

Power of Words: Part 2

Life and Death

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Last week we spend some time conveying the creativeness of God's words and that we were created in His image. After He created man he graced them and told them to be fruitful and multiply. To Govern and rule creation. And because we are created by His words we are to be fruitful, multiply, and govern by our words. The authority that God created with has been graced to us to create and govern around us. But for the next few weeks we will be highlighting on the Value of our Words. But before we dive deeper I want us to think about what Value is. Oftentimes value is understood from an economic viewpoint and that is not far from what we will be discussing the next several weeks but to make the definition of Value simple we will be referencing to its meaning as a stance of worth and importance. The esteem in which something is held. The importance and worth of words. How we esteem something by the words we speak. As we dive into each part of this series we must have an understanding of the weight of our words.

So this week we will emphasize on the Duality of Words.

Proverbs 18:20–21 ESV

20 From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

This proverb has so much wisdom that it first implies that fruit is equated to spoken words. Words are seeds and seeds give way to fruit. Fruit does not exist until the seed is planted. And when we place food or this fruit within it satisfies. Now the satisfaction can be two fold because in verse 21 Solomon says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. And God's word declares that either are satisfying. The question we must ask ourselves is how have we perceived the fruit. Is it Good or is it Bad? So many may look at this as positive speaking or negative speaking but I am bold enough to say that the understanding of positive is a misrepresentation of Godly. Because the church has an understanding the good and Godly as synonymous. We have understood that what is generally accepted as good must be in line with God's will. If you can recall to the closing of Part 1 of this series I mention the word Good and the Hebrew word for Good is Tob which means well pleasing, fruitful, morally correct, and proper.

Proverbs 14:12 ESV

12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

The church for too long has misunderstood Good as God. So let me ask you a question. In the garden of Eden, which part of the tree of knowledge was Eve attracted to?

Genesis 3:1–6 NKJV

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

God intended to preserve the innocence of man by forbidden them to partake but the cunning one caused Eve to question the intent of God’s heart. And as Eve look upon the tree she saw the good that would benefit her but neglected the heart of God’s will. She perceived it as one sided. She saw good but the good she saw was not godly. The good she saw was not submitted to God because God had forbid them to eat. So as we can see from Proverbs 14:12 that there is a way that seems right or godly but the end of what seems right or godly is death. That means that as it finishes its course it is revealed that it was not truly right or godly. It’s fruit is death. As I stated earlier that the church for too long has confused Good as God. There is nothing good outside of God! That means we must be bound to His words and ways if it is to be godly.

Proverbs 18:21 ESV

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Words produce tangible outcomes - they are consumed, they nourish, they sustain. Notice Solomon didn’t say better or worse. He said Death and Life. Death within scripture represents separation, judgment, the grave, and the realm of the dead. When death is spoken it equates the fruit that invokes finality, irreversibility, and spiritual devastation. The consequences are inescapable because we reap what we sow. How we move forward with what we sow is solely left up to us. When you speak, you’re not

simply exchanging information—you're invoking either the power of life or the finality of death. Every word matters eternally.

James 3:2–6 NLT

2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. 4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

We all make mistakes right? But God's word tells us that if we were to control our tongue then we would be perfect and capable of controlling ourselves. The greek word for control means to stop from stumbling or falling into sin. To stop ourselves from stumbling or sinning means that our every move must be intentional. This change of thinking is known as a paradigm shift. It is a radical change in the way of thinking. This change causes us to be in charge instead of the tongue being in control. We all know that a single match can cause an entire forest to burn so did the match cause the fire or did the person who used the match cause the fire? If we want to be perfect then we must be in control and not our members. The greek word for perfect is teleios. It means to reach one's goal, to be complete, not lacking in nothing.

Our tongue has the ability to speak words that are death or life. This is the creative force of words but understanding the value or the weight of our creative words will produce the fruit of God's will or the will of the devil.

So as we have brought to light that death is the separation of what is God and that death is judgement we must spend a few moments diving into what Life is from the perspective of God's word.

In Proverbs 4:1-19, the context of the first portion of scripture places emphasis on wisdom as the central pursuit. The Proverb insist that wisdom represents the most important endeavor, and those who embrace it will be elevated and honored. Wisdom functions as both the protector and guardian.

The second half of the context speaks about the stark contrast of two different paths. Following the instructions leads to straight paths. The teachings are the key to life and

must be carefully guarded. But the one who forsaken wisdom will be consumed by their evil nature and unable to rest until they have caused harm.

This sounds so familiar to what we have already covered thus far but then God's word encourages us after tell us of these two paths to listen carefully.

Proverbs 4:20–24 NLT

20 My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. 21 Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, 22 for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. 23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. 24 Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech.

Pay attention means to give heed to or to obey. But notice the second part of this verse. God's word mentions a second emphasis to obey His word. We already know that anything worth repeating is worth remembering. The value of this understanding is paramount in producing life.

When we focus on something it is the central part of the goal. And keeping our focus on the words spoken changes the outcome. But focus is not the only thing that is required. It must penetrate our heart. This means that we see God's word from His heart and not our own. It's when His heart becomes our heart. When His purpose becomes our purpose. When His Kingdom becomes the Kingdom we are building in the our lives and the lives of others. When His words become our words they are life. Life now carries a new and meaningful purpose. But it doesn't stop there. His words become healing to our whole body. The promise of life and healing are in conjunction to obeying His word. And obeying His word is life. Are we prophesying God's word over our life or are we speaking death. Death is the result of not obeying God's word.

Our heart is a vault and it is the source in which life will flow. Science says the the heart is a vital organ. And organs are internal meaning they are within. It is the inward part of us that must be treasured and kept safe. How we guard our hearts determine the course of our lives. It will either be death or it will be life. The decision is left to us to either obey which will produce life and healing or not to obey which will lead to death.

In closing: Romans 6:23

Romans 6:23 NLT

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let me pray with you today!