

The Power of The Tongue

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Here in America we not only have, but we covet and protect our freedom of speech; and boy do we use it in every manner imaginable. But when you boil it all down to it, when we open our mouths to verbalize we are either blessing or cursing; we are either speaking positively or negatively even in our communication of facts. You might be very surprised to know that God had a lot to say about what we say and how we say it.

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

But why is this so important? After all its just words isn't it? You know "sticks and stones can hurt my bones but words can never harm me." Or can they?

To understand this we have to go back to the beginning before God made man back in Genesis one:

Genesis 1:3 **And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.**

Vs. 9 **And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.**

Vs. 11 **And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.**

Vs. 24 **And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.**

Notice that in all of creation that "**God Said**" then "**and it was so**" it happened just by the power of His spoken word. Now watch what happens next:

Genesis 1:26 **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

Vs. 27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Did you catch the fact that God did say that He was going to make man in His image and likeness in verse 26; then in chapter two verse seven we see that God actually got His Blessed hands dirty to make man and then breathed in to the nostrils the breath of life - **His life**. He did not do that for any other creation He just spoke everything else into existence. That shows you just how special man is to God.

Within that Image and likeness of Him is the power to create or destroy with our spoken word just as He does.

(Note: the word image is where we get the word imagination from. No other creation has an imagination, only man.)

That is why God told us in Proverbs 18:21 quoted above that life and death are in the power of the tongue; they really are. And when we speak we are putting out either life or death; we are sowing either life or death. And you have to remember what Jesus said:

Matthew 12:36 **But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

And what God gave us through Paul:

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

What Paul is saying here is that whatever you say out of your mouth will definitely come back to you; that is called reaping. But Jesus gave us the ratio:

Matthew 13:8 **But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.**

So what you send out will come back to you many fold; at least thirty fold and some as many as a hundred fold. Whether good for good or bad for bad it will come back to you multiplied in one form or another either in this life or at your judgment.

How does it work?

Did you notice in Genesis 2:7 quoted above that God breathed into man the breath of life? When we speak we breathe out our words: we exhale when we speak. So our words come from within our physical bodies in addition to our minds. Our spirit conceives the concept, our will accepts the concept, our mind works out the details, and then passing through the emotions the body exhales the words. Of course this all happens in the wink of an eye; especially if you are not under control to stop the process at the will.

Let's explore some examples of negative speak that Jesus dealt with. Everything that Jesus taught was right out of the Old Testament; the New one hadn't been written yet. Proverbs 18:21 is probably where He got His teaching in Mathew 12:

Matthew 12:34 **O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

Vs. 35 **A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.**

Vs. 36 **But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

Vs. 37 **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**

Notice the emphasis on words "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" in verse 34. Then He breaks it down further in verse 35 by telling us that a good heart brings forth

good things and a bad heart brings forth bad things. It is in the heart where good or bad will dwell. And we are not talking about the muscle that pumps blood. We are talking about the inner man the spirit man; remember he is made in the image of God who is spirit. (See John 4:24) Man just happens to dwell temporarily in a physical body for now. James bears this out also:

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Vs. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Vs. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Vs. 13 Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Vs. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

Vs. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish.

Vs. 16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

Vs. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Vs. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

As explained above the spirit starts the whole idea rolling so if the spirit is bad, then bad ideas will come out. On the other hand, if the spirit has been united with the Spirit of God, now the new man's spirit will be putting forth good ideas for the most part. Yes, some bad ones will slip through occasionally but as one grows in the knowledge of God that too will become fewer and farther in between. So you can use the tongue (mouth) as a measurement of the condition of the heart. If only good is coming out then there is reason to believe that the condition of the heart is good and vice-versa.

Is there power in what we say?

As explained above, our words do have power, but not only in our lives but as they go out our words can either hurt or heal, bring love or hate to those who hear them.

There is ample proof in the Scriptures of Jesus getting on to the people about their speech as quoted above; but what would He think about us today? Every extra explicative that we include in our talking we will be held accountable for. Here's an example: instead of "Have a nice day." Some on the street say "Have a nice ***** day." (One's imagination can fill in

the *) Those extra words were not called for and are usually of a foul nature. But what the speaker of those words doesn't realize is the power for both himself and those he directed them to. They can be lethal! The Scriptures tell us at least twice to:

Matthew 5:37 **But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.**

James 5:12 **But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.**

Remember what we said above about what you sow you reap applies to our speech. Here is a somewhat graphic explanation of what is meant. Suppose you hit your thumb with a hammer and you yell out "oh crap." Well guess what is coming back to you: crap. That is what you sowed so that is what you will reap only it will be at least thirty fold. Now you might be a good person and this one bad thing happened to you to test you; but now at least thirty fold bad things are going to happen in your life.

This is an Immutable Law of God that He set in motion before creation and it is a law that He Himself lives by.

Is it a law of don't do this?

Well like all things with God there is a positive side to His Law. If you speak positive then positive things will happen not only to you but to those that you speak to. Remember what was said above about the power to create and heal; that too is within your abilities as a son of God created in His image and likeness. Jesus gave us the example of what to do in Matthew 5:

Matthew 5:39 **But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.**

Notice that He didn't say to go ahead and curse the guy for slapping you; which is the natural reaction; or just slug him back. But the real gem comes to us in verse 44 when He says:

Vs. 44 **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

That's right. You have the power to bless everyone just as Jesus Himself had. You have the power to do good just by speaking it into existence.

Word of caution: this is not a name it and claim it thing. You cannot just speak a Mercedes Benz into existence in your driveway just because you want one. This is about speaking blessing mainly for other people. If you are seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness then He will take care of all of your needs (Matthew 6:33).

This is a magnificent power that our creator has bestowed on us if we will use it. Imagine to have the power to bless, to cause people to be brought into a positive light, healed in

spirit, emotion, and body all by us just speaking simple words to them. That is ours right now if we will take it up and use it. It is also our responsibility as members of His family.

A Warning from Paul

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul exhorts them to only speak for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:29 **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,** but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Vs. 30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God,** whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Notice that this is also tied with grieving the Holy Spirit. When we cause someone to stumble in the least manner with our speaking we grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Vs. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

Vs. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Vs. 4 Neither **filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient:** but rather giving of thanks.

Vs. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, **nor covetous man,** who is an idolater, **hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

A filthy mouth, foolish talking, jesting, idle talking and alike have no inheritance in the Kingdom of God and His Christ. Walk in love (vs. 1-2) and you will walk in His Kingdom.

Start now to develop the habit that in all circumstances to bless and speak positive regardless of what might have happened. Even the most negative thing that happens is an event that is just one step closer to God's Kingdom so there is a positive side to everything.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think **(and speak)** on these things.

May God richly bless you.

Sources

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