

LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



In a world that moves fast and speaks loud, there is power in the still voice, the rooted heart, the word spoken with intention. Like trees planted by living waters, we are called to grow not by striving, but by staying—anchored in truth, guided by grace.

The words we speak shape the worlds we live in. The fruit we bear begins with the seeds we sow in silence, in prayer, in surrender. Strength is not always the roar—it is often the whisper of peace under pressure, the quiet persistence of faith, the steady bloom of patience. This week, may we remain in the Vine, choose our words with wisdom, and let the fruit of God's Spirit be our loudest voice.



Sunday Sermon

The Power of the Tongue

This Sunday, we explored one of the most sobering truths in Scripture: words shape worlds. James 3 reminds us that the tongue, though small, is a force capable of great destruction or great blessing. Like a rudder on a ship or a spark in a forest, the tongue steers our lives in powerful ways.

We learned that our speech reflects our inner life. When we speak negatively—over ourselves, over others—we aren't just talking, we're sowing seeds. Seeds that grow into mindsets, habits, and even destinies. If we speak down on ourselves, we begin to live down. If we speak life, truth, and hope, we rise into that reality.

“Life and death are in the power of the tongue...” (Proverbs 18:21)

The sermon also pointed us back to **John 1:1**—**“In the beginning was the Word.”** God didn't build creation with His hands—He spoke it into being. That same creative force is in us when we speak. We are made in His image, and our words carry weight beyond what we can see. But James doesn't just warn us—he calls us higher. He reminds us that blessing and cursing shouldn't flow from the same mouth. A fig tree doesn't bear olives, and a salty spring can't produce fresh water. If we're following Jesus, our speech should reflect it.

We were challenged to check ourselves:

- Do we gossip or build up?
- Do we criticize or encourage?
- Do we speak with fire or with grace?

This message reminded us that true maturity in Christ shows not just in our actions—but in our words. Words that heal. Words that guide. Words that reflect the heart of God.



Personal Reflection

The Power of the Tongue

What stood out to me most in this message was how deeply our words shape our future. I've learned in my own life that when I speak well over myself, through God's divine power, things begin to shift. Whether I'm walking into uncertainty, facing setbacks, or chasing dreams, my words set the tone. They're like the signal before the move. When I speak strength, speak focus, and speak victory—doors open. Confidence builds. It's like heaven backs the voice that's rooted in truth.

I don't say these things because I'm trying to hype myself up with empty motivation. I do it because I believe the Spirit of God moves through words soaked in faith. If God created the world through speech, then surely He can move in my world when I choose to speak life over it.

What I also love—what really inspires me—is seeing people who can stay grounded in chaos. That kind of strength where someone's facing pressure, but they choose peace. They speak calm. They speak order into the mess. That's real power. That's what I want to carry more and more in my own life.

Not just reacting—but creating calm through my voice. Carrying God's presence in what I say.

Because in the end, it's not just about sounding good. It's about shaping who I become—and who I help others become too. I want my words to build legacy, not leave damage. To heal, not harm. To bless, not curse. And that starts with how I speak over myself every single day.

“You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; and light will shine on your ways.” – Job 22:28

I noticed it's not only the things you say—but what you don't say. We've all had moments where we wish we didn't say something we shouldn't have.

In hindsight we have this reflection but it's often the truly wise that can have the foresight to speak when necessary and know when not to speak. Pray for the wisdom, family. But as importantly forgive those who speak ill upon you for they do not know—even momentarily the

Power of The Tongue.



Sydel's Daily Devotion

Bearing Fruit in Every Season

This week, we're reflecting on what it really means to grow spiritually—and how that growth isn't something we force, but something that flows from being connected to God. In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." That's the secret: remaining in Him. It's not about being perfect—it's about staying close.

When we're rooted in God's presence, like the trees described in Psalm 92:12–13, we flourish. We grow tall, strong, and unshakable—not because of our effort, but because we're planted in the right soil.

It's a powerful reminder that growth comes from placement, not performance.

What does that growth look like? Galatians 5:22–23 gives us the evidence: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the signs that the Spirit is alive in us. This kind of fruit not only blesses our own lives—it brings glory to God, just as Jesus says in John 15:8.

Jesus also gives us this beautiful promise in John 15:7: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." When we're rooted in Him, our desires begin to reflect His heart. And when we speak from that place—full of His Word and guided by His Spirit—our lives change.

This week, check your roots. Are you planted in His Word? Are you speaking with faith? Stay connected, let God's Spirit lead your growth, and trust that the fruit will come—in its time, and for His glory.

This Week's Giving To Date:
05/05-05/15

Living Hope Ministries : \$150.00
Deacon Funds: \$50.00

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Our Programs:

Weekly:
Friday - Anchored Young Adults

Bi-weekly:
Tuesday - Men's Meeting
Wednesday - Women's Coffee Chat