

## **Staying Off the Path of Destruction**

Have you ever said something you immediately regretted? Words have incredible power - they can either protect us from trouble or lead us straight into it. Tonight, we're exploring how the words we speak can literally keep us from the paths of destruction.

### **The Power of Honest Words**

In Psalm 17:1, David declares: "Hear a just case, O Lord, attend to my cry. Give ear to my prayer that is not from deceitful lips." David understood something crucial - God responds to honest prayers from people who speak truth.

When we lie or speak deceitfully, we're actually giving the enemy permission to wreak havoc in our lives. The psalmist said, "By the words of your lips, I have kept myself from the paths of the destroyer" (Psalm 17:4). Our words can either give Satan access to our lives or keep him out.

### **Why Honesty Is Always the Better Choice**

It's tempting to lie when we're scared or trying to cover up our mistakes. But lying only postpones problems while adding compound interest to them. When you lie about one thing, you have to lie about another, and soon your whole life becomes deceptive.

The truth is, it's better to face the immediate consequences of honesty than to postpone them through deception. When you come clean and speak truth, you often earn favor with people, even when you've wronged them. More importantly, you position yourself to receive God's help and intervention.

### **What Does It Mean to Transgress with Your Mouth?**

David said, "I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress" (Psalm 17:3). To transgress means to trespass - to go onto property where you don't belong. When we speak words that don't align with God's kingdom, we're trespassing onto Satan's territory.

The enemy has rights on his property. He can set snares and traps for those who wander onto his land. But when we stay in our lane and speak words that align with God's truth, we remain under His protection.

### **Staying Off the Devil's Property**

Satan makes his territory look attractive with fancy lights, appealing sounds, and interesting distractions. But no matter how appealing it looks, we must resist the temptation to explore what doesn't belong to us.

Remember, we're under surveillance 24/7. The Bible speaks of angelic beings with eyes all around their heads - God's security system is always watching. Nothing is truly secret, and everything will eventually be exposed.

### **How to Use Your Words for Protection**

David discovered the secret: "By the word of your lips, I have kept myself from the paths of the destroyer." Instead of speaking negative, destructive words, we should speak God's promises and declarations over our lives.

When you speak God's word, you're not just making noise - you're releasing power. You're declaring how situations will turn around for your good and God's glory. This isn't just positive thinking; it's spiritual warfare through the spoken word.

### **The Daily Decision**

Notice that David said "I have purposed" - this was an intentional, daily decision. Before going out into his day, he determined that his mouth would not transgress. This isn't something that happens by accident; it requires purposeful intention.

Every morning, we should make the same commitment: "Today, I will not allow my mouth to trespass onto the enemy's territory. I will speak life, truth, and God's promises."

### **What Happens When We Feel Dirty?**

When we've said or done wrong things, we often feel spiritually dirty. This feeling is dangerous because when you feel dirty, it's easy to keep doing dirty things. It's like wearing gardening clothes versus a clean suit - your clothing affects your behavior.

This is why it's crucial to run to God immediately when we mess up. First John 1:9 promises: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### **The Cleansing Process**

When you confess your sins, God doesn't just forgive you - He cleanses you from ALL unrighteousness, even things you weren't aware you did wrong. This cleansing affects how you feel about yourself, which in turn affects how you behave.

When you feel clean and forgiven, it's actually harder to act badly. When you feel dirty and condemned, it becomes easier to continue in destructive patterns.

## **The Importance of What You Associate With**

The Bible warns: "Do not be deceived. Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33). What you watch, listen to, look at, and associate with rubs off on you. If you want to keep your mouth clean, you need to be careful about your influences.

Sometimes you need to take a break from negative influences and surround yourself with things that draw you closer to God - like worship music or encouraging fellowship.

## **Walking in Your True Identity**

You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. You're not a dirty, slimy devil - you're a child of God created in His image. When you understand your true identity, it becomes easier to speak and act in ways that align with who you really are.

Jesus has clothed you with His righteousness, given you His authority, and made you a king and priest in His kingdom. When you remember this truth, you'll naturally want to speak words that reflect your royal position.

## **Life Application**

This week, make a daily commitment to guard your words. Each morning, purpose in your heart that your mouth will not transgress. Instead of speaking negative, destructive words, choose to speak God's promises and truth over your life and circumstances.

When you mess up (and we all do), don't stay in condemnation. Run immediately to God, confess your sin, receive His cleansing, and get back on the path of life. Remember, you have everything you need to do the right thing because God's Spirit lives in you.

## **Ask yourself these questions:**

- What words am I speaking that might be giving the enemy access to my life?
- Am I surrounding myself with influences that help or hinder my speech?
- Do I truly believe I'm the righteousness of God, and how does this affect the way I talk?
- When I mess up, do I run to God for cleansing or stay in condemnation?

Your words have the power to keep you from destruction or lead you into it. Choose wisely, speak life, and watch how God uses your words to protect and bless your life.

## Quotes

1. “The words of your mouth can give the enemy place in your life.”
2. “It’s better to face the consequences by speaking the truth than to lie and postpone those consequences—only to have them compound against you.”
3. “When you lie, you’re not solving the problem—you’re just covering it up.”
4. “Usually, when you tell the truth, people will show you favor and take it much easier on you than if you keep lying and putting on a show.”
5. “If you lie about one thing, you’ll have to lie about another. Before long, your whole life becomes deception—and you don’t even know who you are anymore.”
6. “I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. In other words, this is intentional—it’s something you decide to do on purpose.”
7. “When you trespass on Satan’s territory, you’re going to have problems—he’s going to release the dogs.”
8. “Stay off the devil’s territory. It’s simple—mind your business and stay off his ground.”
9. “Everything is open and exposed to the spirit realm around us—unless you are covered by the righteousness of God, His humility, and His presence.”
10. “Christ is the only covering that can truly hide you from what would expose, shame, and bind you.”
11. “I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am hidden in Him. I take refuge in Him—I am covered by Him.”
12. “When you feel dirty, it’s easy to go back to the dirt. When you already feel bad, it’s easier to yield to doing the wrong thing.”
13. “When you feel good, it’s actually harder to do wrong.”
14. “Right living strengthens right choices.”

15. “Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits. You can’t keep surrounding yourself with people who live wrong and expect it not to affect you.”
16. “You can avoid a lot of trouble—you can keep yourself from being harassed by the enemy—simply by watching your mouth.”
17. “With God, there is only one way. Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’”
18. “You don’t want to live in fear—you want to live in confidence and assurance, knowing, ‘I will live and not die.’”
19. “You’re not just being told what to do—you’re being empowered to do what’s right. The gospel is not just words; it is power.”
20. “You don’t have to slip up. If you can live right in front of people, that proves you can live right when you’re by yourself.”

### **Verses**

1. Psalm 17:1-4
2. 1 John 1:9

### **Summary**

Words have incredible power to either protect us from trouble or lead us straight into it. When we speak honestly and align our words with God's truth, we position ourselves under His protection and keep the enemy from gaining access to our lives. Lying and deceptive speech only postpone problems while adding complications. David discovered that by speaking God's word and making a daily commitment to guard his mouth, he could stay off the destroyer's path. When we mess up, we should immediately confess our sins to receive God's cleansing rather than staying in condemnation.