

Words – 10

Proverbs 18:21 (The Message)

²¹ Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

Each of the words we choose to use carry enormous power with them

- Power to heal or wound
- Encourage or discourage
- Speak the truth or tell a lie
- To praise or to criticize

The words we choose when opening our mouth are extremely important

Words are connectors, in fact they are our God connection

He connects with us – **Genesis 1, 2; John 1:14; Psalm 107:20**

We are created in His image – “speaking spirit” – **Genesis 2:7**

We connect with Him and others through our words

James 3:2 (NKJV) The Tongue

² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

- We learned about Holy Spirit Baptism and the way He will help us control our tongues

The Gates of Praise

As we learned in the beginning of this series our words are connectors not only to people but to God as well

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

- I believe our words of praise are the gateway to heaven
- This scripture is addressing an assembly of believers worshipping God corporately
- You can sense the presence of God in Praise and Worship
- You can feel His love
- He may speak to your heart or touch you emotionally or physically
- Praise connects us to everything that God is
- Redeemer, Healer, Defender, our Peace and more!

Psalm 22:3 (NKJV)

³ But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

- Enthroned – *inhabits* – KJV
- God literally makes Himself known and inhabits our praise
- If you want to know God more
- Start to praise!

Praise is corporate as well as Individual

- You don't have to wait for Sunday
- We can go through the gates of praise as individuals
- Because God's Spirit dwells within us we can worship Him anytime, anyplace
 - We are the Temple of God – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Those who enter through the gates of praise get God's attention

I don't think you will find one scripture that tells us that grumbling and complaining will get us anything but self-pity

What happens when we enter into God's presence?

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

- Fullness of joy!
- Pleasures everlasting!
 - Yet many are afraid of His presence
 - God is not mad at you!
 - Don't listen to the devil
 - The more fully you experience the presence of God the more you want it!

God can meet every need you will ever have

- Freedom from alcohol or drug addiction
- Freedom from pornography or tobacco
- Wisdom for marriage, relationships, finances.....

When we speak we either open a gateway to heaven or a gateway to hell

- Which words will you choose?
- If your mouth speaks contrary to the word you open the gate for the enemy to come through
- Remember death and life are in the power of the tongue
– **Proverbs 18:20-21**
- If we understand the power of our words of praise, we will experience that power

Note: *“our words do not have the power to create life – only God’s words can do that”*

“What we need to do is agree with God’s words!”

Proverbs 4:20–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

- If your words agree with God’s words, the Lord will create life
- If our words agree with the author of lies we will have the destruction that he brings

John 14:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.
Jesus spoke what He heard the Father speak

- The Bible is God's word to us
- If we say what we hear Him say, then He will do the work and create life for us

When I pray for someone and they are healed, did I heal them?

- No, God healed them
- I merely prayed for them
- When we agree with God we receive life
- In our marriages
- Our families
- Our finances
- Our relationships

We are not the ones performing the miracle or doing the work

When we come into agreement with God; His presence does the miracle

- The Father, and His word that dwells in me does the work!
- We are simply coming into agreement – that's Faith!

Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

- It's not the agreement that brings the miracle
- It's the creative power of God
- It's not done *by* them *for* the Father
- It's done *for* them *by* the Father
- The Father is the one doing the work!
- Our words of agreement bring God and His supernatural power on the scene
- He, and His supernatural power are doing the work
- That's what happened when Jesus walked the face of the earth
- When He showed up wonderful things happened

Luke 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.

- The Lord's presence and power are what heals!
- He did the same for blind Bartimaeus
- The woman who touched Him drew power out of Him
- The multitudes saw the power of Jesus multiply the fishes and loaves
- We could go on and on!

Speaking the language of praise to others

Do you think that when we approach someone in anger we are going to get the outcome we desire?

When we approach someone in a spirit of love and praise, they are more likely to listen to our advice

Proverbs 25:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in settings of silver.

Proverbs 22:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Whoever loves a pure heart and gracious speech will have the king as a friend.

Husbands and wives

Nagging won't get our spouse to do something we want them to do for us

When there is a breakdown in communication it's not that what is being said is necessarily wrong but the way in which we say it

- Sincere compliments of praise energize us
- We have the ability to praise our spouse and help them become the person God made them to be
- The virtuous women and man in Proverbs 31 made a habit of praising each other

Proverbs 31:28 (NLT)

²⁸ Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:

- I believe there's a reason her children and husband bless her
- She was in the habit of blessing them
- People don't sing the praises of a person who nags
- This woman was extremely successful
- You don't become successful by griping and complaining

Proverbs 31:23 (NLT)

²³ Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.

- They say behind every successful man is a woman
- He was recognized and sat in a place of honor
- He had a woman behind him that praised him

This works with our children as well

"Such words are like gentle warm rain falling on the soul; they nurture the child's inner sense of worth and security. Even though such words are quickly said, they are not soon forgotten. A child reaps the benefits for a lifetime."

– Gary Chapman – The Five Love Languages of Children

Help your children develop the character they need to succeed in life

- Praise them for making a sincere effort
- Even when they're wrong and need correction
- Speak to them in positive terms
- Let them know you believe in them

“I know you’re a great child, so why would you strap your little brother to the car with duct tape? That’s not like you!”

Overcoming Life Situations

Praise opens up the gate to God’s power

Isaiah 61:3 (NLT)

³ To all who mourn in Israel,* he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory.

- Mourning – Spirit of heaviness – NKJV
- Meaning – spirit of depression
- Jesus gives us a garment of praise for the spirit of depression
- Praising God will bring us out of depression
- The enemy is *de*-pressing people down today with heaviness
- He tries to get us to speak doom and gloom over our situation

"Depression is increasingly common in the United States and internationally. Approximately 18.8 million American adults, or about 9.5 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year, have a depressive disorder."

– National Institute of Mental Health

Speaking words of life and singing praises to God is the prescription for depression

- We should make it a habit to consciously “put on” praise just like we would get dressed in the morning
- Praise should be a part of our wardrobe

Ephesians 6:12–13 (NLT)

¹² For we* are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

- We don’t wrestle with flesh and blood
- We are fighting a spirit of wickedness
- Vs 8 says we are to wear our spiritual armor
- We need to put on our garments of praise and victory
- Remember death and life are in the power of our tongue
- When we speak God’s word He comes on the scene and brings life with Him

Psalm 149:6–9 (NLT)

⁶ Let the praises of God be in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands— ⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, ⁸ to bind their kings with shackles and their leaders with iron chains, ⁹ to execute the judgment written against them. This is the glorious privilege of his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

- It may seem hard at times to praise God
- Times when all we want to do is cry
- At times like this it's a sacrifice of praise
- We need to praise God, especially when we don't feel like it

Hebrews 13:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.

- We praise Him by faith!
- Words of praise bind the enemy
- Words of praise open the gate to God's power
- It is a great privilege (*honor NKJV*) to praise Him
- This is where we find fullness of joy and life forevermore!

Yes, your words carry tremendous power, privilege and responsibility

- Submit to the one who has the power to tame it
- Build yourself up in His language
- Speak the word of God to release LIFE!