying God's values and principles, we choose love rather than hate, honesty over deceitfulness, peacemakers rather than causing strife, and encourage rather than slander or gossip. God always challenges us to make good choices. *Proverbs 15:4* states, “*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life. . . .*” Our testimony and witness to others about the Gospel of Salvation delivers wholesome words and sound speech that bring forth truth, peace, and righteousness to comfort, revive, and show others the way to eternal life.

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