

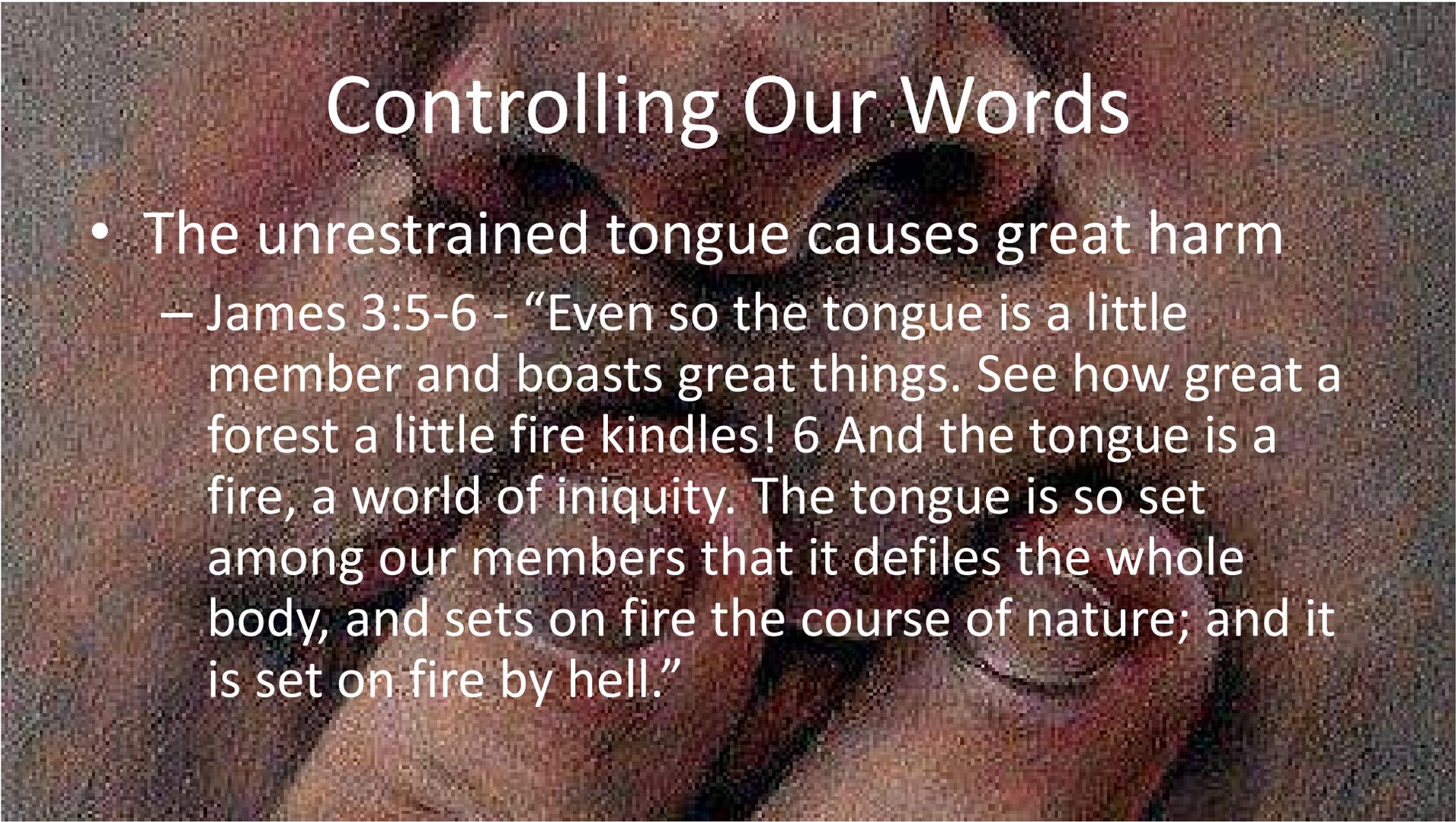
“Set a Guard over My Mouth”

Psalm 141:3 - “Set a guard, O LORD,
over my mouth; Keep watch over the
door of my lips.”

Lev. 24:10-16, 22-23 - "Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel; and this Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp. 11 And the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses. (His mother's name was Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) 12 Then they put him in custody, that the mind of the LORD might be shown to them. 13 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 14 Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him. 15 Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 16 And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death... 22 You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the LORD your God. 23 Then Moses spoke to the children of Israel; and they took outside the camp him who had cursed, and stoned him with stones. So the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses."

