

# Apples of Gold

The Book of Proverbs is a series of wise sayings, as its opening words say:

*To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom (Proverbs 1:2–3).*

In chapter 25, we have this rather enigmatic phrase about wise words:

*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver (25:11).*

It is helpful to compare it to similar verses about wisdom:

*Incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God (2:2–5).*

*Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold (3:13–14).*



We see that wisdom is described as more precious than gold or silver. Wisdom comes from listening to the instructions of God contained in His Word, the Bible:

*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding (4:7).*

## Words of Wisdom

If words fitly spoken can be compared to gold and silver, it follows that they must be wise words, the fruit of wisdom.

As we read in Proverbs, the man or woman who searches for wisdom produces this fruit which is better than gold or silver. The words which are fitly spoken come from a man or woman who has studied God's word and so has become wise. They can be words of encouragement, joy, instruction, sympathy or admonition. They could be merely a few words, or could take place during an hour or more of discussion.

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23).*

It follows that the words spoken person-to-person should reflect these virtues: delivered wisely and kindly. This is good advice for every day.

**Sue Morgan**