

Proverbs 4:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Put away from thee a foward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Analysis

Put away from you foward (iqqueshut - perverse, crooked) mouth, and perverse lips put far from you. The command addresses corrupt speech requiring active rejection - not passive avoidance but intentional putting away. Perverse speech includes lying, gossip, flattery, cursing, and all verbal corruption. The verse assumes tongue control requires heart transformation - speech reflects character, so changing speech requires changing heart.

Historical Context

Part of comprehensive instruction on guarding the heart (v.23) and its expressions. Ancient Israelite ethics recognized speech as revealing and shaping character, requiring careful discipline.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What patterns of perverse speech do you need to actively 'put away' from your mouth?
2. How does heart transformation through the gospel enable speech transformation mere willpower cannot?

Interlinear Text

שְׁפָתִים שְׁפָתִים וְלֹטֶשׁ וְלֹטֶשׁ מִתְּבָנָה מִתְּבָנָה
Put away H4480 from thee a froward mouth and perverse lips
H5493 H6143 H6310 H3891 H8193

מִתְּבָנָה פְּרָמָן
put far H4480
H7368

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:8 (Parallel theme): All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

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.

James 1:21 (Parallel theme): Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Proverbs 8:13 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 6:12 (Parallel theme): A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

1 Peter 2:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Colossians 3:8 (Parallel theme): But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Job 11:14 (Parallel theme): If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

Proverbs 17:20 (Parallel theme): He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.