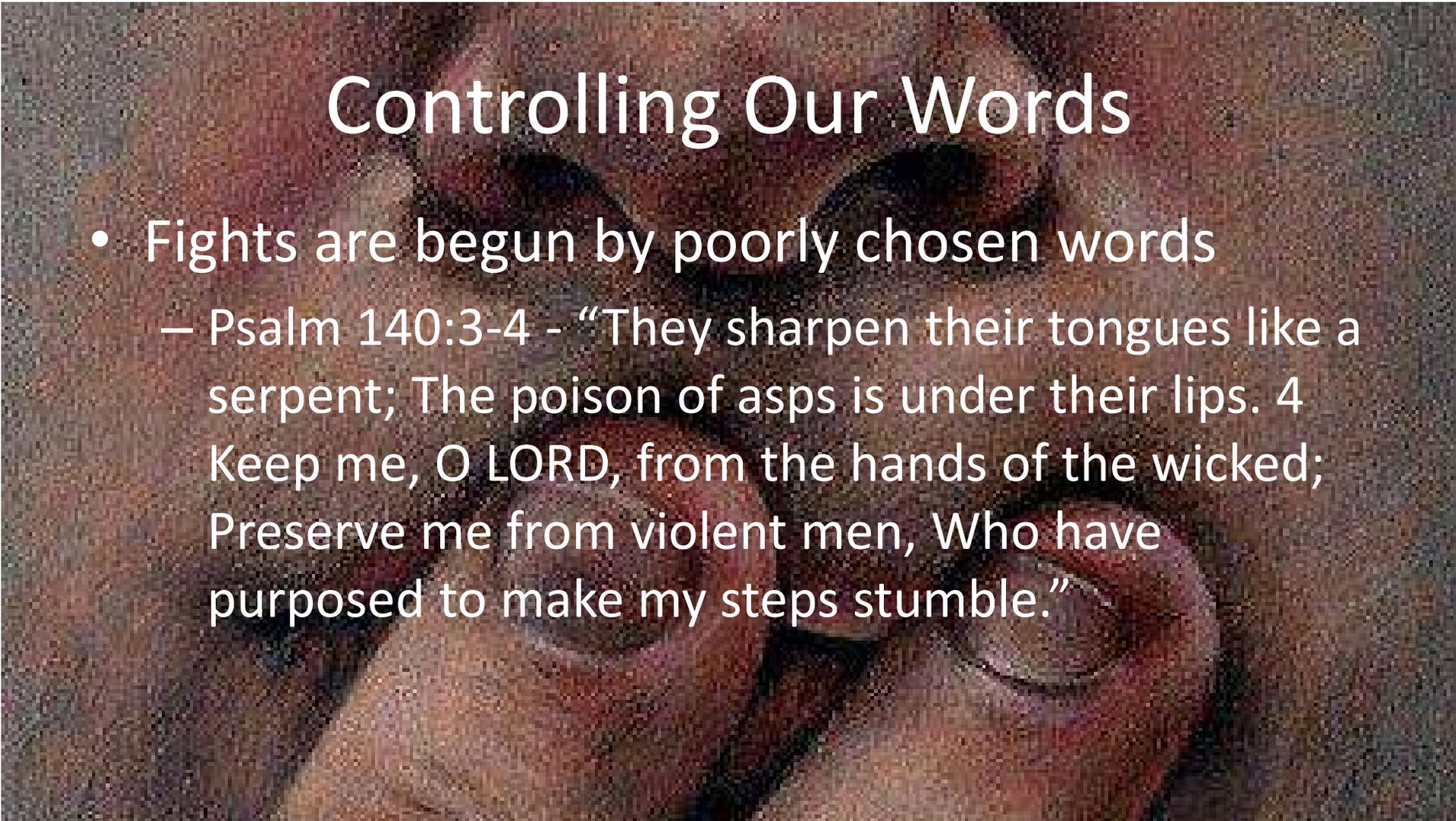
Controlling Our Words

- If we can control our speech, we can control our actions
 - James 3:2 - “For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.”
- Little things often have power over big things
 - James 3:3-4 - “Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.”



