

# Indirect Communication

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

Scripture:

Proverbs 15:1-2

Quotes:

“One of the remarkable facts about great generals throughout history is that – except in cases where they possessed overwhelming power – practically all their successful moves have been made against the enemy’s flank or rear, either actual or psychological. Great generals realize that a rear attack distracts, dislocates, and often defeats an enemy physically by cutting him off from his supplies, communications, and reinforcements and mentally by undermining his confidence and sense of security. Great generals know a direct attack, on the other hand, consolidates an enemy’s defenses and, even if he is defeated, merely forces him back on his reserves and his supplies.”

Bevin Alexander, [How Great Generals Win](#)

“An indirect spiritual attack bypasses the listener’s conscious defenses. If I attack your position directly you will recognize my attempt to persuade you, and you will almost certainly become defensive and resist me. If I can instead swing around to your flank and cut your lines of supply, I can work to destroy the beliefs and convictions that make your position possible. If I do this carefully – artfully – you’ll never know it happened.”

[Finding Common Ground](#), page 62

“Here’s a brief compendium of techniques of indirect communication that you might recognize from the media:

- It is suggested that people who hold your view have emotional or character flaws.
- The most foolish or contemptible character endorses your view.
- The most desirable characters never entertain your view.
- It is suggested that people who hold your view are less intelligent or less educated.
- Your view is completely ignored, suggesting that it’s irrelevant to daily life.
- A picture is created of a normal, healthy world in which your view does not exist.
- A fantasy world or future world is pictured in which your view does not exist.
- It is suggested that your view is an evolutionary step or a childish view to be outgrown.”

[Finding Common Ground](#), page 64

Scripture:

Proverbs 15:7 & 25:15  
Matthew 5:38-42 & 10:16