

Lord, Please Examine My Mouth

"She opens her mouth with skillful and godly wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness—giving counsel and instruction." Proverbs 31:26 Amplified



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Before I put my trust in Christ as my Savior, the words of my mouth were not skillful or full of godly wisdom. The Bible tells us that what is in our hearts will come out of our mouth. Well, my heart and mouths were full of bitterness, anger, unforgiveness and fear. I was full of worldly wisdom. My tongue was often cruel, fault-finding and critical. My counsel and instruction were not godly. Proverbs 18:21 (Amp.) reads, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge it will eat the fruit of it [for death or life]."* My tongue spoke more death than life.

Praise God for His amazing grace! As I daily read and obeyed God's Word, the Holy Spirit was faithful to empower me to forgive. He gave me the grace to repent of my bitterness and anger, and He healed my heart. As a young believer, I wanted my life to change. I wanted it to glorify Jesus. I prayed, and I asked God to examine my heart and my mouth. I asked Him to change everything that did not bring glory to Him. I also asked Him to help me to follow the Proverbs 31 woman's example. Psalms 51:10 (KJV) was one of my prayers. It reads, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."*

So often we want to change other people. I knew I needed Him to start with me. I also prayed from Ezekiel 36:24-27, where God promised His people that He would cleanse them from all their sin, remove their stony

heart, give them a new heart and a new spirit, and put His Spirit within them. I knew I badly needed God to do heart surgery on me. Jeremiah 17:9 (NAS) reads, *"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"* This was a picture of my heart, deceitful and desperately sick. I thank God that He did not give me a transplant of someone else's heart. He gave me a new heart and a new Spirit.

Each of us can make a lot of outward changes. We can make a New Year's resolution; daily we can determine to change our attitude and turn from sinful habits and live godly lives, but you and I know that it won't last. Only as we cry out to God to give us a new heart and daily fill us with His Spirit will we experience permanent changes in our lives that glorify Jesus. If you need changes in your life, cry out to God to give you a new heart and a new Spirit. He'll answer your prayers.

I am so grateful for all the changes He has brought into my life and in my marriage, and I know what He has done for me, He can do for you. Surrender your life to Christ and let Him bring the changes that will bring Him glory.

— Janice McBride

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