



Daily Verse and Comment

[Ecclesiastes 5:1-7](#)

(1) Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. (2) Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. (3) For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. (4) When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. (5) Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. (6) Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? (7) For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

King James Version

Notice what [God](#) says about speaking:

[Proverbs 10:19](#): “In the multitude of words [sin](#) is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”

[Proverbs 17:27](#): “He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.”

[James 1:19](#): “Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

[James 3:2](#): “For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.”

So many verses give similar counsel about speech that one cannot help but understand the importance that God places on being careful about what we allow to leave our mouths. [Matthew 12:35-37](#) drives this point home:

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Speaking is a major aspect of character, providing a clear window into our hearts. A quotation often mistakenly attributed to Abraham Lincoln is apropos to the passage in [Ecclesiastes 5:1-7](#): “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.” What sets Solomon's counsel apart from other verses on speaking is that the others are good advice for relationships in general. Solomon's verses, however, are focused directly on a person's relationship with God.

What do we talk about when we are before God? Before going any further, we should clarify the nature of being “before God.” Solomon says that we must not forget that God is in heaven and we are on earth, implying His sovereignty. Yet, he also mentions going to the House of God, implying a specific place and time we go before God. Is Solomon's main concern here on God's sovereignty or on the specific place? Since the unwritten but overarching theme throughout Ecclesiastes is that everything in life matters, his main concern here is a gentle reminder that we are *always* before God.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Ecclesiastes and Christian Living \(Part Six\): Listening](#)

Related Topics:

[Controlling Tongue](#)

[Ecclesiastes and Christian Living Listening](#)

[Idle words](#)

[Slow to Speak](#)

[Slow to Wrath](#)

[Swift to Hear](#)

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