

## Message #113

## Proverbs 27:1-4

**THERE IS A WISE WAY TO USE SPEECH AND A FOOLISH WAY TO USE SPEECH; AND WISDOM OR FOLLY IS DETERMINED BY THE WAY A PERSON CHOOSES TO USE HIS OR HER SPEECH.**

According to the Word of God, our wisdom level is determined in part by our speech control level.

**SPEECH QUALITY #1** – A wise person will not brag about the future. **27:1**

The wiser we are the more we will realize that God controls the future, not us. The word “boast” means to make something clear or make something shine or bright for show. The hithpael form of the verb is used meaning the action is performed by self and for self. The point here is that it is very foolish to brag about something or shine something forth that one intends to do because no human knows what the future will bring forth. Boasting about the future is both evil (v. 16) and sin (v. 17) (James 4:13-17).

**SPEECH QUALITY #2** – A wise person will not brag about himself. **27:2**

Not only will a wise person refuse to boast about what he shall do, he also shall refuse to boast about what he has done. The word “praise” is the same word from **verse 1** (“boast”) which means to make self shine. The idea of “another” and “stranger” praising an individual is the idea of someone praising who is not close, such as a friend or relative. It refers to someone who is objective, one outside the immediate sphere. When praise comes from someone unbiased, it is worthy praise and the most unbiased praise one can ever receive will be an evaluation from God.

**SPEECH QUALITY #3** – A wise person is not a provocative person. **27:3**

Two things known to be very burdensome (and still are) were stones and sand. Both are extremely heavy and burdensome and both are very difficult to move. A fool’s provocation is heavier than both of these. The word “provocation” describes contentious anger, irritation and displeasure. A fool is totally burdensome to all in his presence. Foolish people are verbally and emotionally angry people. One way a fool demonstrates anger and wrath is through speech. The wiser we are the more control we have of our emotions and speech.

**SPEECH QUALITY #4** – A wise person is not a jealous person. **27:4**

Of all the things that can destroy people the most, jealousy is the worst. Jealous people harm relationships, destroy friendships and ruin reputations (i.e. Daniel’s co-workers, Joseph’s brothers).

Wise people are not braggarts, they are not provocative and they are not jealous. The wise are controlled with what they say and refuse to say. They control their emotions and speech and actions.