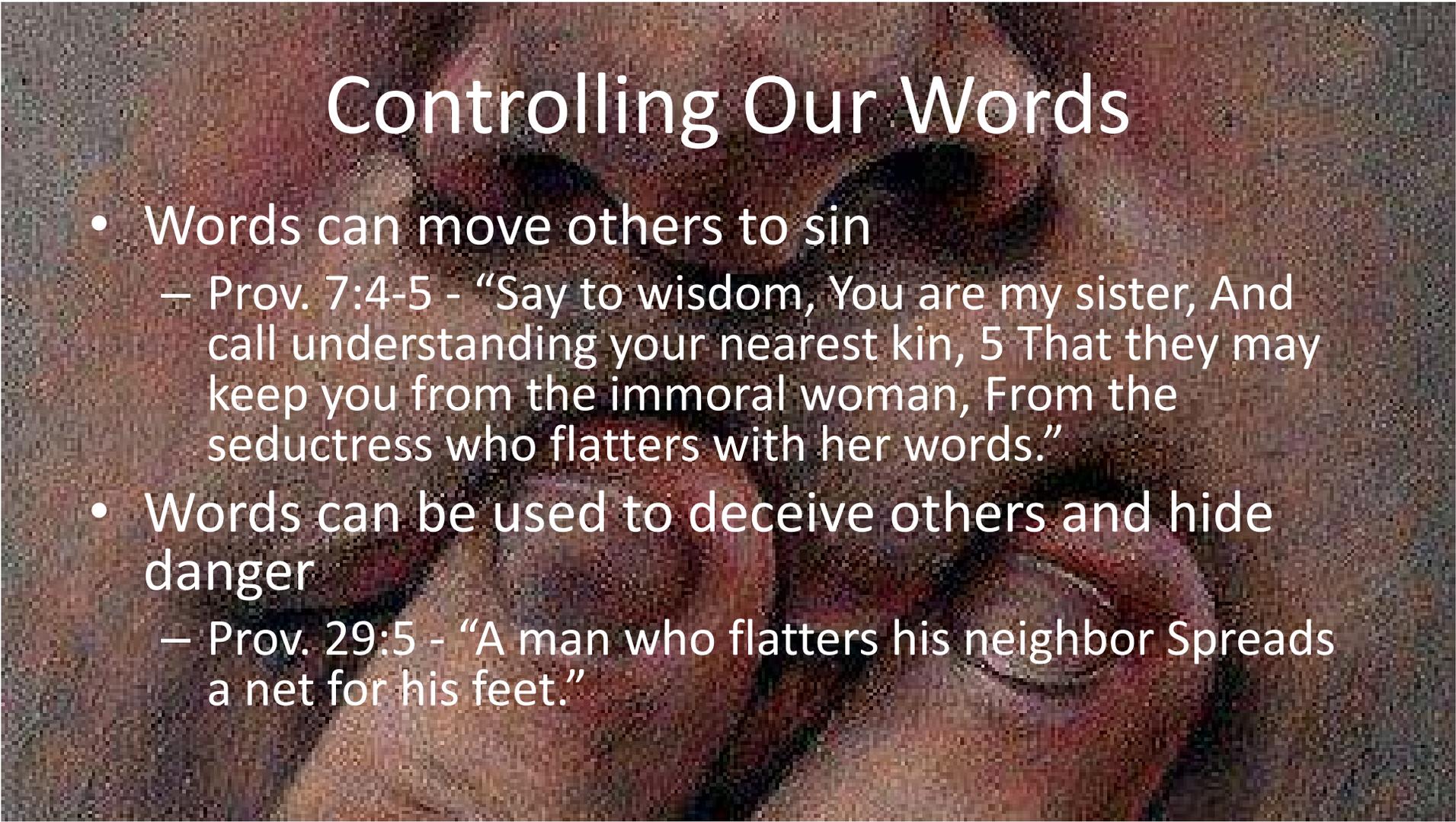
Controlling Our Words

- The unrestrained tongue causes great harm
 - James 3:5-6 - “Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”



Controlling Our Words

- Fights are begun by poorly chosen words
 - Psalm 140:3-4 - “They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips. 4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; Preserve me from violent men, Who have purposed to make my steps stumble.”



Controlling Our Words

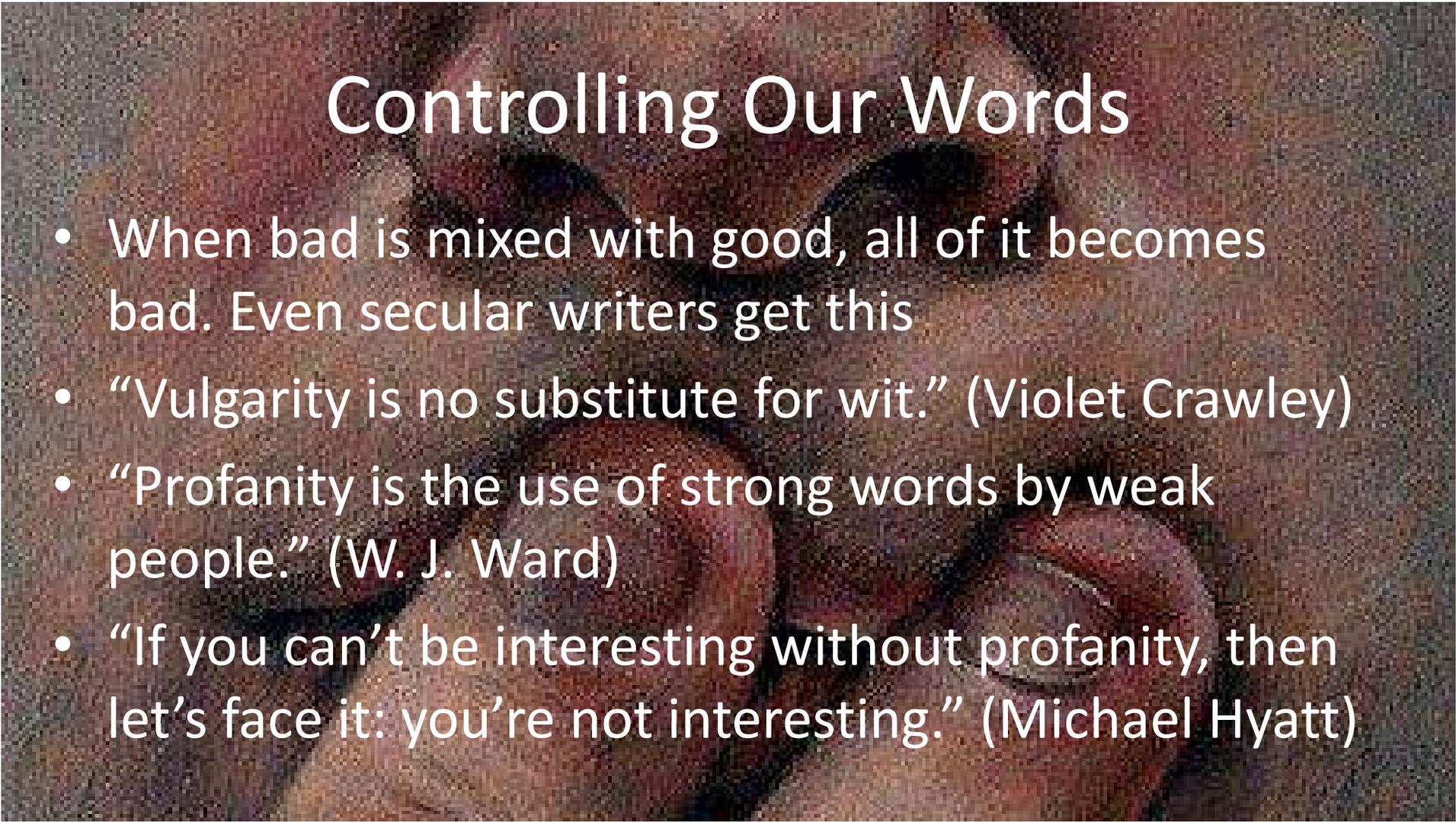
- Words can move others to sin
 - Prov. 7:4-5 - “Say to wisdom, You are my sister, And call understanding your nearest kin, 5 That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.”
- Words can be used to deceive others and hide danger
 - Prov. 29:5 - “A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.”

