

Proverbs 15

Chapter 15 of 31 · 33 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Proverbs on the Power of Words

- 1** A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
- 2** The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
- 3** The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
- 4** A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.
- 5** A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.
- 6** In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.
- 7** The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.
- 8** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
- 9** The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.
- 10** Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.
- 11** Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?
- 12** A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

- 13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.
- 14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.
- 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.
- 16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.
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- 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.
- 18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.
- 19 The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.
- 20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.
- 21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.
- 22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.
- 23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!
- 24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.
- 25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.
- 26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

- 27** He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.
- 28** The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.
- 29** The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.
- 30** The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.
- 31** The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.
- 32** He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.
- 33** The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יהוה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Righteous — צַדִּיק (Tzaddik)

Righteous one

The Hebrew **tzaddik** (צַדִּיק) describes one who is righteous, just, or lawful—conforming to God's standard. From the root tzedek (צֶדֶק), meaning righteousness or justice.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Proverbs 15:1 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 10:12; 25:15; 28:25; 29:22. **Judgment:** Proverbs 15:18

Proverbs 15:2 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 12:23; 13:16; 15:28

Proverbs 15:3 **Parallel theme:** Job 31:4; Jeremiah 16:17; 32:19; Hebrews 4:13. **References Lord:** Proverbs 5:21; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Jeremiah 23:24

Proverbs 15:4 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 3:18; 12:18; 16:24; 18:8; 26:22; Psalms 109:22; Malachi 4:2; 1 Timothy 6:3. **Spirit:** Proverbs 18:14; Revelation 2:7

Proverbs 15:5 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 13:1; 13:18; 19:20; 1 Chronicles 28:9; 28:20; Titus 1:13; 2:15

Proverbs 15:6

Parallel theme: Proverbs 8:21; 10:22; 15:16; 21:20; Ecclesiastes 4:6; Hebrews 11:26.

Righteousness: Proverbs 13:22; 16:8; Psalms 37:16; 112:3

Proverbs 15:7 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:34

Proverbs 15:8 **Prayer:** Proverbs 15:29; 28:9; Psalms 17:1. **Sacrifice:** Proverbs 21:27; Ecclesiastes 5:1; Isaiah 61:8; 66:3; Jeremiah 6:20. **Parallel theme:** 1 Chronicles 29:17; John 4:24

Proverbs 15:9 **Love:** 1 Timothy 6:11. **Righteousness:** Proverbs 21:21; Habakkuk 1:13.

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 44:4; Matthew 7:13. **References Lord:** Hosea 6:3

Proverbs 15:10 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 5:12; 10:17; 12:1; 13:1; John 3:20; 7:7

Proverbs 15:11 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 27:20; 2 Chronicles 6:30; Job 26:6; Psalms 7:9; 44:21; 139:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 1:18; 2:23. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 17:10

Proverbs 15:12 **Parallel theme:** Job 21:14; Amos 5:10

Proverbs 15:13 **Spirit:** Proverbs 17:22; 18:14. **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 12:25; 15:15; Nehemiah 2:2; John 14:1; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2:7; 7:10

Proverbs 15:14 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 9:9; 18:15; Isaiah 30:10; Acts 17:11; 2 Peter 3:18

Proverbs 15:15 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 15:13; 17:22; Romans 5:11; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 6:10

Proverbs 15:16 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 16:8; 28:6; Psalms 37:16; 1 Timothy 6:6.

References Lord: Proverbs 10:22

Proverbs 15:17 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 17:1; 21:19

Proverbs 15:18 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 10:12; 16:28; 25:15; 26:21; 28:25; 29:22; Ecclesiastes 10:4; Matthew 5:9. **Judgment:** Proverbs 14:29; 15:1

Proverbs 15:19

Parallel theme: Proverbs 8:9; 22:5; 22:13; 26:13; Psalms 27:11; Isaiah 30:21; 35:8

Proverbs 15:20

Parallel theme: Proverbs 10:1; 23:22; 29:3; Leviticus 19:3; 1 Kings 1:48; 5:7

Proverbs 15:21 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 10:23; 11:12; 14:9; 14:16; Job 28:28; Psalms 111:10; Ephesians 5:15; James 3:13

Proverbs 15:22 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 11:14; 20:18

Proverbs 15:23 **Word:** Isaiah 50:4. **Good:** Proverbs 12:14; Ephesians 4:29. **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 16:13; 24:26; Ecclesiastes 3:1

Proverbs 15:24 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 2:18; 5:5; 6:23; 7:27; 23:14; Psalms 16:11; Jeremiah 21:8; Matthew 7:14; John 14:6; Philippians 3:20

Proverbs 15:25 **References Lord:** Psalms 138:6; 146:9; Isaiah 2:12. **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 12:7; 14:11; 23:10; Daniel 5:20; James 1:27

Proverbs 15:26 **Word:** Proverbs 15:23; Psalms 19:14. **Evil:** Jeremiah 4:14

Proverbs 15:27 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 1:19; 11:29; 28:16; Exodus 18:21; 23:8; Deuteronomy 16:19; Joshua 6:18; 2 Kings 5:27; Jeremiah 17:11

Proverbs 15:28 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 10:19; 13:16; 15:2; 16:23; 29:11; 29:20; Ecclesiastes 5:2; 5:6; 1 Peter 3:15. **Evil:** Matthew 12:34

Proverbs 15:29

Parallel theme: John 9:31. **Prayer:** Proverbs 15:8. **Righteousness:** Matthew 25:46; 1 Peter 3:12. **References Lord:** Psalms 10:1; 138:6

Proverbs 15:30

Parallel theme: Isaiah 58:11. **Good:** Proverbs 17:22; 25:25. **Light:** Proverbs 13:9; Ezra 9:8; Psalms 89:15; Ecclesiastes 11:7; Revelation 21:23; 22:5

Proverbs 15:31 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 1:23; 13:20; 15:5; 19:20; 25:12

Proverbs 15:32 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 1:7; 18:15; Isaiah 1:5; Revelation 3:19

Proverbs 15:33

Parallel theme: Proverbs 18:12; 29:23; Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:5. **References Lord:** Proverbs 1:7; 8:13; Job 28:28; Psalms 34:11; 111:10; James 4:10

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