

YOUR WORDS – PT. 4 May 15, 2016
7 HABITS OF HIGHLY DESTRUCTIVE TONGUES

*** Could have titled it: **7 Habits Of Healthy Tongues**

Series based on **Proverbs 18: 21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...

*** **Pentecost Sunday** – Perfect day to talk about Words and the power of the Tongue...
Explain...

Isaiah 59: 1-3 “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short

That it cannot save;

Nor is His ear so dull

That it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood

And your fingers with iniquity;

Your lips have spoken falsehood,

Your tongue mutters wickedness.

*** You’ve done what you’ve done because you’ve said what you’ve said...

7 HABITS:

1. TELLING LIES

Proverbs has 3 major themes: Money, Morals, Mouth

Proverbs 6: 16-19 “There are six things which the Lord hates,

Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,

And hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that run rapidly to evil,

19 A false witness who utters lies,

And one who spreads strife among brothers.”

*** 3 out of 7 have to do with the mouth – and the heart devising evil is going to speak with the mouth...

Proverbs 12: 22 “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But those who deal faithfully are His delight.”

The word abomination – very strong word in God’s Word for “detestable sin”! The root word for idolatry. This is like leaving the throne of God, and taking our worship to the throne of Satan...

*** When we leave the throne of truth... we go to the throne of lies!

The reason God detests lying is that it is completely counter to His nature. God cannot lie! God is truth and He can only speak truth!

Illus. - This became a significant problem for me – and it started when I was young... explain... I was only 5 years old...

This became a big problem for me for many years... Only the power of God could overcome the stronghold of lying in my life...

The way we can all experience God's power and provision to overcome various kinds of spiritual strongholds in our lives:

We have to become accountable and correctable.

Requires humility!

Illus. - I actually submitted myself to my kids and my wife and asked them to hold me accountable and to correct me if they heard or saw anything in my life that didn't line up with God's Word or God's will...

Power of LIFE is in the tongue – Truth telling!

2. SOWING STRIFE

Proverbs 6: 12-15 “A worthless person, a wicked man,
Is the one who walks with a perverse mouth, (your works come from your words)
13 Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet,
Who points with his fingers;
14 Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil,
Who spreads strife. (how? With his mouth...)
15 Therefore his calamity will come suddenly;
Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.”

This is connected to the law of sowing and reaping... we reap what we sow!

Galatians 6: 7 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

This is where disunity comes from –

Look back at the verse: When you sow strife, disunity, and discord... it creates chaos and calamity in relationships, families, and communities... therefore, you will reap calamity in your own life...!

Illus. - The place where unity and oneness is most important: Marriage and Family - then Church...

So, when you hear someone speak about their spouse in a way that leads sows discord - you need to correct them, not agree with them! Same is true for Children, Family, Church, Friendships...

Power of LIFE – Speak Unity and Oneness! This takes focus and intentionality!

3. GOSSIP AND SLANDER

Gossip is spreading intimate or private rumors or facts. Slander is spreading false rumors...

Proverbs 20: 19 “He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip.”

Slander: A majority of people do this all the time... because unless we know without a doubt that something is true – we are in danger of slander.

II Corinthians 12: 20 “For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

*** Christians are notorious for making gossip and slander seem good and acceptable. Here’s how it works: “I’m going to tell you something that is very confidential so you can ‘pray’ for the situation...”

*** The truth is – often there is no prayer and no care – for the person! Just a desire to know and pass on information...

?? How many times a day do you hear the words: “Did you hear...”? Followed by news about somebody you know...

We listen to those words - and a majority of the time, the person speaking doesn’t know if they are speaking truth...

*** Of course, we know it’s true if we read it on the internet...

Psalm 140: 11 “May a slanderer not be established in the earth; May evil hunt the violent man speedily.”

Proverbs 10: 18 “He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.”

I Corinthians 5: 11 “But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.”

*** We must stop giving personal information, and bad reports! About people we say we care about: Spouse, Family, Friends, – **churches** –

Power of LIFE: Speak only good reports and build one another up!

