

Words – 2

Proverbs 18:21 (The Message)

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

Even though there are about 800,000 words in the English language the average person knows only about 10,000 words, and uses only about 5,000 of those in everyday speech!

That is not many words to choose from to communicate every idea, emotion, event or desires

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

Psalm 100:4 (NLT)

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

Words are how we stay connected to each other

Proverbs 18:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; *From* the produce of his lips he shall be filled. ²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- The quality of life you are living depends on what you have been saying
- Your success or lack thereof, depends a lot on your mouth
- If you have a belly full of bitterness, resentment, strife and broken relationships
- That is what you'll continue to experience
- You can also experience deep peace, blessings and satisfaction
- In a very spiritual sense your mouth is producing the things that are filling your life

If you want a great marriage start speaking life over it

If you want great kids speak life over them

If you want great relationships speak life over them

If you want a great future speak Gods word over it

We live in a country that guarantees us the right of “Free Speech” but even this constitutional right has limits

Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes declared – *“Our right to free speech doesn’t give anyone the right to yell “Fire!” in a crowded theatre”*

There really is no such thing as free speech – our words carry spiritual weight and we are accountable to a higher court as to how we use them

Satan will try to get every one of us to believe that this is not true

He wants us to believe that we have the right to say whatever we want whenever we want without consequences

“The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment” – Dorothy Nevill – late 1800’s writer

“Lady Astor” told Winston Churchill, (famous for bluntly saying pretty much whatever was on his mind) “Sir if you were my husband I would poison your drink.” His reply was, Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink it!”

You simply cannot say anything you want

Believer or unbeliever, you are going to be held accountable for every word you say

Psalm 141:3 (NLT)

³ Take control of what I say, O LORD, and guard my lips.

- If your comment starts with, I probably shouldn't say this, but...
 - Don't say it!
- You are going to regret the words you're about to speak

Psalm 39:1 (NLT)

¹ I said to myself, "I will watch what I do and not sin in what I say. I will hold my tongue when the ungodly are around me."

- Yes, you can sin with your tongue
- The damage and destruction you can cause is immense

Proverbs 6:16–19 (NLT)

¹⁶ There are six things the LORD hates— no, seven things he detests: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, hands that kill the innocent, ¹⁸ a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, ¹⁹ **a false witness** who pours out lies, **a person who sows discord** in a family. **(among brethren) NKJV*

- Three of these are related to spoken words

Another lie we believe

“I was only joking it doesn’t matter what I say” – not true!

Proverbs 26:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, ¹⁹
Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, “I was only joking!”

- Words are damaging arrows
- They stick in the heart
- They inflict “fiery” damage
- Hurtful words pierce people and go deep in their soul
- How would you feel if someone shot you in the leg with an arrow and then said, “I’m sorry, just kidding”?

James 3:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

- Jesus said we would be accountable for every “idle” word spoken
- The Devil wants us to believe the opposite is true
 - He is the father of lies

Words echo through eternity and have lasting repercussion
Choose to speak words that build up others

Proverbs 12:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise *promotes* health.

Story: “Who’s your daddy?”

Many years ago a seminary professor vacationing in Tennessee

- Eating breakfast with his family
- Sees a distinguished-looking, white-haired man moving from table to table – chatting with the guests
- I hope he doesn’t stop over here
- Sure enough – he does

Where are you folks from, what do you do for a living?

- Oklahoma
- I teach seminary
- I have a great story to tell you about a preacher

Pulls up a chair – See that mountain over there?

There was once a boy of an unwed mother who lived there

- Growing up always heard, “Who’s your daddy?”
- School, grocery store it was always the question
- The boy avoided going out in public for fear of that question

One day at about 12 years old he went to church

- New preacher finished benediction early
- Saw the boy – “Hi there, son who’s your daddy?”
- Hush fell over the crowd, the boy felt his face flush as every eye looked to hear the answer?
- Everyone would finally know the answer to the question
- The mystery would be solved

New pastor sensed the awkwardness and quickly said

- “Wait a minute. I know who you are. I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God.”
- He put his hands on his shoulder, looked him straight in the eye and said, “Son you have a great inheritance. Go and claim it.”
- The boy walked out of that church a changed person
- From that day forward when asked who his daddy was he would answer, “I’m a child of God”

The distinguished gentleman got up and said, “isn’t that a great story?”

- “Yes, it is a great story” answered the professor
- When waitress was asked, “who was that man?”
- Everybody knows him. That’s Ben Hooper, the former Governor of Tennessee

Positive words can bring healing

Words – Good or bad – Last forever

Ten symptoms of a sick tongue

1 – Telling an untruth

Proverbs 12:22 (NKJV)

²² Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.

- Abomination – Something that is utterly detestable
- Most often used to describe God's feelings about us worshiping pagan idols
- God is truth – **John 14:6**
- Satan is the father of lies – **John 8:44**
- When we speak truth we honor God
- When we speak a lie we honor Satan
- Who has the throne in your life?

#2 – Stirring up division

Proverbs 6:12–15 (NKJV)

¹² A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; ¹³ He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; ¹⁴ Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. ¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

What a serious thing to stir up strife

If you are a person who goes around sowing discord, calamity is on its way

Titus 3:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

- The devil will convince you that by bringing up certain things you are doing good
- Some people are convinced that they are guardians of the truth
- Running from person to person
- I just thought you should know
- Sowing discord is not a spiritual gift!
- You are not the Holy Spirit Police
- Be a peacemaker not a troublemaker
- Are you willing to help solve the problem?
- If not – shut up!

Proverbs 11:13 (ESV)

¹³ Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

#3 – Being a Gossip (digging up dirt)

"I am more deadly than the screaming shell from the howitzer. I win without killing. I tear down homes, break hearts, and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me, no purity pure enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea, and often as innocent. I never forget and seldom forgive. My name is Gossip."

– Early 20th century sportswriter – Morgan Blake

Proverbs 20:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatterers.

Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)

²⁸ A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

- If you are not part of the problem or essential to the solution, there is no reason to talk about a private matter

If you haven't spent significant time on your knees in fervent intercession over the situation you don't need to tell someone so they can pray

- Be gut-level honest

Gossip is nothing new in the Church

2 Corinthians 12:20 (NLT)

²⁰ For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior.

- When you participate in these behaviors you are carnal
- Not ready for solid food – 1 Corinthians 3:1-4
- People like this prove they are spiritually immature

Are you tempted in this area?

Do you get excited when you hear the words, “Have you heard...?” Do your ears perk up?

Gossip is a habit

- That means it's a stronghold
- Strongholds separate us from God
- It is robbing you of intimacy with Him
- Ask yourself:
- Do I really need to hear this?
- Say:
- I'm sure your concerned about... but I don't need he details

Break the gossip habit – tear down that deadly sin of the tongue