

# Keep Your Mouth Clean

*"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-7)*

Our God continually calls people to worship Him and serve Him by bringing His message to others who are away from God. For the purpose of the message of God is to bring repentance in people's life. In the above Scripture God had called Isaiah to a prophetic ministry; to proclaim His Word to the rebellious people of Israel who disobeyed God and worshipped other gods and prostituted themselves by doing other people's wrong practices.

If we read the first five chapters of the book of Isaiah, we find that the prophet Isaiah was naming the Israelites as harlot (a prostitute) for the grievous sins they are doing against God. But what do we find in Isaiah chapter 6 when God revealed Himself to the prophet Isaiah? At first he recognized his sinful nature and that truth and fact terrified him as he exclaimed, *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."* When God revealed Himself to the prophet Isaiah, there was no more self-righteousness in Isaiah's life and no more he sees himself better than others.

When God reveals Himself to us, we can see clearly our sins as God is seeing them. This helps us to humble down and repent. When God is revealing Himself to us through His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, it would be personal confrontation by the Lord that leads us to repentance and to escape sin and traps of the devil.

When God revealed Himself to Isaiah, he repented and confessed to God His sin, and at that same setting the Lord cleansed His lips and mouth and sanctified him. The same thing will be applied to us, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9) As we encounter God and really repent from our sins, confess them to the Lord and accept the Lordship of Christ over our lives, the Lord forgives us, sanctifies us and purifies us from all unrighteousness. And in this way we will be ready for the Master's work. *"In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."* (2 Timothy 2:20-21) God would cleanse us and we will be made ready for God's noble purposes as we yield ourselves to Him.

God did not only clean the lips of Isaiah but all his mouth and down to his heart as well, because the tongue will speak of what would come from the heart as Jesus said: *"For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander."* (Matthew 15:19) To bring people to God we should tell them the message of God that brings them to repentance. But how can we be effective messengers of God if our hearts are full of dirt and filthy things? First, we need our hearts be cleansed so that what we will speak will reflect the grace of God and the glory of Christ Jesus in our very life.

Christ died for our sins on the cross to give us eternal life. From our Lord and His suffering, we learn how to love and give sacrificially. We learn how to forgive and not to revenge. From our Lord, we learn how to stand firm and persevere to the end, filled with compassion, mercy and grace to the lost, and even extend to those who hurt us. These spiritual truths should be reflected in the inner condition of our hearts and translated into moral truth that we live and practice in our service unto God in reaching the lost.

With the cleansed heart and mouth, we would be led by the Holy Spirit and instructed by His Word to live a holy life, away from anger, moral filth and wrong motive and in strife with God and men. The Word of God teaches us how to control ourselves and speech rightfully as in the following: *"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:25, 15, 26-27, 29) "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:6) "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:19-21)*

The Word of God teaches us to guard our hearts: *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."* (Proverbs 4:23) We need to cleanse our hearts from evil thoughts, painful memories, and ill feelings, doubts and anxieties. We ought to seek God to cleanse us and fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit and the noble principles that God teaches us in His Word so we could be the people He counts on as His Word says: *"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."* (Luke 6:45) *"The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction."* (Proverbs 16:23)

*"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."* (Proverbs 18:21) The tongue is very important organ that God had given to us. God created Heaven and earth with the Word of His mouth. He created all the good things that we see around us as He spoke His Word. God in the same way had given us the tongue to speak. So if we speak then we should expect that new things would be established. Life and death can be brought forward with what we speak. What we speak expresses our faith and what we believe in. For example if you say about certain thing that, *"This is impossible matter,"* then truly it will be impossible because that's what you believe. And

if you say, *“This will not happen,”* then it will not happen because there is power in the tongue. If we say about something this is a useless person or useless child, then this is what we believe and truly nothing will happen. We will harvest useless things because there is a power in the tongue and in what we speak. That’s why we need to know the Word of God, the Bible, so that we know what we ought to speak and say according to God’s Word.

***Those who love the tongue will eat its fruit:*** Those who realize these facts about the tongue and believe there is power in what they say, and tune and observe their tongues to speak the very Word of God then they will eat its good fruit. ***“From the fruit of their mouth a person’s stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied.”*** (Proverbs 18:20) Therefore if we speak chosen words then we will be enjoying life with good relationships with people and harvest the fruit of good and harmonious relationship that goes according to the Word of God.

As well as the Word of God tells us the following: ***“The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating.”*** (Proverbs 18:6) If you speak idle words with a wrong manner then you will harvest what you are going to speak; fight, strife, and being attacked by receiving bad words and beating.

