

Words

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT)

²¹ The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

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

If we were all painfully honest we would have to say our mouths have gotten us in to trouble a time or two

The words we choose when opening our mouth are extremely important

“Remember every time you open your mouth, your mind walks out and parades up and down your words” – Edwin Stuart

Words are connectors, in fact they are our God connection

In the opening lines of Genesis, we read...

Genesis 1:3 (NLT)

³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Throughout the first 3 chapters God is creating the universe

- The phrase we see repeatedly is – “God said”
- God could have chosen any way He pleased to express His creative genius
- The tool He chose was His words
- You and I are created in God’s image and likeness
- Our words have creative abilities as well

Genesis 1:26–27 (NLT)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,* and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created human beings* in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- I’m not suggesting we have equal power with God
- I’m merely saying we are created in His likeness and like Him our words are powerful

Genesis 2:7 (NLT)

⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a **living person**.

- “Living person” – “speaking spirit” – literally
- God breathed spirit into us
- A speaking spirit
- Animals do not talk – monkeys are not my relatives!
- We are able to communicate our hearts, feelings, dreams, hopes and plans
- There is something creative and powerful about our speaking
- That's why it's important to control our tongues

Words are connectors:

When God needed to bridge the chasm of sin that separated us from Him He connected with us through His living word

John 1:1, 14 (NLT)

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ So the Word became human* and made his home among us.

- The spiritual became natural
- The word of God brought the healing we needed
- God connected with us by His words
- We should connect with Him 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.

- Singing, thanksgiving and praise can all be expressed through words

Satan doesn't want you to be vocal in your praise because he knows it will connect you with God

The only people who experience the full joy of the Lord's presence are thankful people

Satan will do anything to keep you from expressing your full gratitude to God

- He would rather have you become a grumbler
- Grumbling is an expression of unbelief and ingratitude

Prayer is another way to connect to God

Luke 18:7 (NLT)

⁷ So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

The enemy wants us to doubt what God has spoken through His word in an effort to stop us from speaking it back to God through thankful prayer and worship

Genesis 3:1 (NIV)

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Even as words are positive connectors the enemy will use them to deceive us as well

- Graceful words produce positive results
- Ungraceful (grumbling) words produce negative results
- Our words can be full of praise or self-pity

Proverbs 22:11 (NIV)

¹¹ One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the king for a friend.

“We must remember that God bridges the gap to us through words, and we are to connect to Him the same way”

– Robert Morris – The Power of Words

Romans 10:8–13 (NKJV)

⁸ But what does it say? “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):
⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.
¹³ For “*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*”

- We connect with God through the mouth – confession
- We move from natural to spiritual
- From death to life
- From hell to heaven

Even as the mouth – confession, can connect us to God it can also alienate us from Him

Matthew 12:33–37 (NKJV)

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. ³⁴ 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.”

- Jesus was saying your bad mouth is evidence of your bad heart
- If you’ve got a bad tree you’ve got bad fruit
- Out of the abundance of the heart – Key verse

The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of healing the blind, lame and diseased and setting them free by the power of Beelzebub

- What kind of evil heart would say that?
- Jesus told them that what they were saying could send them to hell
- Your mouth is connected to your heart

The words that come out of your mouth are a direct indicator of what is in your heart

- We will be held accountable for every “idle” word
- That’s the bad news
- The good news is; God will forgive you when you confess your sin
- Don’t spend your life speaking proud, unbelieving words that repeatedly reject Jesus Christ

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Words also connect us with people

What we say determines the quality of our relationships; for good or evil

“There may be no single thing more important in our efforts to achieve meaningful work and fulfilling relationships than to learn to practice the art of communication”

– Max De Pree – Founder of Herman Miller Office Furniture

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

University studying married couples during their first decade of marriage found

- Couples who stayed together only made 5 out of every 100 comments as put downs
- Among those who later split 10 out of every 100 were negative – twice as many
- The gap magnified over the following decade, until couples heading downhill were saying five times as many cruel, belittling comments to each other as the happy couples

“Hostile putdowns act as cancerous cells that, if unchecked, erode the relationship over time. In the end, relentless unremitting negativity takes control and the couple can’t get through a week without major blowups.”

– Cliff Notarius, Howard Markum

Ephesians 5:25–26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

- Jesus washes His bride with His words
- What are we washing our wives, (relationships) with?
- Encouragement and restoration or Discouragement and death