

ALMASI HEIGHTS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - AHIS

Newsletter 04

PROVERBS 15. [1] A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Today, we're going to learn about a super cool verse from the Bible. It's from Proverbs 15:1, which says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

The greatest super power in the world (in my view) is one where a person is able to control themselves even when extremely annoyed or irritated.

One where a person does not lash out to revenge or retaliate.

One where a person separates themselves from the message being thrown at them, and because they are confident in themselves, in who they are in the kingdom, they let the speaker be.

And if they have to either talk or respond, they are focused on doing so with control and with intentionality not to hurt others, even if the person they are talking with was being hurtful in the first place.

Do you think it makes you weak if you decide not to return anger for anger?



It may look that way to some. Others will laugh at you and call you a coward. But there's absolutely no reason to come down to their level to argue at that level.

I think this verse is really cool, first, because it shows us how to live in peace with others; but even more important how to live at peace with yourself.

Have you ever reacted so harshly / rudely to someone that you actually felt pain in your stomach? or in your chest? Because, when you think about it, you know there was a better way to handle the situation, and you did the wrong thing? Anger causes us pain, and can easily destroy friendships.

A GENTLE WORD...

Defend it til the End.

Imagine your words are bubbles. When you speak gently, your bubbles are soft and colorful, making everyone feel happy and loved. But when you use harsh words, you pierce those bubbles with an arrow and thus hurt others' feelings.

That is how fragile people's feelings are. Anytime we talk rudely, without thinking of the effect we are having, we end up piercing people with arrows in our words. And when they are weaker than us, or smaller than us, or cannot defend themselves, then you act as a monster, and not as a Leader.

My prayer is that Almasi Heights is a safe space for all. That here, we learn the art of self control. We learn to defend the weak; we provide hope with our speech. That we defend those who cannot defend themselves. Not by shouting or fighting with others - but using reason and stepping up to say, " what you are doing is not right - communicate in a different way."

Can we Practice together?

Imagine...

At Home:

- Situation: Your little brother / sister / friend accidentally breaks your favorite toy.

How do we normally react?

- Harsh Words: "You're so clumsy! Why did you do that?"

What could we say instead?

Gentle Words: "I know it was an accident.
Let's try to fix it together."

Or...

At School:

- Situation: Your friend didn't want to play the game you wanted....

How do we normally react?

- Harsh Words: "You're so selfish! / "You're so boring! / Why don't you ever listen to me?"

What could we say instead?

- Gentle Words: " What game would you like to play? Maybe we can find one we both like."

May we be measured in our speech. May we glorify God in our conversations. May we always look to build others and not cause pain. May we be gentle with our words. Because, a gentle answer, does, turn away anger. May God Bless Us All.