



“A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1

It’s rather like defusing a bomb. Our tongues hold a most terrible power. “The tongue... it is set on fire of hell.” (James 3:6). Such words, angry words, harsh words, heated words, when spoken to us, produce this automatic defense response – “Well! Let me give you a piece of my mind...!” And so the argument has fresh gasoline poured on the already hot “fires of hell.”

If this tongue cannot be tamed – at least endeavor to hold it! To spout off hateful or cruel words, especially with no forethought, will only bring more grievous and hurtful words to fuel the fire into a raging inferno!

A soft answer turns away anger because it isn’t reacting to the initial salvo of, most likely, angry or accusative words. Most generally the person who initially spoke ill-advisedly was expecting – and maybe even had rehearsed in their mind – what you would say in response to their words. And because they have a rehearsed response they are now ready and even eager to “put you in your place.” Prepared for a fight – but you have listened to their words – held your tongue – and then acting in the opposite spirit, have spoken soft, kind, wise, words of redemption! Your adversary has been disarmed. Tempers, once on a hair trigger, have now quieted and both parties may actually begin to really “hear” each other! Imagine that!

Sounds easy on paper – not so – in real life, high pressure situations! But – it can be done! The real key is to remain full of the Spirit, full of the love of God, empty of your own need to be right, empty of your own easily offended ego, and then to pray much in the Spirit!

You may need to rehearse some yourself! Practicing how you will deliver, “soft answers.” To react, most often brings pain and hurt, to respond redemptively brings healing and restoration!

“Lord, with Your help, I will speak and act redemptively!”

“Before the THRONE” and “Before the THRONE – The Devotional” are registered trademarks of and published by Spencers Unleashed, Inc. All rights reserved, contents may be quoted or reprinted, provided excerpts are in context.

© 2005 and © 2006 by Mark D. Spencer and Spencers Unleashed, Inc. For additional information see us at www.spencersunleashed.com or at www.innercourt.com or at www.feargod.com