

Our words are powerful and the scriptures really have a lot to say about our speech!

## **THE POWER OF THE TONGUE**

**Proverbs 18:21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”

**Luke 6:43-45** “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, **for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**”

**Proverbs 17:27-28** “Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.”

The Lord in His wisdom created us to be a social people. With that He expects us to live with each other in harmony to build each other in discipleship. This why our speech is so important.

**Philippians 2:3 (ESV)** “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”

- **(NET)** “Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself.”
- **(NIV)** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
- **(NASB)** “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.”
- **(NLT)** “Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.”



- (MSG) "Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead."
- (BBE) "Doing nothing through envy or through pride, but with low thoughts of self let everyone take others to be better than himself."
- (NRSV) "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves."
- (KJV) "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

**Proverbs 4:23-24** "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you."

### **PRACTICAL WAYS TO USE OUR TONGUE FOR LIFE**

- Seek the Holy Spirit every time you open your mouth.
- If your first thought is criticism then think on what Jesus would say.
- Don't get lost in flattery, false humility is still false.
- Jesus came to restore, let your speech reflect that.
- In correction remember that your in it for their best!

#### **1. Seek the Holy Spirit every time you open your mouth.**

**Luke 12:11-12** "And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

**Ephesians 4:28-32** "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let



all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

## 2. If your first thought is criticism then think on what Jesus would say.

**James 3:1-5** “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.”

## 3. Don't get lost in flattery, false humility is still false.

**James 1:26** If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

## 4. Jesus came to restore, let your speech reflect that.

**Ephesians 5:4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

## 5. In correction remember that your in it for their best.

**James 1:19** “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

**Galatians 6:1-2** “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

**Proverbs 18:21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”



Remember, it's your choice, DEATH or LIFE!

**Deuteronomy 30:11-16** "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it."

