

# Keeping Your Foot Out of Your Mouth

Psalm 141

Why do I want the Lord to set a watch over my mouth and guard “keep” the door of my lips? So, that I won’t put my foot in my mouth. I will not do that if God is watching and guarding it. God will not do this for me if I do not cooperate with His Word. This is a prayer of David. Why? So, I won’t say what I shouldn’t. James 3 is an excellent reference for this. Remember, the once the words come out, that the damage is done even if I regret it later. Here are some tests to see if I’m about to put my foot in my mouth.

## 1. Correct Information

- Inaccurate Gossip - 1 Sam. 24:9, Prov. 17:4; 19:5
- Inappropriate Garbage - Prov. 17:9
- Inordinate Gob - Ex. 32, 1 Sam. 15, Acts 5

## 2. Contemplative Inhibition

- Emotional Outburst - Jephthah in Judges 11:30-35
- Excessive Ongoing - Prov. 17:28
- Eager Opinion - Matt. 17:4, Jn. 21:20-22

## 3. Careful Individualization

- Respected Status - Heb. 13:17, 2 Kgs. 2:23-24
- Relative Situation
- Recognize Sensitivity - Prov. 25:11

## 4. Compassionate \_\_\_\_\_

- Encouraging - Eph. 4:29
- Empathetic to \_\_\_\_\_ - Gal. 6:2
- Emphatic Blessing - Gal. 6:1, Prov. 12:25

## 5. Christlike \_\_\_\_\_ - Matt. 26:49-50, Jn. 20:25-28

- Divine Prudence
- Distinct Power - Jn. 8:7&11
- Definite Pleasure - Ps. 19:14

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## 1. Correct Information

- Inaccurate Gossip - 1 Sam. 24:9, Prov. 17:4; 19:5
  - \* we spread things that are not true-
- Inappropriate Garbage - Prov. 17:9
- Inordinate Gob - Ex. 32, 1 Sam. 15, Acts 5
  - \* exaggeration

## 2. Contemplative Inhibition

- Emotional Outburst - Jephthah in Judges 11:30-35
  - \* think before you speak - don't just speak due to momentary emotion
- Excessive Ongoing - Prov. 17:28
  - \* lack of spiritual maturity - Is this the right thing to say?
- Eager Opinion - Matt. 17:4, Jn. 21:20-22
  - \* just because you have an opinion does not mean you have to share it-

## 3. Careful Individualization

- Respected Status - Heb. 13:17, 2 Kgs. 2:23-24
  - \* consider who you are saying it to - you may not like the person, but must respect the position
- Relative Situation
  - \* It's OK to be right and also be quiet
- Recognize Sensitivity - Prov. 25:11

## 4. Compassionate Intentions

- Encouraging - Eph. 4:29
  - \* by the things that I say, am I encouraging or am I critical?
- Empathetic to Burdens - Gal. 6:2
  - \* reach out in meekness, not condemnation
- Emphatic Blessing - Gal. 6:1, Prov. 12:25
  - \* be a blessing 'on purpose' Colossians 4:6

## 5. Christlike Imitation - Matt. 26:49-50, Jn. 20:25-28

- Divine Prudence
  - \* Christ always knew what to say ( and what not to say) Psalm 141:3
- Distinct Power - Jn. 8:7&11
  - \* control over what He said
- Definite Pleasure - Ps. 19:14
  - \* glorified God