

## Power of the Tongue

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, Prov 18:21

### Power of the tongue

- Pro 18:21
- Creative force in our lives:
  - Gen 1:1,3 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...Then God said ‘Let there be light; and there was light.’”
  - John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
  - John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - Job 22:28 You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways. Job 22:28
- Mt. 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
- James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.
- James 3:8-10 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.
- Job 6:24 “Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.” How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove?

### What the tongue reveals

- The maturity and character of a person
  - Mt. 15:11 “Not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man, but what goes out.”
  - Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”
- The heart of a person
  - Mt. 12:34 “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”
  - Mt. 15:18 “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.”

### God’s instruction concerning the tongue

- Making sure we can speak in peace Eph 4:29-32 “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

- Making sure our hearts are right before speaking: Col 3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth
- Puts ourselves in right perspective before the Lord: Ps 39:1-4 I said, ‘I will guard my way lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me. I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; and my sorrow was stirred up. My heart was hot within me; While I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue; Lord make me to know my end and what is the measure of my days that I may know how frail I am.’”

### **Promises of holding our tongue**

- Abiding in Him Ps 15:1-5 v. Who may abide in Your tabernacle?
  - V.2 Speaks truth in his heart
  - V. 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue
  - V.3 Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend
- Life and seeing good; positive attitude: Ps 34:12 Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.
- Peace with men: James 3:18 “Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
  - Titus 2:6-8 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
  - James 5:9-11 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
- The eyes of the Lord will be upon us: 1 Peter 3:10-12: He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. **For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers;** But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
- Wisdom: Pro 10:19 “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”

- Answered prayer and walking in a spirit of reconciliation and healing: Isaiah 58:9-14  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul. Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, and Restorer of Streets to Dwell in.
  
- Self-control: James 3:2 If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body
  - PS 32:9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule which have no understanding which must be harnessed with bit and bridle else they will not come near you. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, righteous. And shout for joy, all you upright in heart.