

SHORT INTRO

SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WHEN IT COMES TO THE WORDS WE SPEAK ANYWAY?

WHEN WE WERE KIDS WE USED TO SAY THINGS LIKE:

"STICKS AND STONES CAN BREAK MY BONES BUT WORDS WILL NEVER HURT ME."

ANOTHER KIDS' CLASSIC WAS:

"IM LIKE RUBBER AND YOU'RE LIKE GLUE, WHATEVER YOU SAY BOUNCES OFF ME AND STICKS TO YOU."

SO WHY THE NEED TO REPOSITION OUR WORDS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHAT POTENTIAL IMPACT DO OUR WORDS CARRY?

WHAT ARE OUR WORDS ABLE TO PRODUCE?

WHAT DO THE WORDS WE SAY AND THE NATURE OF OUR SPEECH SAY ABOUT WHERE WE ARE SPIRITUALLY IN OUR WALK WITH CHRIST?

THE FIRST STEP TO REPOSITIONING OUR WORDS WITH GOD'S WORD IS TO SET A GUARD OVER OUR MOUTHS.

- ❖ **Proverbs 21:23 (AMP)** ²³ He who **guards his mouth** and his tongue **guards** himself from troubles.
- ❖ **Psalm 34:13 (AMP)** ¹³ **Keep your tongue** from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
- ❖ **Psalm 141:3 (NIV)** ³ **Set a guard over my mouth**, Lord; **keep watch** over the door of my lips.

THESE PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE AND MANY MORE LIKE THEM, ALL STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING IN PLACE A GUARD OVER OUR MOUTHS AND THE WORDS THAT WE SPEAK.

TODAY WE WATCH WHAT WE EAT, WE WATCH HOW WE DRESS. WE EVEN WATCH HOW OTHER PEOPLE DRESS AND WHAT OTHER PEOPLE DRIVE.

HOW OFTEN DO WE CONSCIOUSLY WATCH WHAT WE SAY?

WHEN WE CORRECT OUR FELLOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST ... ARE WE ABLE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE OR ARE WE QUICK TO TARE DOWN & MAKE A SPECTACLE OF THEM? WITH THE VERY SAME MOUTH WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BUILD UP OR BREAK DOWN.

DAVID WOULD NEVER HAVE IMploRED THE LORD TO SET A GUARD OVER HIS MOUTH AND A WATCH OVER HIS LIPS IF HE DID NOT KNOW THAT HIS WORDS HAD THE POTENTIAL FOR BOTH: **GOOD & EVIL, HONESTY & DECEIT, LIFE & DEATH.**

1. SETTING A GUARD OVER OUR MOUTHS

- ▶ **1 Peter 3:10** ... THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM **EVIL** AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING **DECEIT**.

Question: How do I keep my tongue from evil and my lips from deceit?

Answer: By filling my mouth with the High Praises of the Most High God.

- ▶ **Psalm 149:6 (KJV)**

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;

Praise can be used as a weapon, we already know this. And so when we fill our mouths with the high praises of God we keep evil; deceitfulness; death and destruction at bay.

Sweet and bitter water cannot come out of the same spring. So we give evil no chance and deceit no place of lodging. We pro-actively set in place a guard over our mouths and that guard is called His High Praises.

As believers in Christ we cannot hope to win the lost if they see us prophecy on a Sunday, but when they cross paths with us from Monday to Saturday our mouths are loosed in evil and our tongues are framed in deceit.

Because sweet and bitter water cannot both flow simultaneously from the same spring, our words betray our heart's true condition. For out of the abundance of our heart our mouth speaks.

Let us meditate on His Holy Word and daily renew our minds by washing our minds with the water of His Word, so that we will be able to speak His High Praises from our mouths and ultimately out of the abundance of our hearts.

THE FIRST STEP IN REPOSITIONING OUR WORDS IS TO SET A GUARD OVER OUR MOUTHS.

