

## Running at the Mouth

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I do not want to be crude; it's just what dad called it when a person talked and talked and talked: diarrhea of the mouth. Moving on...

Ask yourself a question:

"Am I a fool?"

I know, that wasn't very nice either, but take a look at this proverb:

**A fool does not delight in understanding,  
But only in revealing his own mind.**

--Proverbs 18:2

Some Bible translations use the terms 'heart' or 'opinion' instead of 'mind.' The meaning of the term found in the Hebrew text of this verse includes the thinking part of a person, *the mind*; the feeling part of a person, *the heart*; as well as the *will* or *intent* of a person. The term refers to the entire 'inner person.'

The *fool* is delighted to pour out *his* heart and mind. He is ever ready to tell people *his* opinion. In conversation he is a master at turning attention back to *himself*. Almost every comment reminds him of *his* own experience or something *he* knows, which *he* is anxious to share. Your trouble ultimately relates back to *him*. Your good news ultimately relates

back to *him*. Your story reminds him of ...*him*. It is all rather repulsive, perhaps the reason for my dad's description!

Without asking, everyone knows what the fool is thinking. He reveals his heart. He tells whatever is on his mind.

The fool does not spend much time listening, except to fuel his next comment. He has no real desire to gain understanding. He is not as much interested in you as he is interested in you being interested in him. (Our social media outlets provide the perfect opportunity for the fool.)

You won't be able to tell the fool anything; he doesn't care to understand.

Since the fool will not listen, I wonder if we can learn something from the fool:

1. If you talk too much, you *might* be a fool. This is a good time for reflection.
2. *Understanding* comes when a person uses their eyes and ears more than their mouth! This might be a good time to...be quiet and listen.

Show a little restraint.

Be wise.