

INTRODUCTION

- A. Words are significant. Some think that the ability to speak and to express our innermost thoughts and feelings through words is what makes us uniquely human.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- B. Words have the power to bring life, joy, and wisdom into our lives.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

1. Gifts of the Spirit operate through our speaking.

1 Pet. 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- C. Words also have the power to bring death.

James 3:1-11 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 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. ³ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁹ 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?

1. “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me?” Most people find out that it’s not true. Words can make us feel rejected, belittled, or betrayed.

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WORDS

- A. Since words are an indicator of the heart: if one is able to master one’s words, one would be a perfect person.

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.

- B. We are saved when we believe with our heart and *confess* with our mouth:

Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (c.f. Psa. 19:14)

- C. In Gen. 11:1-8, as a judgment against the inhabitants of the earth who directly opposed God and His rulership, God confounded their language (Gen. 11:1-8).

- D. On the Day of Judgment, everyone will give an account for every idle word.

Matthew 12:34-37 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 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. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

II. CONTEMPLATE THE POWER OF GOD'S WORDS

- A. Jesus transmits spirit and life through His words.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

- B. God created by speaking.

Gen. 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (v. 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)

- C. God's word stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

III. SPEAK WORDS WITH GRACE, SEASONED WITH SALT

- A. Our speech should reveal wisdom

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one

- B. Our speech should be temperate and controlled.

Proverbs 10:19-21

¹⁹ In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,

But he who restrains his lips is wise.

²⁰ The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;

The heart of the wicked is worth little.

²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many,

But fools die for lack of wisdom.

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

- C. King David knew how to strengthen himself in the Lord. Not just: “David, you can do it!” He probably spoke praise to God and recounted His attributes. This is an “art” that we need to learn.

1 Samuel 30:6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

1. Ziklag, the city that David was at with his men. It was destroyed by fire and their wives and children were taken captive. so they wept until they had no strength left to weep. The men were talking of stoning him. David and 600 men pursue the enemy and recover everyone and everything. Nothing was missing.

- D. God has given you things that you need to receive strength. Praying in the Spirit is one of those “tools.”

1 Corinthians 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

1. Pentecost (Acts 2). It is interesting that there were tongues of fire upon each person and they all spoke with different tongues.
 - a. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we speak out of the overflow.

Eph. 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

2. Our organs of speech can be set on fire by hell or by heaven (c.f. James 3:6).

Acts 2:3-4 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1 Corinthians 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

- E. It is through our speech that God moves in power.

Mark 11:23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Mark 4:39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

- F. God responds to the words that we pray. When you pray, say. Perhaps this is stating the obvious, but it is a profound mystery and privilege that we are granted unlimited access to speak to our Father in heaven through Jesus Christ.

Luke 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven,

- G. The words of our mouth, the meditations of our hearts can bring pleasure to God. Our words, singing, praise, confession have power to bring pleasure to God.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable (NIV: pleasing) in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

- A. Commit your heart and your speech to the Lord. Repent of misuse and abuse of our words.
Psalms 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.
- B. Ask the Lord to release His wisdom, truth, and power through your words.
- C. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit unto the release of spiritual language.