

“I Was Only Joking” Is No Joke

TEXT: (Proverbs 26:18-19, NIV)

¹⁸ Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death ¹⁹ is one who deceives their neighbor and says, “I was only joking!”

INTRODUCTION

1. “Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, ‘I was only joking’” (Proverbs 26:18-19, NLT).

I. NO GUILF IN HIS MOUTH

1. “He had done no violence, neither was there guile in his mouth” (Isaiah 53:9, DBY).
2. “He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone” (Isaiah 53:9, NLT).
3. “For to this have ye been called; for Christ also has suffered for you, leaving you a model that ye should follow in his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth” (I Peter 2:21-22, DBY).

A. Tell the Truth

1. “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (Ephesians 4:25, NIV).
2. “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices” (Colossians 3:9, NIV).

B. Build Others Up with Your Words

1. “We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church” (Ephesians 4:16, NLT).
2. “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Matthew 12:34, NIV).
3. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (I Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

C. Be Unusually Thankful

1. “Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God” (Ephesians 5:4, NLT).
2. “Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow” (James 1:17, NLT).
3. “Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness” (Colossians 2:7, NLT).

II. A MAN WITHOUT GUILF

1. “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” (John 1:47, KJV).
2. “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see” (John 1:45-46, KJV).

A. A Friend Loves at All Times

1. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13, NIV).
2. "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (I Corinthians 12:26, NIV).
3. "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21, NIV).

B. A Friend Is Loyal

1. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13, NIV).

C. A Friend Is Supportive.

1. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Psalm 34:19, KJV).
2. "But the LORD delivers him from them all" (Psalm 34:17, NIV).
3. "Two are better than one, ... if one falls down, his friend can help him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, NIV).

III. Hearts without Guile and Hypocrisy

1. "Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you'" (John 1:48, NIV).

A. Be Open and Honest with Your Life in the Light of God

1. "For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6, NLT).
2. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24, KJV).
3. "Only the 144,000 could learn to sing the song. They were bought from earth, lived without compromise, virgin-fresh before God. Wherever the Lamb went, they followed. They were bought from humankind, firstfruits of the harvest for God and the Lamb. Not a false word in their mouths. A perfect offering" (Revelation 14:3-5, MSG).

B. Keep Your Heart Pure

1. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8, NIV).
2. "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV).
3. "Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God" (II Corinthians 7:1, NLT).
4. "Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one" (Ephesians 6:16, NIV).

C. Maintain a Steadfast Spirit

1. “That we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (Ephesians 4:14, ESV).
2. “Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2, KJV).
3. “Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering” (Hebrews 10:23, KJV).
4. “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure” (Jeremiah 17:9, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19, NIV).
2. “Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3, NIV).