

Deceptive Words—Psalm 12

(Oct 2, 2022)

Psalm 11:3—“When the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

Psalm 12 shows us one of the main ways foundations are destroyed: DECEPTIVE WORDS

[Psalm 12]

Focus: language, speech. Contrast between [12:2-4] versus [12:6]

Inclusion: [12:1 among the children of men; 12:8 among the children of men]

Key Idea: If words can't be counted on, relationships, communities, and nations crumble

[12:1-4]

12:1) “Save/Help” An urgency. Things are getting bad fast.

-the faithful: keep their commitments, speak the truth, people you can count on

-What do the faithful do in such times?

12:2) What's is turning people from being godly and faithful?

-Can't trust what people say. Deception and the misuse of language:

1) lies: worthless, untrue, empty

2) flattering lips: lips of smoothness, “a smooth talker”

3) double heart: double talk from a double heart (mind) [**Psalm 28:3**]

-Language comes from the heart [**Luke 6:45**]

-Some of the smartest people in the world are using their brains to move us in certain directions, to believe certain things, and are sometimes willing to be deceptive to do so.

Words invented to cause us to believe certain things:

Words redefined to cause us to believe certain things:

Words misused to cause us to believe certain things:

Words used as deceitful exaggerations to cause us to believe certain things:

What do the righteous do? Again, look to God.

12:3-4) Pride: We are going to win with our words, talk our way to success.

-“Our lips are with us” (NAS: our own).

- No one can tell us what to do! We don't have to obey anyone.
Our language is a gift from God, and we must use it as he wants.
We are not independent, autonomous.
- Deceptive words come from a proud heart.

[12:5-8]

12:5) The dishonesty/deception in vv1-4 especially affects the poor and needy and vulnerable.

12:6) Now the contrast. This is the example we want to follow.

- “seven times”=totally pure, reliable, free from impurities (no deceit!)
- Therefore, his words reveal who he is—unlike the words of the wicked.
- As his image bearers, we too need to be totally honest with our words.

12:7) Trusting God's words

- The theme/the contrast: people deceive each other, but God's promises are sure.
- David is confident the Lord will finally step in because God's words are not deceptive.

12:8)

The faithless walk about everywhere, bold and confident, because they are accepted in a deceptive society and their ranks keep growing.

[Titus 1:10] [2 Tim 3:13]

Key Take Aways:

1. We need to understand the purpose of language.

[Eph 4:29]

[Eph 5:4]

2. We need God's help to use language in the way he wants.

[James 3:2, 6-8]

We also need God for us not to be deceived. **[Matthew 24:3-4]**

3. We need to understand how destructive deceptive speech is.

[Eph 4:25]

4. We need God's word. [12:6]

The confidence of 12:5-7 happens within the context of the wicked freely moving about and seeming to be winning. Peace and security not based on the wicked being removed but trusting God's word. David trusts God's word in the environment of deception.

BUT YOU CAN'T TRUST GOD'S WORD IF YOU DON'T KNOW GOD'S WORD.