

# Luke 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

## Analysis

**For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.** Jesus explains why preparation is unnecessary: *egō gar dōsō hymin stoma kai sophian* (ἐγὼ γὰρ δώσω ὑμῖν στόμα καὶ σοφίαν, 'for I will give you mouth and wisdom'). The pronoun *egō* (ἐγώ, 'I') is emphatic—Jesus Himself, not human resources, supplies what's needed. He promises *stoma* (στόμα, 'mouth')—the ability to speak, eloquence, words—and *sophian* (σοφίαν, 'wisdom')—divine insight, understanding, discernment.

The result: *hē ou dynēsontai antistēnai ē antilegein hapantes hoi antikeimenoi hymin* (ἥ οὐ δυνήσονται ἀντιστῆναι ἢ ἀντιλέγειν ἀπαντεῖς οἱ ἀντικείμενοι ὑμῖν, 'which all who oppose you will not be able to withstand or contradict'). The double negation *ou dynēsontai* (οὐ δυνησονται, 'will not be able') indicates impossibility. Adversaries cannot *antistēnai* (ἀντιστῆναι, 'resist/withstand') or *antilegein* (ἀντιλέγειν, 'speak against/contradict'). **Divine wisdom is irrefutable.** This doesn't guarantee acquittal—Stephen's accusers couldn't refute him, yet they stoned him (Acts 6:10, 7:54-60)—but it guarantees effective witness.

## Historical Context

This promise was spectacularly fulfilled. Acts records that Stephen's opponents 'were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake' (Acts 6:10). Peter's Pentecost sermon convicted thousands (Acts 2:37-41). His defense before the Sanhedrin left leaders speechless, astonished that 'unlearned and ignorant

men' displayed such boldness (Acts 4:13). Paul's reasoning persuaded some, confounded others (Acts 17:2-4, 18:4). Church fathers—Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr—gave testimonies that converted even some persecutors. Throughout history, martyrs' words under torture demonstrated supernatural courage and wisdom, fulfilling Jesus' promise. Modern testimonies from persecuted Christians worldwide confirm the same pattern: when human resources fail, divine provision suffices.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean that Jesus will give believers 'mouth and wisdom,' and how does this differ from natural eloquence?
2. Why does Jesus promise that adversaries cannot refute or resist this divinely-given wisdom?
3. How should this promise shape believers' confidence when facing hostile questioning or persecution?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγὼ γὰρ δώσω ὑμῖν στόμα καὶ σοφίαν ἥτιον οὐ  
I For will give you a mouth and wisdom which not  
G1473 G1063 G1325 G5213 G4750 G2532 G4678 G3739 G3756

δυνήσονται ἀντειπεῖν οὐδὲ ἀντιστῆναι πάντες οἱ  
be able to gainsay nor resist all G3588  
G1410 G471 G3761 G436 G3956

ἀντικείμενοι ὑμῖν  
adversaries you  
G480 G5213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 1:9** (Parallel theme): Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

**Ephesians 6:19** (Parallel theme): And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

**Luke 12:12** (Parallel theme): For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

**Acts 6:10** (Parallel theme): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

**James 1:5** (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

**Luke 24:45** (Parallel theme): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

**Proverbs 2:6** (Parallel theme): For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

**Acts 26:28** (Parallel theme): Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

**Acts 24:25** (Parallel theme): And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

**Acts 2:4** (Parallel theme): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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