

THE POWER OF WORDS

By Geri McGhee
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In just 6 days, God spoke the world and humanity into existence. With our words we can speak things into existence. There is power in our words. Words are creative either for good or evil. Words either bind or they loose. Words can be destructive or constructive; they can build up or they can tear down. With them we can hate or love, heal or make sick.

In James 3:2 it says, “If we can control our words, we can control our whole body (ours, our family, the body of Christ).” This would include our weight, health, finances, relationships, circumstances, etc. Here God is likening the tongue to a “rudder” that guides a ship according to the inclination of the pilot. What he is saying is that with our tongue (rudder) and by our own choice we can direct our course and the course of others either for good or for evil. There is life and death in what we say. We either bring cursing or we bring blessing upon ourselves and others by what we say. With our words we can praise our way out of the pit or dig our pit deeper by the words we speak.

God watches over His Word to perform it. Hebrews 3:1 says Jesus is the High Priest of our confession. In Hebrews 4:14, we are told to hold fast to our confession. This means to be strong and rule over your words otherwise, our words will rule us. Satan also watches over his word to perform it; that is any word that contradicts God's word. It is very important for us to learn what God is saying in His Word and to say it. Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life is in the power of the tongue.” What you say will eventually come around to you. When we speak words of iniquity we open up ourselves and others to curses. Jesus said in Mark 11:23, “We will have what we say.” PRO 21:23 “He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles.” PRO 18:20 says “With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; he will be satisfied with the product of his lips.” PRO 13:3 says, “The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.”

JAM 3:6 says “And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life (man’s nature).” Words of iniquity spoken over us before and after our birth affect the course of our whole lives. In fact, according to the Word of God these negative words can change the hormone structure and even mutate the physical body of a child. Words spoken over a child by authority figures are especially powerful. The child receives the words in his heart and he becomes who and what he thinks he is. This can work in the positive as well as in the negative. PRO 23:7 says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” Not only do negative words set the course of our lives and affect us physically but they defile us as well. To

defile means: To lower, impair or ruin in character, quality, or value, cheapen, debase, degrade, depreciate, devalue, corrupt, bastardize, demoralize, deprave, pervert, stain, warp, desecrate, exploit, maltreat, profane, dishonor, poison, rot, pollute and to beat down. To spoil or mar the sanctity of, to touch or affect with something undesirable, besmear, cloud, dirty, discolor, smut, blacken, sully, tarnish, to make morally impure, taint, contaminate or infect.

Who likes to be around anyone with a hateful, mean, vicious, devouring, cruel, cutting, critical, sarcastic, negative tongue? Or a person who talks so much it seems they never stop to take a breath or a person who is always talking about himself. How edifying is it to be around person who is always putting people down to make themselves look good, or a parent who constantly criticizes his child, or a child who puts down and disrespects authority, or a wife who openly despises and humiliates her husband with words, or a husband who belittles his wife?

But how pleasant and delightful it is to be around those who have matured to the place of having a beautiful tongue. The Scriptures bear this out. PRO 16:24 says, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." RO 25:11, "Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances." PRO 15:23 says, "How delightful is a timely word!" PRO 16:13, tells us, "Righteous lips are the delight of kings and he who speaks right is loved." The King in SOL 4:11 compliments His Bride (representative of the Bride of Christ) by saying, "Your lips, my bride, drip honey (sweetness); Honey and milk are under your tongue." He goes on to describe His Bride in SOL 4:3, "Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely."

To verbally abuse with words reveals that we are deceived and our religion is worthless (vain and useless). James 1:26, "If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless."

The Bible has much to say about people who speak cruelly and negatively with their words. Jesus called them serpents, "a brood of vipers". MAT 12:34-37, He said, "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil. And I say to you, that every careless (idle) word men shall speak, they shall render account of it on the Day of Judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

At least five things are revealed in this passage:

- (1) Evil words come out of evil that has been stored in the heart
- (2) A good man cannot speak evil words and an evil man cannot speak good words.
- (3) What is in the heart comes out of the mouth
- (4) We will give an account for every careless (idle) word we speak which is a very sobering thought

- (5) We will be condemned for every careless word we speak because what we speak reveals our true heart.

In I COR 6:17, it says, “When we are joined with the Lord, we are one Spirit with Him. GAL. 2:20 says, “It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.” The fruit of this union with Jesus is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control.” This is the characteristic of the kingdom of God. We have a sick relationship with the Lord if our union with Him is not at least producing His character and nature. The Kingdom of God is within us because the King lives in us.

This love is God’s love as described in I COR 13:1-8 where it says, “Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” This love is seeking the best for someone else expecting nothing in return. That is the character of this love. It doesn’t criticize and tear down. We are called to build up.

If our mouths are always spewing out hate and bitterness there is something seriously wrong with our union with Christ. Something is amiss and in need of repentance. It is the characteristic of the wrong king and the wrong kingdom. ISA 57:20 says, “But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet (no peace), and its waters toss up refuse and mud (defiling words).”

It is not befitting a believer to speak evil. When Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses, the Bible says that the PRESENCE OF THE LORD DEPARTED and God struck Miriam with Leprosy. God says in James 3 that this kind of wisdom is earthly, natural and demonic.

We are instructed in EPH 4:29 to “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.” James 3:1-7 says, “No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.” As we seek God for answers as to why we say the things we say and repent, He will purify our heart so our lips can be pure.

ZEP 3:9 "For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.”