Controlling Our Words

- Controlling our speech is challenging, not impossible
 - James 3:7-8 - “For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”
- Never assume that we have it mastered
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

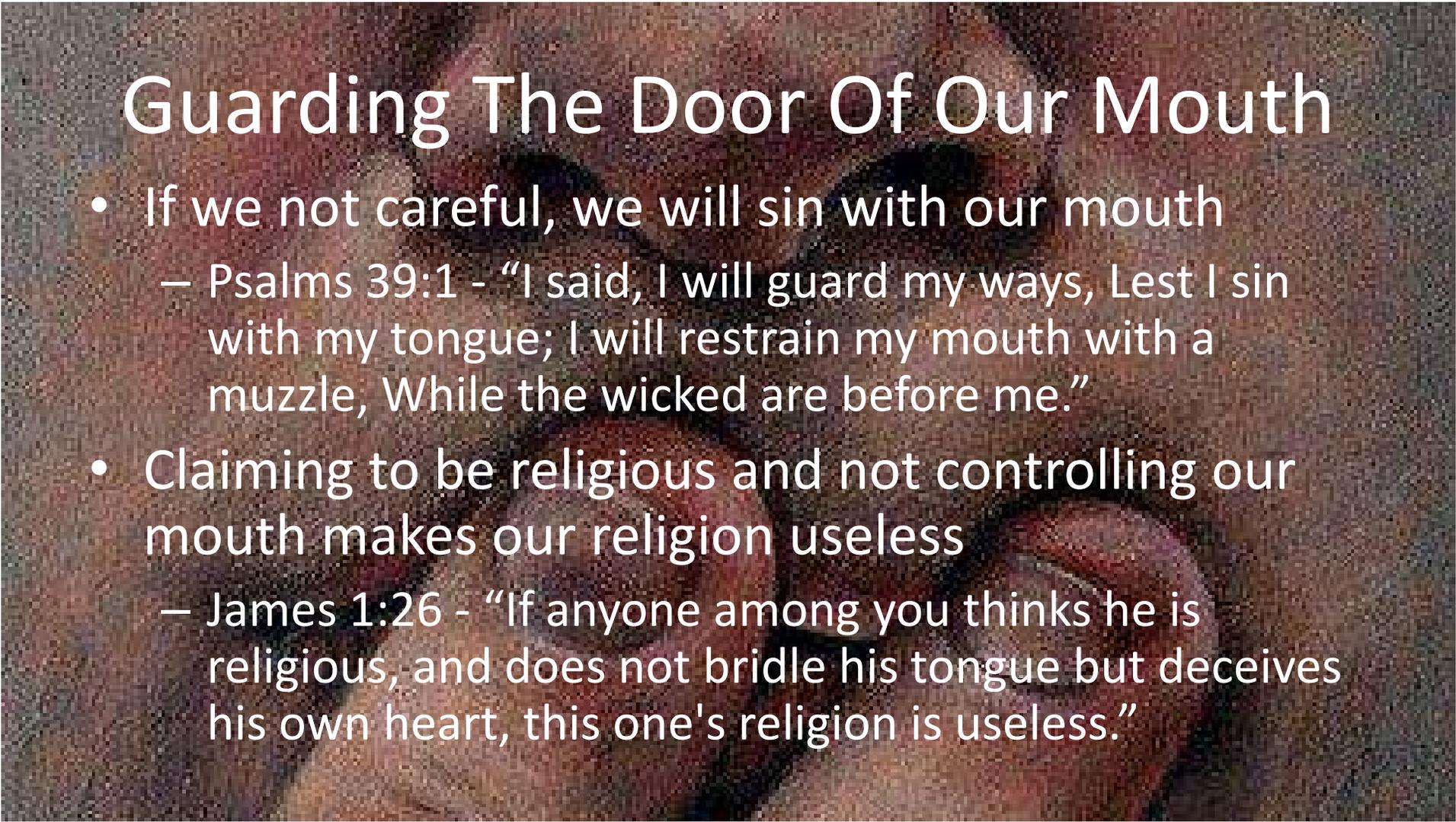
Controlling Our Words

- We sometimes treat sinful speech as acceptable or harmless
 - James 3:9-12 - “With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.”



