

The Power to bless

Darling, is it something I've said?

Is it something I haven't said?

Is it the way I haven't said it?

**The power of words –
- for good or bad**

**With the tongue we praise
our Lord and Father
and with it we curse human beings,
who have been made in God's likeness.**

**Out of the same mouth
come praise and cursing.**

**My brothers and sisters,
this should not be.
Can both fresh water and salt water
flow from the same spring?**

**My brothers and sisters,
can a fig tree bear olives,
or a grapevine bear figs?**

**Neither can a salt spring
produce fresh water.**

James 3:9-12

**Crushing or
healing?**

***The soothing tongue
is a tree of life,
but a perverse
tongue crushes the
spirit (15.4)***

Making angry or calming?

*A gentle answer
turns away wrath,
but a harsh word
stirs up anger (15.1)*

Thoughtless or thoughtful?

*The tongue of the wise
adorns knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool
gushes folly (15.2)*

Angry or patient?

***The hot-tempered
stir up dissension,
but those who are patient
calm a quarrel (15.18)***

Finding fault or affirming?

***A wicked person listens
to deceitful lips;
a liar pays attention
to a destructive tongue (17.4)***

**Therefore, my dear friends —
continue to work out your salvation
with fear and trembling,
for it is God who works in you
to will and to act
in order to fulfil his good purpose.**

Philippians 2:12-13