4. TALEBEARING - Revealing secrets or breaking confidences

Proverbs 11: 13 “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.”

James 5: 16a “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.”

*** This should be the safest place on the earth to share the deepest concern or need...

*** We confess our sins to God for His forgiveness... we confess to one another so we may be healed...!

Illus. - Couple here in our church family will tell us their story in a few months... right now, they are being healed... (Many of these stories right now... praise God...)

Illus. - **Information is power.** Character is having power and using it wisely!

That’s why many will never have power!

Power of LIFE: Speak healing and pray for one another!

5. CURSING

Romans 3: 13-14 ““Their throat is an open grave,
With their tongues they keep deceiving,”
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;
14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”;

The reason we call cursing “cursing” is because when you curse, you are speaking a curse!

God tells us to speak blessing – not cursing!

Illus. - The word Damnation is a biblical word - it gets shortened in our culture and is often used as a curse word.

Illus. - My recent snake under the door of my shop experience... I cursed him! Then I did a Gen. 3:15 on him...

When you Damn something you are cursing it...!

Why would you curse something or someone you care about and speak Damnation into them?

When you Damn your business – you speak a curse over it... Your car... your house... your marriage... kids...

Illus. - Your checkbook... Why would you Damn your checkbook? It already has enough problems!

Psalm 109: 17-18 “He also loved cursing, so it came to him;
And he did not delight in blessing, so it was far from him.
18 But he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment,
And it entered into his body like water
And like oil into his bones.”

Water and oil don't mix - and blessing and cursing don't mix either!

If you are speaking cursing – you will not be blessed...!!

Illus. - I grew up in a community of Farmers. Occasionally my Dad and I would go to the local coffee shop and sit and talk to the other farmers...

A couple of those guys became so accustomed to cursing when they spoke, they couldn't say a whole sentence without including at least 2 curse words... I'll say this, they were very creative...

Then I began to notice something about them... They were always angry at something or somebody. They were always having financial problems...

They were always experiencing more crop and livestock problems than the other guys... Their children hated them... Why?

Because they cursed everything in their lives!

*** “Life and death are in the power of the tongue!”

Power of LIFE: Speak Blessing!

6. FILTHY LANGUAGE

Colossians 3: 8 “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.”

*** Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouth. Because if it's coming out of your mouth, remember, the source is your heart!

*** Many of the temptations and much of the sin we struggle with are directly connected to the language we listen to... and the words we speak...

Ephesians 4: 29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Power of LIFE: Speak Grace and Peace!

7. CONTENTIOUS SPEECH

Hurtful, hateful, malicious, disagreeable, or argumentative

Proverbs 21: 9 “It is better to live in a corner of a roof
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.”

Proverbs 26: 21 “Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire,
So is a contentious man to kindle strife.”

There are people who just love to argue!

When you do this you are a contentious person – with a contentious heart – and you will
have a contentious mouth!

*** Nobody wants to spend time with a person who always has to be right, and who always
has to win the argument.

*** **“Better to be in relationship than to be ‘right’”.**

Illus. - I had a friend who lived here several years ago – who was the most negative,
contentious person I’ve ever known. I used to talk to him about it and he liked to think of
himself as the person in every situation that was the realist...

Power of LIFE: Speak love and belief.

Illus. - Story of the 12 Spies who scouted out the Promise Land...

They all saw Giants... 10 of them spoke doubt and were filled with contentious unbelief...

2 of them spoke faith and belief...

?? Do you know why there were giants in the land? These were the relatives of Goliath.
God put them there so that nobody could take the land without His help!!

And, He put them there so that when His people took the land, they could live in giant
houses, with vaulted ceilings, massive doorways, and king sized beds!

*** God led His people into the Promise Land - but not until He was able to get their
mouths to line up with His Word! He waited 40 years for that...

Sometimes a journey through the desert is preceded by a Contentious Mouth - that
speaks from a stubborn heart...!

Let’s form Habits of Blessing with our Tongue - and speak LIFE! And stop speaking
death...

Conclusion -