2. GOD'S WOD: LIVING AND ACTIVE

SO HAVE YOU EVER SAT AT THE END OF A VERY LONG DAY WHERE YOU HAVE HAD MANY INTERACTIONS WITH LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND EVALUATED THE **CONTENT** OF THE CONVERSATIONS YOU HAVE HAD FOR THE DAY?

HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE SAY DURING THE COURSE OF A DAY WOULD YOU SAY COULD QUITE EASILY BE CATEGORISED AS IDLE CONVERSATION?

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON ICE-BREAKER TOPICS OR CONVERSATION STARTERS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TODAY IS ***THE WEATHER ...***

POPULAR TOPICS AMONGST MARRIED COUPLES ARE ***WHAT'S FOR SUPPER TONIGHT*** AND ***CAN YOU PICK UP "X" FROM THE SHOP ON YOUR WAY HOME.***

AMONGST WORK COLLEAGUES IT'S ***HOW BAD THE ECONOMY IS HOW LITTLE WE GET PAID HOW EXPENSIVE LIFE IS*** AND MORE RECENTLY ***HOW CRAZY THOSE POLITICIANS ARE.*** (THE TOPICS OF GOD, JESUS AND SALVATION HARDLY EVERY COME UP UNLESS WE ARE DELIBERATE ABOUT IT.)

- ▶ **Matthew 12:36** ³⁶ But I tell you, on the Day of Judgment people will have to give an account for **every careless or useless word they speak.**

Why? Because God in his very nature is incapable of speaking words that are **careless** or **without a purpose.**

- ▶ **Isaiah 55:11** ¹¹ So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me **void** (useless, without result), without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding **in the matter for which I sent it.**

▶ **Hebrews 4:12** ¹² For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

▶ **God's Words are:**

Alive

Active

Purposeful

Connected to His heart (what He desires)

Unwavering

Full of Power

Surgical in nature

Effective in completing the assigned task.

The Word of God will not return prematurely. It returns ONLY after having done what it was sent to accomplish. (WHEN MY WIFE SENDS ME TO THE SHOP FOR CHEESE, MILK, EGGS, BREAD AND BUTTER, I RETURN NOT HAVING COMPLETED THE TASK ASSIGNED TO ME)

Let us reposition our words from idol, useless chatter to words with purpose, words that are set to achieve God's Kingdom agenda, words that are connected to His heart.

3. FAITH-FILLED DECLARATIONS

❖ **MATTHEW 8 (AMP)**

⁵ AS JESUS WENT INTO CAPERNAUM, A CENTURION CAME UP TO HIM, BEGGING HIM [FOR HELP], ⁶ AND SAYING, "LORD, MY SERVANT IS LYING AT HOME PARALYZED, WITH INTENSE *AND* TERRIBLE, TORMENTING PAIN." ⁷ JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I WILL COME AND HEAL HIM." ⁸ BUT THE CENTURION REPLIED TO HIM, "LORD, I AM NOT WORTHY TO HAVE YOU

COME UNDER MY ROOF, BUT **ONLY SAY THE WORD, AND MY SERVANT WILL BE HEALED.** ⁹ FOR I ALSO AM A MAN SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY [OF A HIGHER RANK], WITH SOLDIERS SUBJECT TO ME; AND I SAY TO ONE, ‘GO!’ AND HE GOES, AND TO ANOTHER, ‘COME!’ AND HE COMES, AND TO MY SLAVE, ‘DO THIS!’ AND HE DOES IT.” ¹⁰ WHEN JESUS HEARD THIS, HE WAS AMAZED AND SAID TO THOSE WHO WERE FOLLOWING HIM, “I TELL YOU TRUTHFULLY, **I HAVE NOT FOUND SUCH GREAT FAITH [AS THIS] WITH ANYONE IN ISRAEL** ¹³ THEN JESUS SAID TO THE CENTURION, “GO; **IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED.**” AND THE SERVANT WAS RESTORED TO HEALTH AT THAT VERY HOUR.