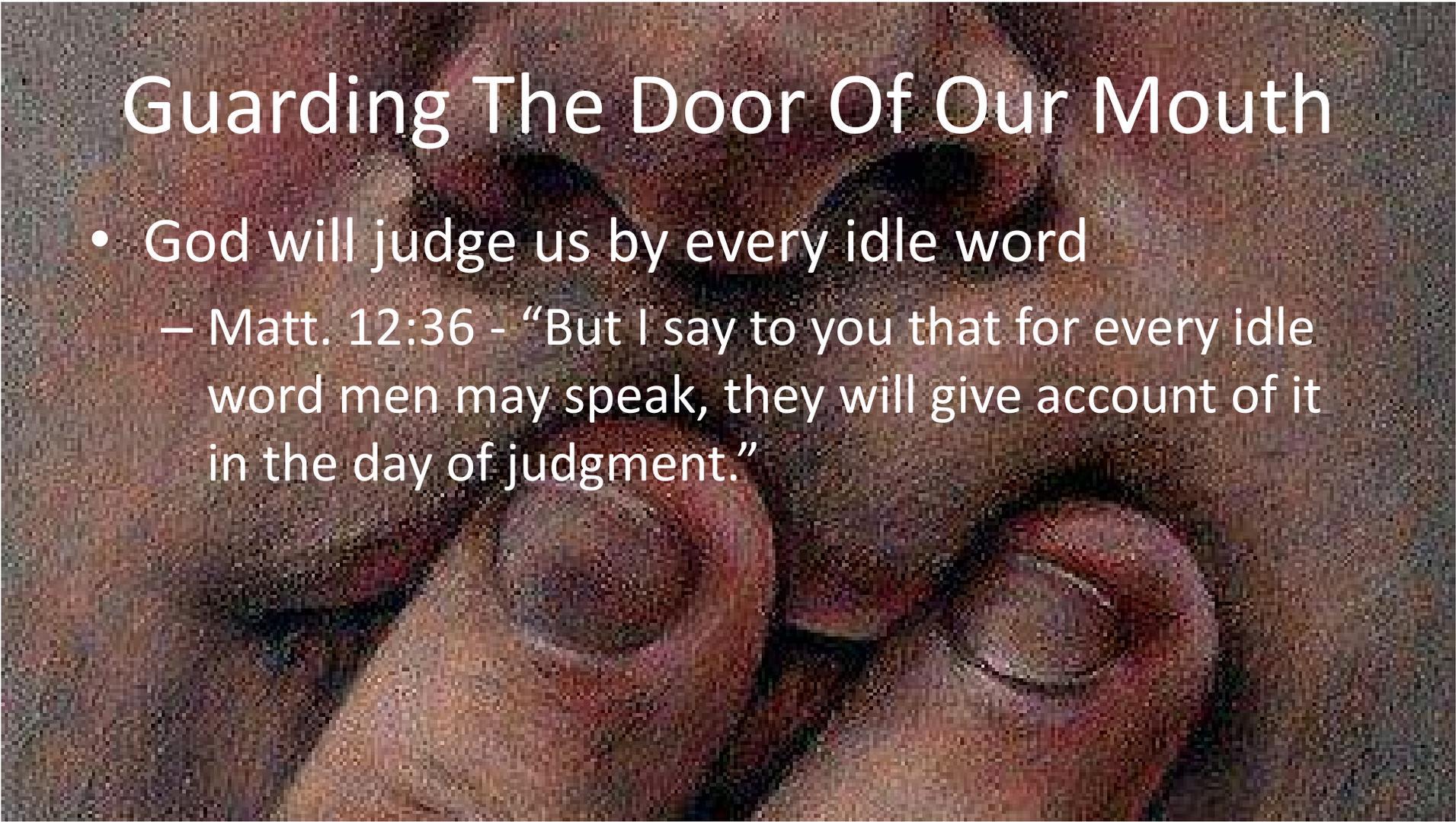
Controlling Our Words

- When bad is mixed with good, all of it becomes bad. Even secular writers get this
- “Vulgarity is no substitute for wit.” (Violet Crawley)
- “Profanity is the use of strong words by weak people.” (W. J. Ward)
- “If you can’t be interesting without profanity, then let’s face it: you’re not interesting.” (Michael Hyatt)



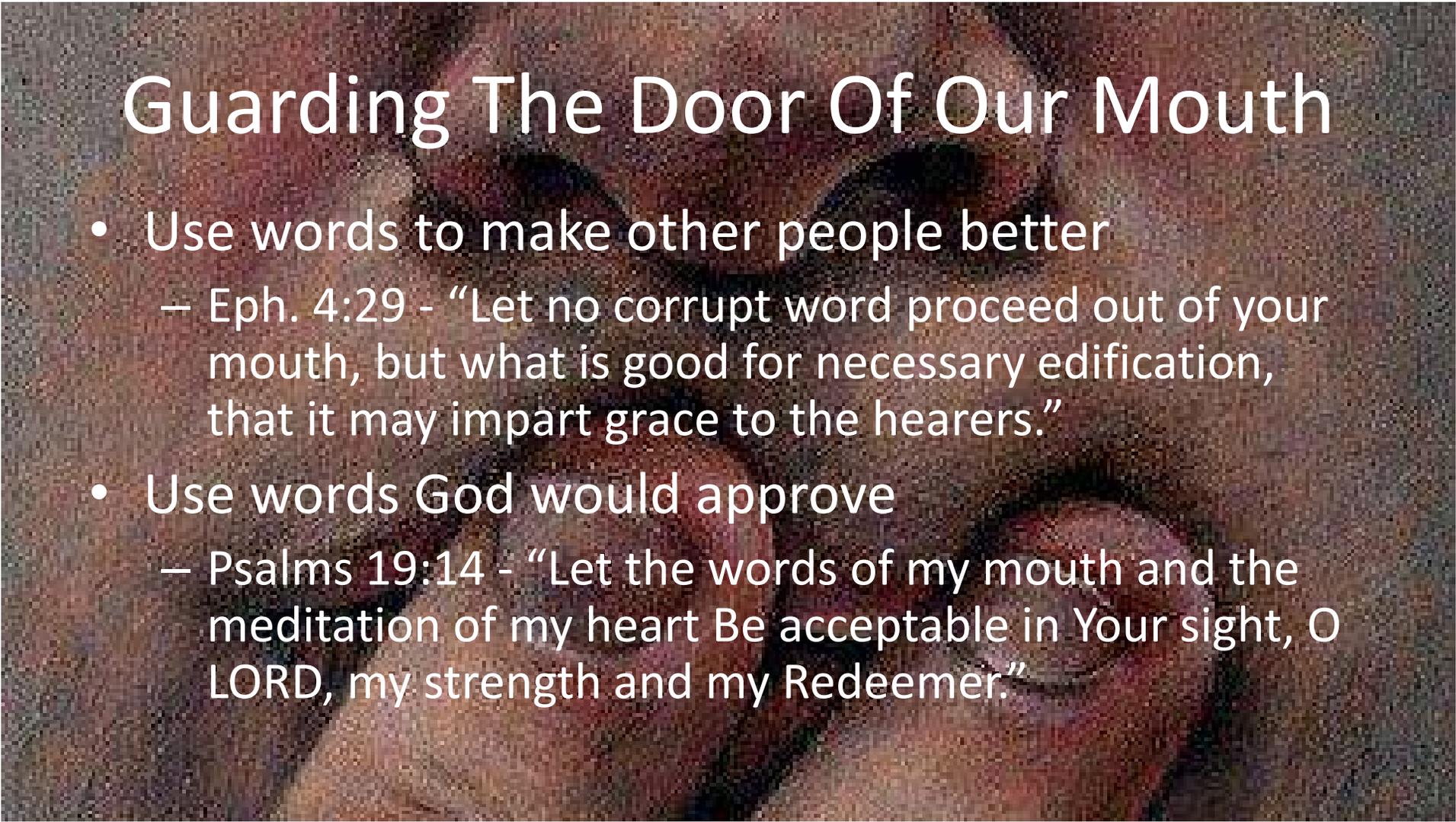
Guarding The Door Of Our Mouth

- If we not careful, we will sin with our mouth
 - Psalms 39:1 - “I said, I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.”
- Claiming to be religious and not controlling our mouth makes our religion useless
 - James 1:26 - “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”



