

10 DAY FAST

SPEAK WELL

DAY EIGHT • JULY 31 • MELODY RITTBERGER

Words are one of the primary methods we use for communicating. They have the power to bring life or death. Proverbs 6:19 is one reference that the way we use our words bears significance, so much so that God points out His distaste for a false witness.

The easy way out may be to distort the truth to favor our own reputation. This however, is not God's will for our life. He is the author of truth and knows that distorting truth keeps us from being who He called us to be--vessels of light and truth. In helping us to become bearers of truth, He shares with us how to speak well of others.

Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

It's not always the words themselves that have power, but also the intention in the way we represent others. Notice how we are to encourage and speak graciously. Are we speaking out of a heart of honor, respect and love for those around us?

Ephesians 4:29

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

1 Corinthians 13:1

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

When we look at people through the lens of how God sees His creation, we find the beauty of a life. We have the opportunity to bring His light into every person we come in contact with, whether we're speaking directly to that person or another individual is the topic of the conversation. EVERY-ONE is loved and created for a purpose. Where the enemy comes to destroy relationships and plant seeds of confusion and mistrust, God wants to bring life into those relationships. He desires for us to speak well of each other and that's the example He sets for us when He speaks of His never failing love for us.

Romans 8:38-39

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Seeing the value in another person's life first comes from the value we see in our own life. God sees our mistakes and still He extends grace. Though we are imperfect, He still has a plan for us and encourages

us to use our gifts for His glory.

If I, who am so loved and cared for with all my quirks and flaws would consider loving others with the same grace extended to me, how changed could this generation be when we choose to view others with the love of the Father who first loved us? How will we carry ourselves in conversations with co-workers, friends, family, acquaintances? We have the choice in those moments to either see people through the broken lens of a world that doesn't know true love or see people how God sees them, beautifully created in His image.