- ❖ Only say the word, and my servant will be healed. (THIS WAS NO PRAYER REQUEST OR SUPPLICATION, THIS WAS A DECLARATION OF FAITH)
- ❖ For I also am a man subject to authority [of a higher rank], HE WAS UNDER SUBMISSION OF AUTHORITY AND HE HIMSELF EXERCISED AUTHORITY OVER HIS SOLDIERS. (AUTHORITY NOT POWER – AUTHORITY SPEAKS OF RANK, POWER SPEAKS OF STRENGTH. YOU CAN BE PHYSICALLY STRONGER THAN ME BUT IF I OUTRANK YOU IN THE ARMY THEN MY AUTHORITY SUPERSEDES YOUR POWER)
- ❖ with soldiers subject to me; and I say to one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” HE WAS LITERALLY SAYING TO JESUS: I KNOW THAT MY SERVANT’S SICKNESS WILL OBEY YOUR INSTRUCTION. WHEN YOU SAY LEAVE, IT WILL LEAVE, WHEN YOU SAY BE HEALED, HE WILL BE HEALED.
- ❖ I have not found such great faith [as this] with anyone in Israel. “Go; it will be done for you as you have believed.” GOD IS WILLING AND ABLE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO. WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO BELIEVE HIM FOR?

Mark 11:22-25 (NKJV)

²² So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and **does not doubt** in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, **he will have**

whatever he says (declares). ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and **you will have them**.

- ❖ (THE ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE TO THE ENEMY WHEN HE HEARS YOU MAKING YOUR DECLARATIONS OF FAITH IS TO SOW SEEDS OF DOUBT IN YOUR MIND. DO YOU REALLY THINK GOD CAN DO THIS FOR YOU? DID GOD REALLY SAY YOU CAN HAVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR)
- ❖ WE NEED TO REPOSITION OUR WORDS FROM DOUBT AND UNBELIEF TO **FAITH-FILLED DECLARATIONS** AND **unwavering TRUST IN GOD**. JUST LIKE THE CENTURION WHO GOT HEALING FOR HIS SERVANT BECAUSE OF HOW HE SPOKE IN FAITH, WE TOO WILL HAVE WHAT WE SAY WHEN WE REPOSITION OUR WORDS TO BECOME FAITH-FILLED DECLARATIONS.

4. WHAT THE WORLD SAY VS WHAT GOD SAYS

- ❖ EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY WORDS ARE BEING SPOKEN OVER OUR LIVES BY MANY DIFFERENT VOICES:
 1. DEMONICALLY INSPIRED LIES OF THE ENEMY;
 2. OPINIONS OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS, OUR FRIENDS, OUR COLLEAGUES;
 3. MESSAGES FROM THE WORLD / MEDIA AT LARGE; &
 4. WORDS FROM OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

MATTHEW 16:13-20 (NIV)

¹³ WHEN JESUS CAME TO THE REGION OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI, HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES, “WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THE SON OF MAN IS?”

¹⁴ THEY REPLIED, “SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST; OTHERS SAY ELIJAH; AND STILL OTHERS, JEREMIAH OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS.”

¹⁵ “BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?” HE ASKED. “WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

¹⁶ SIMON PETER ANSWERED, “YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”

¹⁷ JESUS REPLIED, “BLESSED ARE YOU, SIMON SON OF JONAH, FOR THIS WAS NOT REVEALED TO YOU BY FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT BY MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.

- THERE IS A LOT BEING SAID BY MANY DIFFERENT VOICES, BUT WE ARE HIS SHEEP AND HE IS OUR SHEPHERD AND AS HIS SHEEP WE KNOW OUR MASTER’S VOICE.

WHEN PETER ANSWERED JESUS, JESUS INSTANTLY RECOGNISED THE VOICE BEHIND THE RESPONSE.

