



Part 4 – September 30, 2018
Pastor Mike Chapman

Today, we will conclude this series by focusing on “The Power of Positive Speaking.” The book of Proverbs is, in a way, a treatise on talk. Its summary statement on this is found in Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” What exactly does this mean?

It means that our words have direction to them. There really is no such thing as a neutral word. If your words are moving in the “life” direction, they will be words of encouragement, hope, love, peace, unity, instruction, wisdom, and correction. But if your words are moving in a “death” direction, they will be words of malice, slander, jealousy, gossip, division, contempt, violence, judgment, and condemnation.

THE PROVERBIAL CONTRASTS

Proverb	Words of Life	Words of Death
10:32	The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable.	But the wicked are always saying things that hurt.
12:18	The tongue of the wise brings healing.	But careless words stab like a sword.
13:3	Whoever controls his mouth protects his own life.	Whoever has a big mouth comes to ruin.
15:1	A soft answer turns away wrath.	A harsh word stirs up anger.
15:4	The tongue that soothes is a tree of life.	But cutting words wound and maim.

We have an **option**. We can choose life, or we can choose death.

Deuteronomy 30:19, *I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Oh that you would choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life.*

**THE FOUNDATION OF WORDS FILLED WITH LIFE IS A
HEART FILLED WITH THE LIFE OF CHRIST.**

Luke 6:45, *The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*

The “heart” is a Biblical term that describes the **directional system** of our lives.

Our behavior and our words are not caused by situations, circumstances, or relationships outside us.

Our words are shaped and caused by how our hearts interact with the situations and people God has brought into our lives.

Word problems are **heart** problems.

**THERE IS A BATTLE IN OUR HEARTS THAT MUST BE
SETTLED.**

2 Corinthians 5:15, *Christ died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for
Christ,
who died and was raised for them.*

Sin morphs all of us into an endless pit of **self-focused demands**.

Christ's death makes it possible to move from the kingdom of **Self**
to the kingdom of **God**.

Here is what it looks like when Christians have not surrendered fully to
God's delivering grace from the Kingdom of self...

Galatians 5:13-15, You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

God has bestowed on us, by His grace, something far better than this.

...Not to make our little kingdoms run well.

...But to call us to the transforming glory of a better Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit is the empowering agent in our hearts.

Galatians 5:22,23, The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.