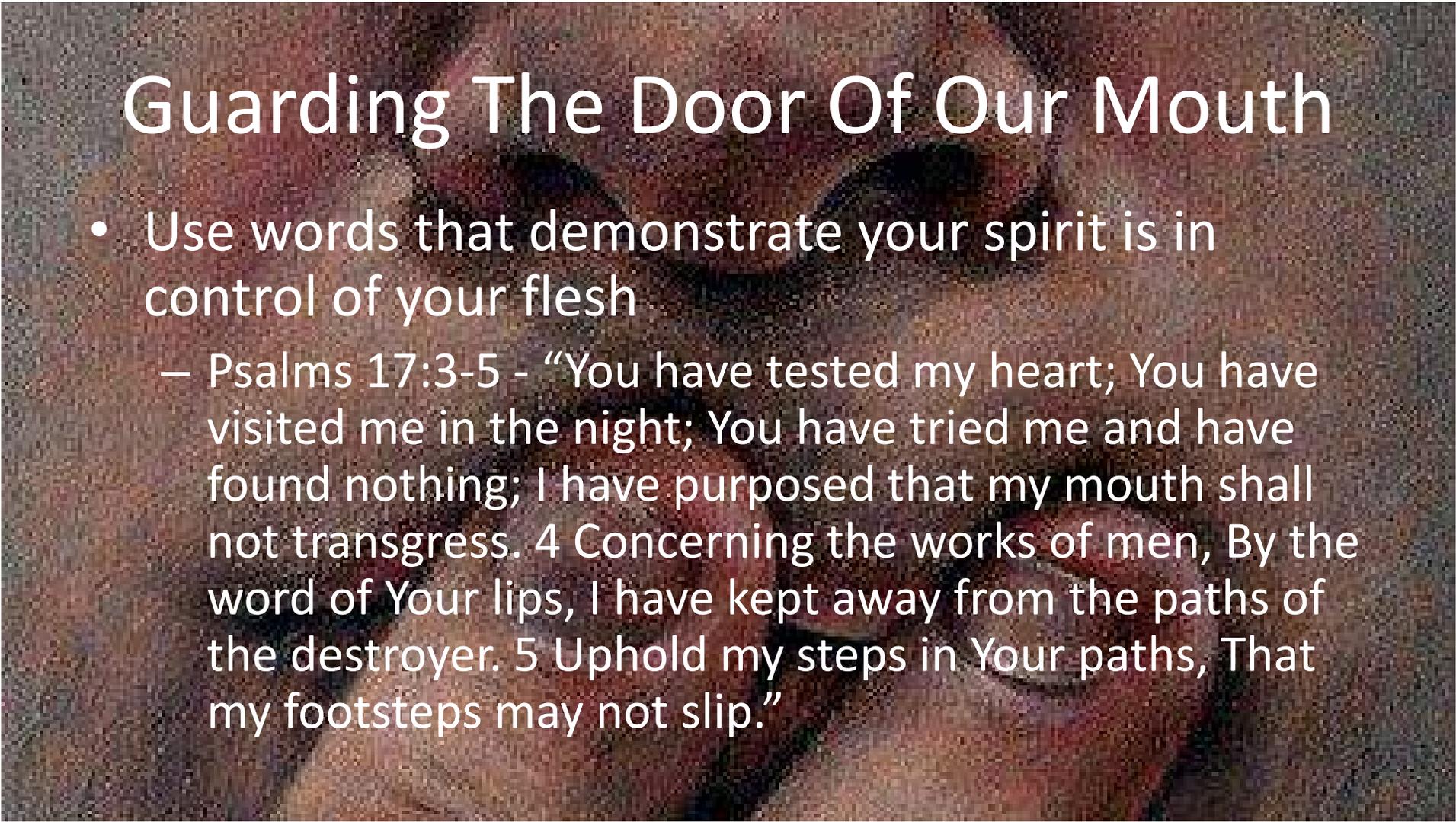
Guarding The Door Of Our Mouth

- God will judge us by every idle word
 - Matt. 12:36 - “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”