JESUS RECOGNISED THAT FATHER GOD HAD GIVEN PETER THIS REVELATION OF WHO JESUS WAS. IT IS UP TO YOU AND I TO DECIDE WHICH WORDS TO ACCEPT AND WHICH TO REJECT. WHICH TO ALIGN OURSELVES TO AND WHICH TO DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM.

WE NEED TO REPOSITION OUR WORDS FROM A PLACE OF NATURAL UNDERSTANDING TO A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL REVELATION. WHEN WE SPEAK INTO PEOPLE’S LIVES IT OUGHT TO BE AS WE ARE LEAD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND AS GOD THE FATHER REVEALS WORDS OF WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE TO US.

THE WORLD SAYS

WE ARE NOT WORTHY

WE DON’T MEASURE UP

OUR SIN IS TOO GREAT

WE ARE DEFEATED

GOD SAYS

I AM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

I QUALIFY THE CALLED

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

WE ARE VICTORIOUS

**WE ARE DESTINED FOR
POVERTY**

**WE ARE BLESSED IN THE CITY &
BLESSED IN THE FIELD**

**IN REPOSITIONING OUR WORDS LET US ALIGN NOT WITH WHAT THE
WORLD SAYS ABOUT US BUT RATHER WITH WHAT GOD SAYS.**

5. EMULATING JESUS

❖ JOHN 12:49-50 (AMP)

⁴⁹ FOR I HAVE NEVER SPOKEN ON MY OWN INITIATIVE *OR* AUTHORITY,
BUT THE FATHER HIMSELF WHO SENT ME HAS GIVEN ME A
COMMANDMENT *REGARDING* WHAT TO SAY AND WHAT TO SPEAK. ⁵⁰ I
KNOW THAT HIS COMMANDMENT IS ETERNAL LIFE. SO THE THINGS I
SPEAK, I SPEAK [IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS EXACT INSTRUCTION,] JUST
AS THE FATHER HAS TOLD ME.”

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR HOW TO SAY IT, SIMPLY EMULATE
JESUS AND SAY WHAT YOU HEAR THE FATHER SAY AND DO WHAT YOU SEE
THE FATHER DO.

WILL NEVER STRAY OUTSIDE OF HIS WILL IF YOU NEVER STRAY AWAY FROM
HIS WORDS.

MATTHEW 4 (KJV)

³ AND WHEN THE TEMPTER CAME TO HIM, HE SAID, IF THOU BE THE SON
OF GOD, COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BE MADE BREAD.

⁴ BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, **IT IS WRITTEN**, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY
BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE
MOUTH OF GOD.

AS WE REPOSITION OUR WORDS WE WILL NEED TO BE LIKE THE MAN DEPICTED IN PSALM 1 WHO MEDITATES ON AND DELIGHTS IN GOD'S WORD DAY AND NIGHT.

WE WILL HAVE TO STUDY TO SHOW OURSELVES APPROVED ... YOU CANNOT CALL UPON WHAT IS WRITTEN IF YOU NEVER MAKE THE TIME TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S LIVING WRITTEN WORD.

WHEN WE SAY EXACTLY WHAT THE FATHER HAS INSTRUCTED US TO SAY WE WILL HAVE WORDS THAT ARE ACCURATE & SPOKEN IN SEASON. WORDS FULL OF GODLY WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE. WORDS RIGHTLY POSITIONED IN RELATION TO GOD'S WORD.

❖ Proverbs 25:11

Like apples of gold in PICTURES of silver is a word spoken at the right time.

A WORD FROM THE FATHER, SPOKEN AT THE RIGHT TIME CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

WE NEED TO REPOSITION OUR WORDS TO A PLACE WHERE WE SAY WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT US AND WHAT HIS WRITTEN AND LIVING WORD SAYS CONCERNING OUR LIVES.

WE WILL HAVE WHAT WE SAY SO WHY NOT SAY WHAT OUR CREATOR HAS TO SAY ABOUT US.