

1 Peter 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

Analysis

Peter quotes Psalm 34:12-16 to ground his teaching in Scripture. "For he that will love life, and see good days" (ho gar thelōn zōēn agapan kai idein hēmeras agathas)—whoever desires fulfilling, blessed life. The requirements: "let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (pausatō tēn glōssan apo kakou kai cheilē tou mē lalēsai dolon). Control speech—avoid evil words, deceitful talk. Speech discipline is foundational to blessed life, indicating character's internal reality. Uncontrolled tongue reveals uncontrolled heart (James 3:1-12). Godly life requires guarding what comes from mouth.

Historical Context

David's Psalm 34 offered wisdom for blessed living—fearing God, controlling speech, pursuing peace. Peter applies this to persecuted Christians: even amid suffering, blessed life is possible through godly conduct, especially speech control. Ancient world recognized speech's power (Greek philosophers taught rhetoric) but often valued clever deception. Biblical wisdom values truthful, edifying speech. Early church emphasized speech discipline—teachers held to higher standard (James 3:1), gossip condemned, truthfulness required. This distinguished Christian community from cultures where deception and flattery were normal.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What specific types of 'evil' speech (gossip, lies, harsh words, manipulation) do you most struggle to control?
2. How does controlling your tongue relate to experiencing 'good days' and blessed life?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	γὰρ	θέλων	ζωὴν	ἀγαπᾶν	καὶ	ιδεῖν	ἡμέρας
G3588	For	he that will	life	love	and	see	days
	G1063	G2309	G2222	G25	G2532	G1492	G2250
ἀγαθὰς	παυσάτω	τὴν	γλῶσσαν	αὐτοῦ	ἀπὸ	κακοῦ	καὶ
good	let him refrain	G3588	tongue	G846	from	evil	and
G18	G3973		G1100		G575	G2556	G2532
χείλη	αὐτοῦ	τοῦ	μὴ	λαλῆσαι	δόλον		
lips	G846	G3588	no	that they speak	guile		
G5491			G3361	G2980	G1388		

Additional Cross-References

James 1:26 (Parallel theme): If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Revelation 14:5 (Parallel theme): And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

1 Peter 2:1 (Evil): Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

1 Peter 2:22 (Parallel theme): Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

John 1:47 (Parallel theme): Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

Proverbs 8:35 (Parallel theme): For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Proverbs 3:2 (Parallel theme): For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

John 12:25 (Love): He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Proverbs 4:22 (Parallel theme): For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 3:18 (Parallel theme): She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.