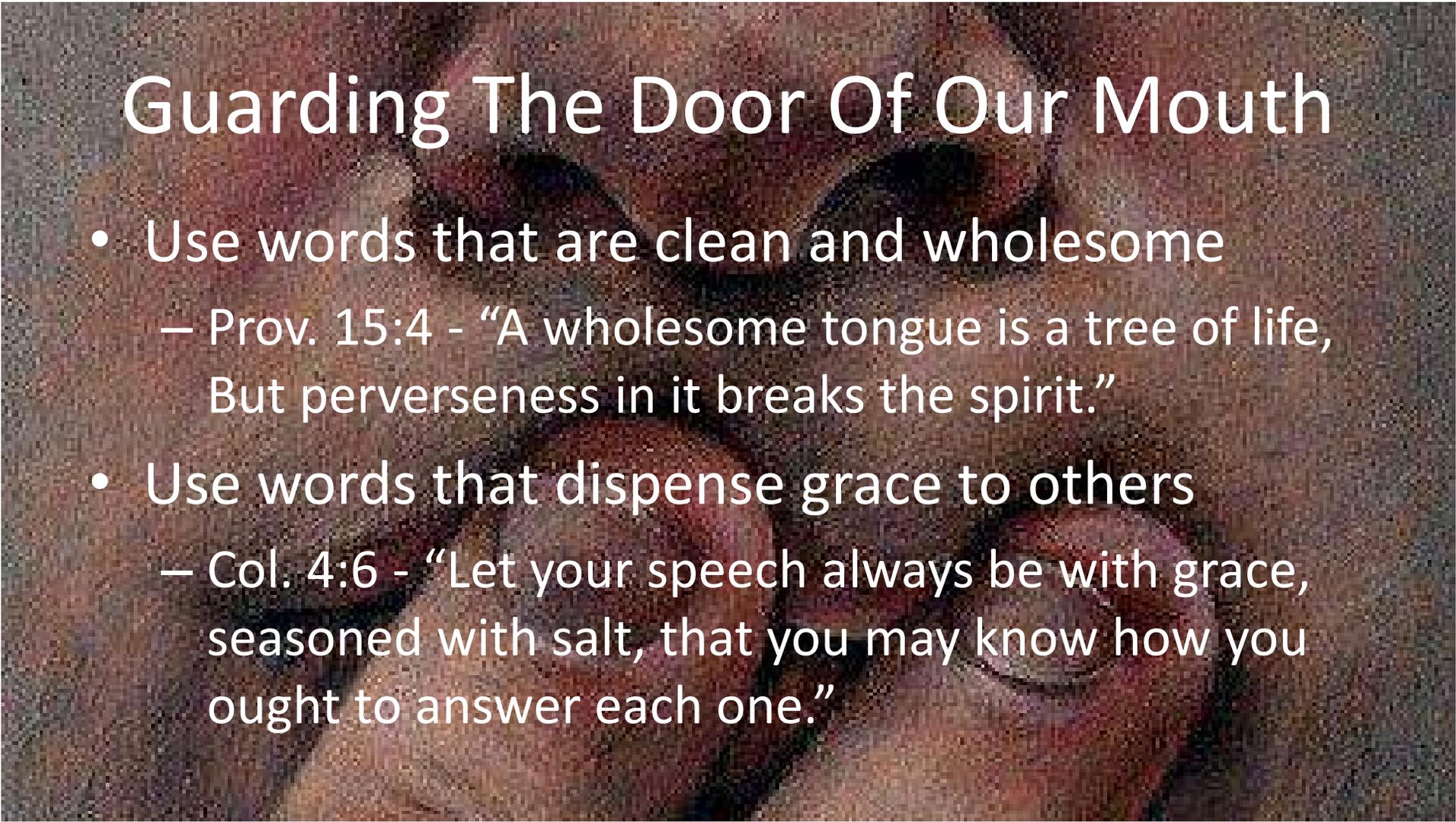
Guarding The Door Of Our Mouth

- Use words to make other people better
 - Eph. 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”
- Use words God would approve
 - Psalms 19:14 - “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”



