

# Watch Your Mouth!!

In the SAME afternoon that I decided to use “**Watch Your Mouth**” as a family “Story for the Day,” I received this poem, written by our own Cousin Irma B. Williams from Cleveland, Tennessee with these verses that convey the same message! Irma and her husband Eddie are retired missionaries/ministers/teachers par excellence, and they have agreed in the future to contribute to this website! Knowing them as I do, the website just took a HUGE step forward!! Here are Irma’s scriptures and her poem “**WORDS**”. Then, don’t forget to stay tuned to see MY story “**Watch Your Mouth**” at the end. I’ve always said, the Lord’s TIMING is amazing.

## WORDS

By Irma B. Williams

If I should speak one word amiss,  
Then I have sacrificed my bliss;  
If I should wound some soul today  
By something that I chanced to say,  
I ask you, Lord, to help me see  
And make amends if that should be.

I’d rather someone speak to me  
In tones of harshness than to be  
The one who speaks the slightest word  
And cause one grief by what’s been heard.  
O Lord, my prayer I want to weigh  
Each thought I think, each word I say.

For words are powerful indeed—  
O have I made some heart to bleed?  
O that today my words could bless  
Someone ex-pe-r’enc-ing distress!  
I ask you, Lord, grant this request:  
To treat each as my Royal Guest. Amen.

**A soft answer turneth away wrath:  
but grievous words stir up anger.**

**—Proverbs 15:1**

**Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O  
LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.**

**—Psalm 19:14**

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January, 2022

The timing of this story was late afternoon on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2021. I was in Publix picking up some last-minute items before the new year. I found almost everything on my short list, except for eggnog, which was probably in short supply at this late date of the season.

Out of courtesy, the checkout personnel asked me if I found everything I needed. I replied that I did not find the eggnog. The woman who was bagging my groceries suggested that I might find some eggnog in the Publix Liquor Store next door. As I think back on it, this was an excellent idea to help meet my needs. Unfortunately, I didn't take it that way. I opened my big mouth and launched into a tirade about how I wouldn't walk into a LIQUOR STORE to buy ANYTHING! Here I am 76 years old, and I don't drink. With all that I've experienced (6 years in the National Guard and umpteen years of college!) I've never tasted alcohol, especially not BEER!

The minute the words were out of my mouth, I realized how RUDE I had been. I really embarrassed myself! Then, in spite of my rudeness, the woman who made the suggestion about the liquor store remained courteous. She offered to take my cart out for me and wished me a "Happy New Year"!

Then it REALLY hit me: My entire attitude in this conversation was one of **PRIDE** and **ARROGANCE** over my extreme, NON-drinking, judgmental lifestyle. In Biblical teaching, the real SIN is pride, not modest consumption of alcohol! Secondly, the mouth and tongue are NOT to be weaponized. Jesus taught that what comes OUT of our mouth can be much WORSE than what goes INTO our mouth. We need to be VERY careful about the things we say and how we say them.

**I decided immediately that I would NEVER tell this story to ANYONE, not even MARTHA!! Secondly, I would NEVER write a story about this experience. Thirdly, if I did write this story, I would NEVER post it publicly on my website!**

Here is some advice, however: **NEVER tell the Lord that you will NEVER do SOMETHING!**

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