

Death and Life are in the Power of the Tongue.

I. Wisdom for our Words in the DMV and Everywhere else in Life!

A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

²The tongue of the wise commends knowledge,
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

³The eyes of the Lord are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

⁴A gentle (wholesome) tongue is a tree of life,
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit... Proverbs 15:1-4

...Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good,
and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

²¹The wise of heart is called discerning,
and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

²²Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it,
but the instruction of fools is folly.

²³The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious
and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

²⁴Gracious words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body..." Proverbs 16:20-24

1. Words are powerful!

There are six things that the Lord hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:

¹⁷haughty eyes, a *lying tongue*,

and hands that shed innocent blood,
¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,
¹⁹ *a false witness who breathes out lies,*
and one who sows discord among brothers. – Proverbs 6:16-19

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. - James 3:1-12

2. Words have an emotional toll.

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Gracious words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body..." Proverbs 16:24

"Adultery, for example, is perceived in most Bible-believing churches as a serious sin. And it is. But I have never seen adultery send a whole church into meltdown. Gossip, by contrast, is often perceived as a little sin. But it destroys churches."¹

"A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back." – Proverbs 29:11

"It can make the head throb, blood boil, and the adrenaline rush. The tongue can turn into a weapon of mass destruction."²

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, *but only* such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. – Ephesians 4:29-30

⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. – James 3:7-10

¹ Ray Ortlund, Jr.

² Alexander Strauch

3. God's Words are why we have a future.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for

"All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you. – 1 Peter 1:22-25

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." – 1 John 1:8-9

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II. The Word Changing our Words

1. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth.
2. Consider one another to encourage one another.
3. Season your speech. Maybe you shouldn't "just speak your mind."
4. Leave someone better than you found them...give gracious words.
5. People remember our words, all of them. Choose words wisely.

