

# Proverbs 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

## Analysis

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Rash words wound like sword thrusts, while wise tongues heal. Speech's power to harm or help demonstrates the moral weight of communication. James 3:1-12 expands this theme, showing the tongue's disproportionate influence for good or evil. Healing speech applies gospel truth with grace.

## Historical Context

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In honor-shame cultures, public words could destroy or restore reputation permanently. Wise speech required careful weighing of words' impact on hearers and community.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How often do your words wound versus heal those around you?
2. What wisdom do you need to speak truth in genuinely helpful, gracious ways?

## Interlinear Text

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יֵשׁ	בּוֹטֵה	כְּמִדְקָר וְ	חֶרֶב	וְלִשׁוֹן	חֲכָמִים
There is	that speaketh	like the piercings	of a sword	but the tongue	of the wise
H3426	H981	H4094	H2719	H3956	H2450
מִרְפָּא:					
is health					
H4832					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 16:24** (Word): Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**Proverbs 15:4** (Parallel theme): A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

**Psalms 52:2** (Parallel theme): Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

**Psalms 57:4** (Word): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

**Proverbs 15:7** (Parallel theme): The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

**Proverbs 25:18** (Word): A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

**Proverbs 13:17** (Parallel theme): A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.

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

**Daniel 11:33** (Word): And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.

**Psalms 64:3** (Word): Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

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