***“<sup>19</sup> Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues.”*** (Proverbs 10:19) When we speak much we make more mistakes and we add more sins. So before we speak we need to think first and process what we are going to tell before we speak it. ***“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.”*** (Proverbs 10:20) Again God wants us to have a good and clean heart so we can speak the right word to nurture others. ***“The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of sense.”*** (Proverbs 10:21)

***“Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.”*** (Proverbs 29:11) Foolish people they will give full vent to their anger, but we should not do like that; we are called to bring peace and calm. ***“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.”*** (Proverbs 26:4) So you need to avoid fool people. Separate yourself from them if you cannot manage them. Don’t speak like them; you just leave them to themselves, otherwise they think they are wise or will be wise in their own eyes, and you would become like them.

***“Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.”*** (Proverbs 29:20) Before you open your mouth and speak, you need to think about what you are going to tell. You should listen carefully and analyze carefully what they are speaking before you open your mouth and speak, for this is what the Bible says: ***“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.”*** (Proverbs 18:13)

***“Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.”*** (Proverbs 21:23) The tongue was given to us to plant good things and to enjoy the blessings of God. But the tongue has its faults and if we are not careful we may fall into troubles. We need to learn how to speak with each person. We need to speak precisely with the people who are around us; to our family members, to our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and in our workplaces and the places where God assigned us to live.

***“One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the king for a friend.”*** (Proverbs 22:11) God wants us to be pure in heart and speak good and gracious word. If we have this then we will have the favour of the king. But whom you think is the king? You might put in your mind an earthly figure, and yes, it is possible for the Lord to lift us up and make us have favour even with kings when He sees in us clean heart and hear from our mouths gracious words. But there is the great King whom He will be our friend; He is the King of kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lord Jesus Christ.

So let us be warned all the time. Avoid gossips and lies at all! They have destroying effect and at all cost need to be out from among God’s people and God’s church. The following Scripture shows the bad effects of gossips: ***“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.”*** (Proverbs 11:13) ***“A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.”*** (Proverbs 16:28) ***“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.”*** (Proverbs 18:8) ***“A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.”*** (Proverbs 20:19) ***“Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.”*** (Proverbs 26:20) ***“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.”*** (Proverbs 26:22) ***“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips.”*** (Romans 1:29) ***“For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.”*** (2 Corinthians 12:20)

Let us avoid gossips, and instead, let us apply this verse: ***“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”*** (Matthew 18:15-17) The person who sins against you or who had committed a sin and you are the one who discover it, then it is you who need to go to him, face him and speak to him about what he had done wrong. If he accepts his sin and repents then you have won over your brother. But if he is not willing then bring one or two with you to witness, then if he is not willing to listen and repent then report that to the church and if he would not listen to the church then consider him as non-believer. In vice versa, if gossips replace ***Matthew 18:15-17***, then sin will not be dealt with properly. Gossips and lies are the work of the devil, ***“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*** (John 8:44) God wants us to speak face to face and not at the back. ***“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips.”*** (Romans 1:29) When gossips prevail in dealing with certain problems inside the church then lies and slandering will spread and will lead to discord, jealousy and selfish ambition with the ongoing gossip. ***“Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning.”*** (Jeremiah 9:5) ***“For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be.”***

***I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.” (2 Corinthians 12:20)***  
Facing the issues face to face is the only way possible for sin to be dealt with. <sup>20</sup> ***“Have I not written thirty sayings for you, sayings of counsel and knowledge, <sup>21</sup> teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth, so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve?”***  
(Proverbs 22:21-22) ***“These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts.”*** (Zechariah 8:16) ***“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”***(Ephesians 4:15) ***“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.”***  
(Colossians 3:9) ***“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.***  
(Ephesians 4:25)

Gossipers, liars and slanderers will not enter the Kingdom of God. ***“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*** (Revelation 21:8)

***My dear and beloved: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*** (James 1:5) Commit your heart and your tongue to the Lord, repent from all your sins, and ask God wisdom of how to speak about the grace of God and be a blessing, bringing life to others.

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the Name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord, I repent from my sins \_\_\_\_\_. I commit my heart and my mouth in your hand. Lord, please give me wisdom of how to speak to You and to other people around me. Lord, help me to choose truthful words to speak in order for good things to be built up, and You will be the One to reward me for the gracious talk that will come out from my mouth. Lord, grant me this request for this day in Jesus name, Amen.