> *Proverbs 29:20*
> “Have you seen someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.” *(NIV)*

A person who is quick to speak is someone who talks without thinking or controlling their words. Speaking without restraint often leads to jokes that offend, quarrels, anger, lies, and conflict.

For example, someone might insult you, and you get angry inside. Because you can’t hold back, you respond with harsh words and end up insulting them back.

Or you might notice something that isn’t right, and if you say it without thinking, what you meant to be simple could spark a fight, cause blame, or create confusion — all because your words came out too quickly.

Even swearing and blasphemy often come from careless speech — speaking without wisdom or restraint.

Matthew 12:36–37 (ESV) says:

> “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

This verse helps explain why the proverb says there is “more hope for a fool.” It reminds us just how powerful our words are.

The Bible also compares the tongue to fire — a small part of the body that can set an entire forest ablaze. So it’s important that we are thoughtful and careful before we speak.

James 1:19 (NIV) says:

> “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

Words have incredible power, and we should learn every day to control our speech.

May the Lord bless you.

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