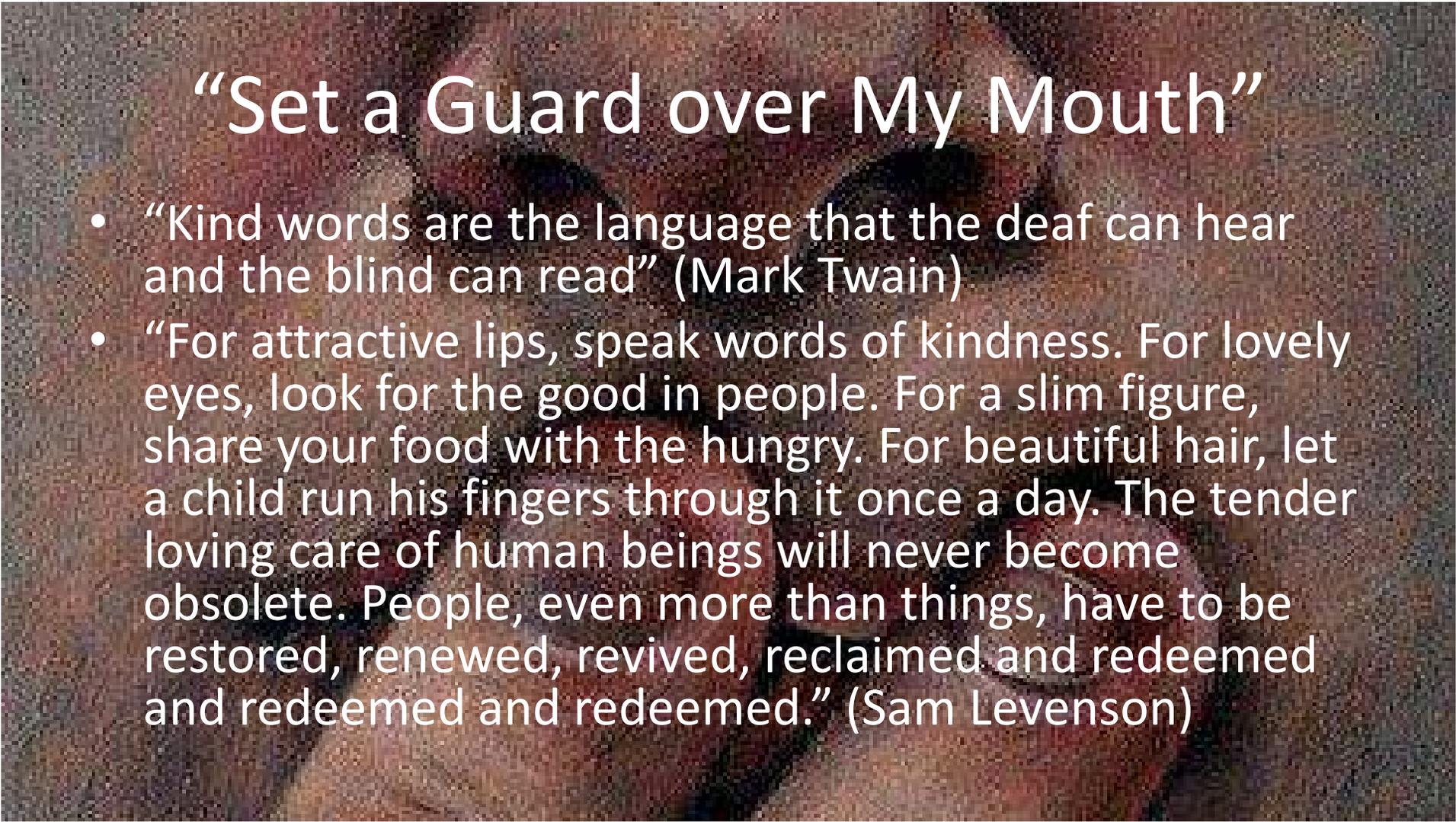
Guarding The Door Of Our Mouth

- Use words that demonstrate your spirit is in control of your flesh
 - Psalms 17:3-5 - “You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. 4 Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. 5 Uphold my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip.”



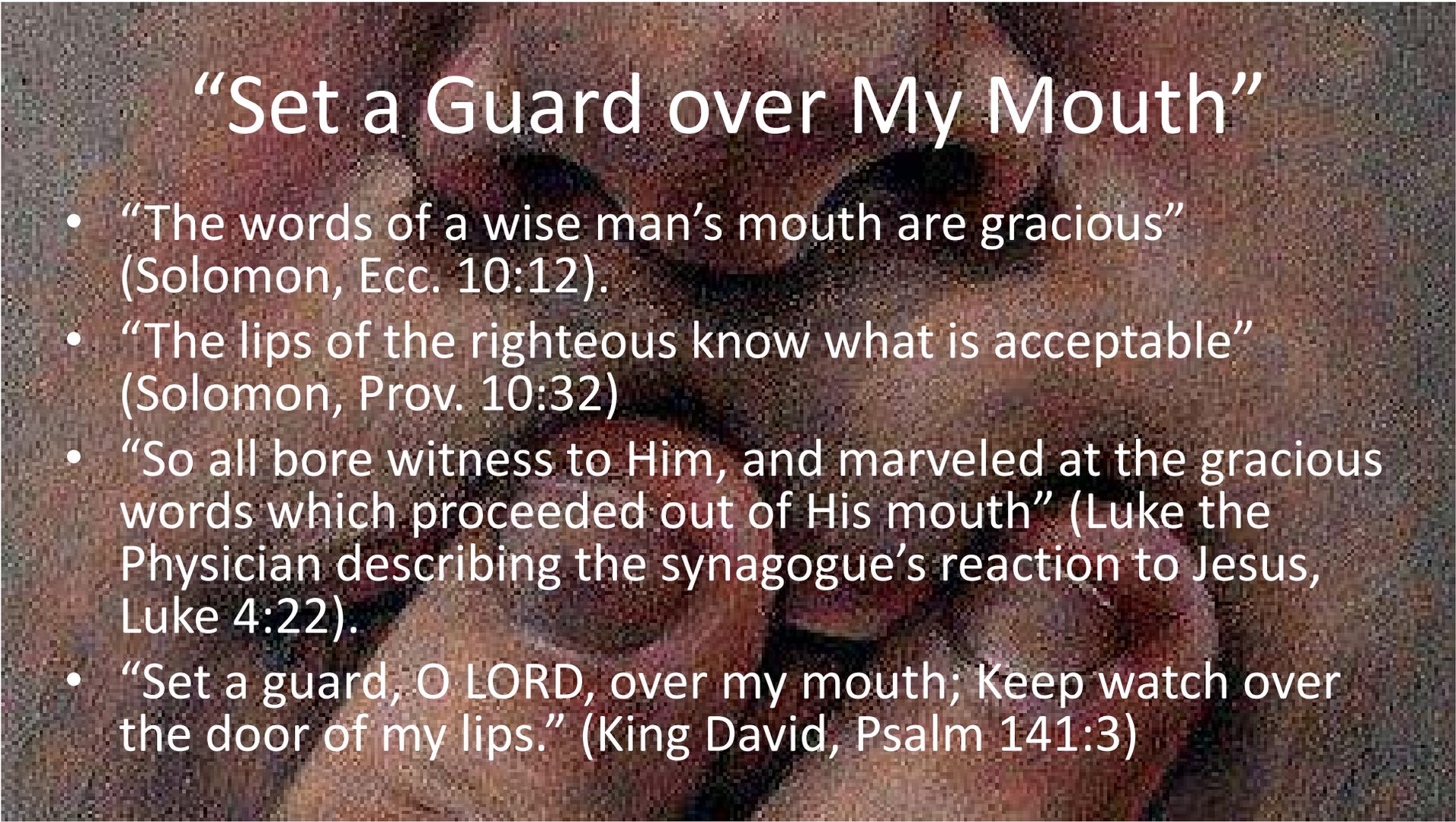
Guarding The Door Of Our Mouth

- Use words that are clean and wholesome
 - Prov. 15:4 - “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life,
But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”
- Use words that dispense grace to others
 - Col. 4:6 - “Let your speech always be with grace,
seasoned with salt, that you may know how you
ought to answer each one.”



“Set a Guard over My Mouth”

- “Kind words are the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can read” (Mark Twain)
- “For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, look for the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his fingers through it once a day. The tender loving care of human beings will never become obsolete. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed and redeemed and redeemed.” (Sam Levenson)



“Set a Guard over My Mouth”

- “The words of a wise man’s mouth are gracious” (Solomon, Ecc. 10:12).
- “The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable” (Solomon, Prov. 10:32)
- “So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth” (Luke the Physician describing the synagogue’s reaction to Jesus, Luke 4:22).
- “Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.” (King David, Psalm 141:3)