

The Power of the Spoken Word

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

- This gives a lot of weight to how we speak
- James declares that if we can control how we speak, we are able to control ourselves completely.

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect (*mature*) man, able also to bridle the whole body.

3 areas of speech that we should learn to speak properly:

1. How we speak about and to others.
2. How we speak about and to ourselves.
3. How we speak about circumstances or situations. Including in prayer.

How we speak about and to others

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- This verse is for all believers.
- When we speak to others, we should be building them up.
- Does this mean we never say anything negative? No
 - **Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- But do our conversations increase faith? Increase character? Leave them better?
- What about when we speak about others?
 - **2 Corinthians 12:20** For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts

of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

- **James 1:26** If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless.

Colossians 4:6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

- Give grace when others mess up
- Salt preserves, enhances

How we speak to and about ourselves and our circumstances

What is the difference between the power of positive thinking and understanding your identity in Christ?

- Some people say never confess anything negative, only speak positive. This is positive thinking.
- But no matter how much you declare something that is not real, then there is no power to create that thing.
 - I cannot speak a supercar into existence. Why not? There is no power for that.
- But in the Christian faith, there is power
 - **John 14:12-14** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*."
- But I still can't speak a supercar into existence.
- Where is the power coming from?
 - **John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—
 - The Holy Spirit

- When Jesus said ask in my Name, He meant according to His character. Things done in His Name mean that they are representative of Him.
- If I do something in your name it better represent who you are, or I will get in trouble.
 - If I crochet something and tell you Tina did this – She will not be amused.
 - The same is true of Jesus.

So how does this come back to what we say about ourselves?

Confession.

- When we make positive or negative statements about ourselves, or situations, that is confessing.
- So – I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength = positive confession.
- I always get sick during the holidays = negative confession.

But is there any actual power in our confession? Yes!

Let's first look at the word confession: Homologeō

- **homologeō** (Strong's G3670) is a Greek verb used over 25 times in the New Testament, primarily translated as "confess" or "acknowledge." It literally means "**to say the same thing**"—to agree, assent, or declare something in harmony with another.

But this brings up another question – Who are we saying the same thing as?

- We can either be in agreement with God and confess – speak His same words – or we can be in agreement with our flesh and declare that, or we can be in agreement with the enemy and speak those things.
- I personally would rather be in agreement with God. And if we go back to where our power comes from as believers – the Holy Spirit – then when we are speaking the same as He is, there is more than just talk.
- But what about when we speak not in agreement with God. What happens then?

- The more we hear something the more we tend to believe it.
- We always behave according to what we believe.
- The more we declare things in disagreement with God, the more we will believe lies, and that will ultimately affect our behavior.
- Listen to the Words of Jesus here:
 - **Matthew 12:34-37** Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

In other words – Our speech, our confession will betray us. If we are speaking negatively about ourselves or our circumstances, it reveals what we actually believe

So how should we speak?

Colossians 3:17 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Start with Don't lie

- It's ok to say something true – I have a cold, I have bills due and not enough money to cover them, whatever.

Progress to adding agreement statements with God

- I have a cold, but Bless the Lord who heals all my diseases. I have bills due, but the Lord is my provider and He is faithful.

Concerning yourself

- Why tear yourself down with statements that are not in agreement with God?
- Know your identity in Christ and speak those things

Concerning situations

- **James 4:2-4** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- Ask God. You have not because you ask not. God wants us to ask. That's the purpose of the parable of the annoying neighbor.
- Don't ask amiss. Remember the concept of homologeo. Know the promises of God.
- Walk in the Spirit. Choose God over the world and let that shape your worldview and your wants.

Concerning others

- Absolutely no gossip. No backbiting. No tearing down.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Conclusion:

We started with **Proverbs 18:21** Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- When you speak you can agree with life, or you can agree with death.