

# Proverbs 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

## Analysis

---

Guarding speech preserves life, while rash talk invites destruction. The mouth's control demonstrates self-discipline reflecting the Spirit's fruit. Unbridled speech reveals ungoverned heart, while measured words show wisdom's restraint.

## Historical Context

---

In courts and councils, careless speech could result in death sentences or political downfall. Even in daily life, unguarded words destroyed relationships and reputations.

## Related Passages

---

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

---

1. How carefully do you consider your words before speaking?
2. What recent rash speech brought negative consequences you could have avoided?

## Interlinear Text

---

נִצְרָן	בְּפִיה	שְׁמָרָה	נֶפֶשׁ וְשֶׁמֶרֶת	פָּשַׁךְ	שְׁפָתִים
He that keepeth	his mouth	keepeth	his life	but he that openeth wide	his lips
H5341	H6310	H8104	H5315	H6589	H8193
מְחֻטָּה	:17				
shall have destruction		H4288			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Proverbs 21:23** (Parallel theme): Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

**Proverbs 18:21** (Parallel theme): Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

**Proverbs 18:7** (Parallel theme): A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

**Psalms 39:1** (Parallel theme): I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

**Proverbs 10:19** (Parallel theme): In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

**Proverbs 20:19** (Parallel theme): He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

**James 1:26** (Parallel theme): If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

**Proverbs 12:13** (Parallel theme): The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.