

Sunday, December 30, 2013

**The Power of Words #3 – Life or Death
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Proverbs 18:20-21 (KJV)

²⁰ A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Proverbs 18:20-21 (MSG)

²⁰ Words satisfy the mind as much as fruit does the stomach; good talk is as gratifying as a good harvest.

²¹ Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

Words kill; words give life. They are either poison or fruit; you choose.

We have the ability to choose if there is life or death in the tongue. We have the decision or the right to choose whether we are or are not going to walk in the favor and blessings of God even though we have accepted Jesus as our personal savior.

It's a profound truth that we have the ability to choose words that are going to frame our life for good things and others in a measure or if we are going to choose words in framing our life that will drag us down and minister death to us.

Matthew 12:33-34 (KJV)

³³ Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

³⁴ O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Over the years Pastor has paraphrased and says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth leaketh". Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth or what is in abundance in your heart is going to leak out our mouth. What is in our heart is going to come out of our mouth. It is going to leak out.

Matthew 12:35-37 (KJV)

³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

³⁷ For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

When we hear a truth we can tend to get into a ditch one side of the road or the other. For every mile of road there is two miles of ditch. We can get into error one way or another but if we would simply put The Word of God into our life. We should get it on the inside just as simply as we go about our everyday life. We need to begin to fill the inside of us; our spirit our mind will and emotions with the Word of God.

One error we get into is trying to correct everyone else's mouth and continue to allow ours to run free. By our words we are going to enjoy the blessings that God has already provided for us through His son Jesus. It's by our words we are either going to walk after the flesh and not enjoy the fullness that God has for us.

Proverbs is to the Old Testament as James is to the New. The book of James is practical Christianity. The book of Proverbs can be divided into 3 categories. It deals with our mouth, our morals and our money. It is practical in that it is the book of wisdom for our life.

Proverbs 13:2-3 (KJV)

² *A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.*

³ *He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.*

If we can keep our mouth we will have a good life. We are planting seeds that will produce a harvest in our life.

Proverbs 17:27-28 (MSG)

²⁷ *The one who knows much says little;
an understanding person remains calm.*

²⁸ *Even dunces who keep quiet are thought to be wise;
as long as they keep their mouths shut, they're smart.*

James 1:26 (KJV)

²⁶ *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*

In relationship to our spiritual growth someplace along the way in our lives we must learn to control our tongue. Chapter one of James also says we are to be swift or quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.

We find out whether we have been growing when we are put under pressure. Sometimes when we get under pressure we could use a governor on our mouth. Wouldn't it be nice at times if we had that built into our mouth? Our spiritual growth is related to our mouth and that is directly related to our ability to walk in love.

Many Christians don't realize that they will never rise above the words of their mouths and or their confession. Their words will liberate or captivate them. It is a lifestyle. Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

James 3:1-2 (KJV)

³ *My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.*

² *For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

Perfect in verse two means mature. A mature person will control their mouth.

Verse three tells us how verse two works.

James 3:3 (KJV)

³ *Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.*

James 3:2-3 (MSG)

We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

³⁻⁵ *A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse.*

As Christians we may resist and fight against God's structure in our lives especially in relationship to our tongue. We never get it under control. Farther on in this chapter it says that no man can tame the tongue. Under pressure we tend to resist and not yield to the point that we throw a fit. Then we will yield and get under control.

Under pressure we find out how mature we are in yielding and controlling our tongue. The average person will pitch their fit, loses their temper that spews out poison. Then after they think about it they repent and get back under trying to follow the Lord.

A small two pound bit can control a 1200 pound horse. Our tongue is like that. Our tongue is small compared to the size of our body.

Our body is to obey our tongue. If our tongue gets out of control our body gets out of control. Our tongue has been given for control.

Our tongue has the potential to control our bodies.

Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)

15 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

James 3:4 (KJV)

⁴ *Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.*

In the fiercest of storms that we might encounter we can still stay on course and come into our haven of safety if we allow our tongue to continue to determine the direction we are going. When we encounter the Goliaths in our life we can still determine our outcome and the direction we are going.

This principle played out with Joshua and Caleb. They didn't deny there were giants in the land. They didn't deny there were walled cities, but they said our God will enable us to overcome them and take the land. The other ten said they couldn't because of the giants and the walled cities. They died in the wilderness. Joshua and Caleb's tongue stayed on course to the Promised Land. They said they could take the giants and the walled cities.

We are going to encounter giants on the way to our Promised Land, but we are to let our tongues keep saying what God promised is true, and keep believing God. Keep saying that God is empowering us and enabling and giving us the ability to overcome any obstacle that rises up against us. Keep on course even in the fiercest challenges of life.'

There may be times in the storm you are declaring the Word of God and what God has promised you and it seems things are not on course, but a continual confession of God's Word will cause it to turn back on course. It may be gradual.

James 3:5 (KJV)

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

James 3:5-6 (MSG)

A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

⁵⁻⁶ It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

The devil cannot destroy your life if you are born again. So what does he do? He uses spiritual laws against us when we miss appropriate them. So he gets us to not control our tongue, gets us to speaking death and destruction, and then we start being consumed and we blame the devil for doing it. We have the power over our tongue, the devil doesn't have power over it, but he uses it against us and if we allow it our life, will as we put, it fall apart.

If we allow it we will be consumed.
Words break down and can build up relationships.

James 3:6 (KJV)

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

The tongue of a mature Christian can control the body, and the tongue can defile the body.

How do we make the change?

James 3:7-8 (KJV)

⁷ For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

The book of James has given the negative aspects of the tongue. There is something in the nature of the tongue that cannot be tamed, but it can be controlled.

In Acts chapter 2 one of the first things that happened on the day of Pentecost was that the Holy Spirit took control of their tongues. They began to speak in another language. Somewhere in our Christian life to those who have received the gift of the Holy Ghost still have trouble controlling their tongue and we must go back to the foundational truths of allowing the Holy Spirit control our tongue. We must will to the Holy Spirit to help us control our tongue if we are to become a mature Christian in the body of Christ.

If we are going to walk in love we will have to learn to control our tongue.

James 3:9-12 (KJV)

⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

¹¹ Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

¹² Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

What James was saying to the Pharisees was that they were calling themselves Christians and they had absolutely no fruit because they were speaking out of what was in their hearts. They had one motive and that was to catch Jesus and put him down.

Proverbs plainly says we have the choice to choose life or death.

Many of us have put spiritual laws into motion years ago and if we see they are headed in the wrong direction. We need to ask God to forgive us and change the things that have been coming out of our mouth and set new laws into motion. Amen.

The laws can be reversed.

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29 (AMP)

²⁹ Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

It's not the devil that defeats us so many times. It is wrong thinking that produces wrong believing, that produces wrong talking and wrong talking produces wrong actions. We defeat ourselves.

Right thinking produces right believing. Right believing produces right talking, right words, and that produces right action.

Father, Right now I make a decision to control my tongue. Help me to control my tongue, in the home, in the workplace, with Christian brothers and sisters. Help me Lord to control my tongue. James said we could do it, the Holy Spirit said we could do it. So by your grace and mercy I am making a decision today to get control of my tongue. It's a great way to start off the New Year. Thank you Jesus for helping me.

Father, right now in Jesus name I pray for those who say Lord, I want to be more like you. I want to be more in control under your headship and leadership. Father, I pray that you grace them with a greater measure of grace than in times past. That they are able to progressively control their tongue more and more thus controlling situations in their own body and their destiny and outcome in life. I thank you for turnaround in Jesus name.

Father, I ask you to forgive me when I spoke words that tended to death and dissention. I am sorry Lord, I ask you to forgive me and I purpose to speak right words in Jesus name.

