

The Power of the Tongue

Words are powerful! God created the world with his words.

Genesis 1:3

And God said, "Let there be light, and there was light."

Psalm 33:6

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33:9

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Romans 4:17b-24

The God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Our words, also, have the power to create and bring about life and substance when they are spoken in faith.

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

John 6:63b

"The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

Matthew 17:20b-21

"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Mark 11:22-26

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

James 3:2b-10

If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

John 15:7

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

The Bible tells us to pay attention to God's words, to meditate on them day and night, and guard them in our hearts. It tells us they are life and health!

Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Jesus himself says that we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

We need to guard our words because they have consequences. Every word we speak should line up to the word of God.

Matthew 12:36-37

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Numbers 14:17

"Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared."

Numbers 14:28

So tell them, as surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say.

We need to guard our words because they have consequences. Every word we speak should line up to the word of God. (cont.)

Isaiah 44:26a

(I am the LORD) who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers.

Luke 1:38a (After the angel told her she would bear a child)

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Psalms 59:12-13a

For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, let them be caught in their pride. For the curses and lies they utter, consume them in wrath, consume them till they are no more.

God tells us that our words reflect what is truly in our hearts. If we speak forth ugly words there is ugliness in our heart, no matter what we tell ourselves.

Matthew 12:34-35

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

James 4:2b-3

You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Our words can bring about positive things, like healing, truth, and wisdom.

Proverbs 12:18-19

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Proverbs 15:4

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Luke 21:15

"For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict."

We are forgiven through our words of repentance. We must ask forgiveness for sins before our words can be heard by God.

Hosea 14:1-2

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips."

James 1:19-21

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

We must exercise control over our tongues. We have a choice in how we speak.

Psalm 17:3-4

Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin. As for the deeds of men—by the word of your lips I have kept myself from the ways of the violent.

Psalm 34:12-13

Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Psalm 52:1-4

Why do you boast of evil, you mighty man? Why do you boast all day long, you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God? Your tongue plots destruction; it is like a sharpened razor, you who practice deceit. You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth. You love every harmful word, O you deceitful tongue!

James 1:19b

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry for anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.