

# Proverbs 17:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

## Analysis

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Evildoers 'give heed to false lips' and liars 'give ear to a naughty tongue.' This describes moral affinity: the wicked are attracted to wicked speech. The Hebrew 'awen' (iniquity/false) and 'hawwah' (calamity/mischief) emphasize destructive speech. Reformed theology recognizes that what we listen to reveals and shapes our hearts. Those who love wickedness consume lies; those who love truth reject them. This has implications for media consumption, choice of counselors, and the voices we allow to influence us. We become like what we behold.

## Historical Context

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False prophets in Israel found receptive audiences among wicked kings and rebellious people (Jeremiah 5:31). The symbiotic relationship between lying speakers and willing listeners perpetuated covenant unfaithfulness.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

2