

Repositioning Our Words with God's Words

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered to yourself, "Why are the words that we speak, the things that we say, so important?"

When we were kids, we used to say things like:

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

Another kids' classic was:

"I'm like rubber and you're like glue, whatever you say, bounces off of me and sticks to you."

Is there a need to create an alignment between the words we speak and God's words?

What potential impact can our words have and what potential power do our words carry?

What are words able to produce / create?

What do the words we say, and the nature of our speech say about where we are spiritually in our walk with Christ, if anything at all?

The first step to aligning our words with God's words is to **set a guard over our mouths**. I have made this statement before in this local assembly and in my own home too.

If we said less and if we watched what we said and how we said it, we would get in trouble, less often. Can all the married men say "amen."

1 Peter 3:7 (AMP) In the same way, you husbands, live with your wives **in an understanding way [with great gentleness and tact]**, and with **an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship**, ... **Show her honor and respect** as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered or ineffective.

It is most times, not what we say But how we say it. Say it in an understanding way. Say it with great gentleness. Say it with tact. Say it with an intelligent regard for the marriage. Say it respectfully. Honor her. Amen.

1. Set a guard over my mouth

Point no.1, we need to set a guard over our mouths. This is not just for the men, this is for everyone who is a follower of Christ.

Proverbs 21:23 (AMP) ²³ he who **guards his mouth** and his tongue **guards himself from troubles.**

Can you see the connection between your troubles and your tongue. It's not what you say but how you say it. My interpretation of putting a guard over my mouth is that I am cautious about what I say, but even more so than being cautious, when I say something hurtful I am mindful of the impact that my words have on those around me. I don't just believe that the person should just "get over it." I am mindful of the fact that words can build up and tare down and so I put a guard over my mouth. Amen.

Psalm 34:13 (AMP) ¹³ **keep your tongue** from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

It sounds really, easy to do and pretty obvious, but just think for a moment about the company that you keep. Often the problem for young people is the company they surround themselves with, that places them in situations where they have to entertain filthy conversations and dirty jokes and they find themselves speaking evil. In that case, *keeping a guard over your tongue*, means uprooting those so-called friends, to avoid having your speech corrupted.

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. Because we speak every single day, this exercise of setting a guard over our mouths is a daily exercise.

Today we watch what we eat, we watch how we dress. We even watch how other people dress. How often do we consciously watch what we say and how we say it?

When we correct our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ ... are we able to speak the truth in love or are we quick to tear down? With the very same mouth we have the potential to either 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 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?

A great way of doing this is by filling my mouth with the high praises of the most high God. When you want to get rid of a bad habit, you cannot just take the bad thing away and leave a void or a gap there; You need to replace that bad habit with a good habit, otherwise the bad habit will return, and worse still. So if you are having a challenge with what you say and how you say it, I am recommending you fill your mouth with the High Praises of God.

2. Choose to fill my mouth with Praise

► **Psalm 149:6 (KJV)**

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

We all know that praise to God can be used as a weapon. When we fill our mouths with the high praises of God, we ready ourselves for spiritual warfare; we keep evil; deceitfulness; death and destruction at bay, because darkness cannot co-exist with the light. Light dispels the dark.

Sweet and bitter water cannot come out of the same spring. So, we give evil no chance and deceit no place for lodging. We pro-actively set in place a guard over our mouths and that guard is supported by us filling our mouths with His high praises. It is extremely difficult for me to have an argument with my wife while Eagles Wings is playing in the background. 😊 Maybe I am the only one.

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.

This is not about a Sunday morning song and dance. Worship and Praise must be a Lifestyle in order for it to be effective.

I was listening to Impact Radio a week or so back and listeners were speaking about how no-one is allowed to change the radio station in their car from Impact Radio to some other station. If you want a lift in my car, you will experience Impact Radio, Praise and Worship; Gospel Music and probably me singing along as well. Amen.

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.

3. God's Word is living and active

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 that day?

How much of what we say during the day would you say could quite easily be categorised as idle conversation?

One of the most common ice-breaker topics of conversation 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 the world's politicians are*. (The topics of God, Jesus and Salvation will not 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 is:**

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 don't always return having fully completed the task assigned to me.)

Please don't be like me. Please don't entertain idle chit chat. Please emulate God and let your words be like His words. Let us rightly align 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.

4. Faith-filled declarations

❖ Matthew 8 (amp)

As Jesus went into Capernaum, a Centurion came up to him, begging him [for help], and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, with intense *and* terrible, tormenting pain." Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 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.** 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." 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** 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; 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.) So, when those doubts creep in, rebuke the enemy immediately, in the name of Jesus.

We need to rightly align 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 rightly position our words to become **faith-filled declarations**.

5. What the world says vs what God says

❖ Every second of every day words are being spoken in our direction by many different voices:

1. Demonically inspired lies of the enemy.
2. Opinions of our family members, our friends and our colleagues.

3. Messages from the world / media at large, social media in the main; &
4. Words from our Heavenly Father.

By the way, this is why it is so important for us as parents to speak words of life over our children. If you are not declaring life over your child, to counter all the mess being hurled your child's way, you are setting the stage for disaster. Unfortunately, the world our kids live in today is vile and evil and depraved and as parents we have to be consistently speaking life over them.

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked His disciples, “who do people say the son of man is?” They replied, “some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “but what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “you are the Messiah, the son of the Living God.”

Verse 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 led by the Holy Spirit and as God the Father reveals words of wisdom & knowledge to us. If we want the blessing of the Lord in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones, we need to speak words revealed to us by our Heavenly Father.

What the world says

You are not worthy

You don't measure up

Your sin is too great

What God says

I am your righteousness

I qualify the called

My grace is sufficient

You are defeated

We are victorious

Poverty is your portion

You are blessed and highly favoured

In repositioning our words let us rightly align, not with what the world says about us but rather with what God says concerning you and I.