

Notes from

## Victorious Vocabulary

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In our speaking, what is common to us as Believers is uncommon to others. We use words such as fellowheirs, Corinthians, Colossians and manifestation. These are biblical words that are common to us that other people do not use. God has made us victorious in Christ and our words should reflect that.

Vocabulary of victory is speaking the Word, sharing thoughts according to the Word, not words of defeat and desperation.

I Timothy 2:4

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Not only to be saved but come unto a knowledge of the truth. That means we must retemorize, practice, live and believe the Word. We are to renew our minds and in order to do so read

Romans 12:1 & 2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service,  
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

In the context of the Renewed Mind look at verse: 14:

Romans 12:14

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

The word 'bless' means to give a good word, speak well about. 'Curse' is to speak evil about. I can speak in favor of or against. What is the Word? Bless.

It is up to me to decide. This is a good thing and a bad. Good because the choice is up to me, bad because the choice is up to me. This is an advantage because it is free will, and a disadvantage because it is free will. It is a great responsibility to do the right thing. It would be nice if when we were born again that only good words would come out of our mouths. However, the good words are up to our free will, yet we have help, God can guide us.

It is a privilege and a right but a responsibility and a duty. We must make the decision to do the Word, to speak God's way. Part of the transforming of ourselves is controlling the words that come from our mouths.

Ephesians 4:22 – 25

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts:

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;  
And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

It is our option to lie or speak the truth. It is our choice. We are in charge of our thinking and speaking.

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.

It is still our decision to **let** no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouths. When a person is born again and puts on the Word and renews his mind his language changes. He speaks truth; he speaks the right Word. The word doesn't say that renewing the mind and speaking the truth is easy. In fact it guarantees that controlling the tongue is not easy. But a son of God should endeavor to edify and minister grace unto the hearers.

These verses in Romans and Ephesians are not written at the beginning of the books. They are after the presentation and foundation of who we are in Christ and what God has accomplished for us. It is not feasible to control our tongues unless we know who we are and what God has done. Ephesians 4:29 is written in the practical section along with things that we can do to help us renew our minds. We are the ones that must control our minds, not someone else.

The word 'corrupt' in Ephesians 4:29 is *sapros* in the Greek meaning bad, rotten, putrid. It is mainly used of vegetable or animal matter that has spoiled, gone bad.

Matthew 13:47 & 48

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

They threw away the fish that would be bad for your health—not fit for human consumption. Have you ever smelled rotten fish? Not willingly I imagine.

Words carry the same response. Rotten words are repulsive; you do not want to be around them. You want to throw them away; they are not fit for human consumption. So, as you would not give bad fish to people, don't put out words that are rotten, corrupt, not fit for human consumption.

Luke 6:43

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Bishop K.C. Pillai explains that the tree is our thoughts and fruit, the results of our thoughts, are words.

Luke 6:44 & 45

For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

A man's good treasure is his stored thoughts, those he finds good enough to store. Not all thoughts are stored, only good ones, ones according to the Word. If we are to not let rotten words come from our mouths, we must not store rotten thoughts.

Have you heard the phrase: "Stick and stones may brake my bones but words will never hurt me." This is not what God's Word says.

Matthew 15:10-19

:10 And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

:11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

:16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

:17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

There are three categories in this last verse

Thoughts

evil thoughts

Actions

murder

adulteries

fornication

thefts

Speech

false witness

blasphemies

Jesus Christ gave great importance to not only action but also the thoughts and words of man. "Think before you speak." We need to think the Word before we speak. Put the Word on so we can control our thoughts and vocabulary: quality control.

An analogy:

In a manufacturing plant there are several steps necessary to manufacture a quality product.

1. High quality raw material
2. A good location to store it in to maintain its quality
3. Process the material well
4. Ship the product carefully
5. Sell the product in the best location

If any one process goes wrong it will compromise the quality of the product. For instance if in step 1 the raw material is inadequate we must stop and correct it, get new material, whatever it takes.

If our thoughts are not with God our speech will not be Godly. We must stop, renew our minds and then speak worthy words, quality words. In the manufacturing example it doesn't matter if we have the best processing and storage facilities, if the raw material is bad the final product will not be good.

When we speak it is what people take home from our store. There are no refunds, exchanges or replacements. Once the words have been given all sales are final. Everything starts with the raw material. When material is received it is to be examined to see if it is any good and receive the seal of approval. Does it deserve to be stored in the warehouse of our heart?

Consider Proverbs 4:20 & 24

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Froward is defined by crooked and distorted, not physically but it is a figure of speech. Perverse lips mean words that have departed from that which is right.

How are we to circumvent perverse lips and a froward mouth? Guard our heart. Use the Word of God as our raw material the standard. The Word itself is also quality control.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Our speech is the result of our thoughts, so what should we think?

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 on these things.

[True](#) [Honest](#) [Just](#) [Pure](#) [Lovely](#) [Good Report](#) [Virtue](#) [Praise](#)

Note that this is a reproof epistle following Ephesians, which taught Christ's accomplishments, and because of him we can walk worthy. We can think on the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and that have virtue and praise, all because of the new man we are putting on. Ephesians deals primarily with the actions of the Believer: stealing, drunkenness, obedience, etc. Ephesians doesn't talk about thoughts; it is understood that thoughts must be controlled first.

Philippians is a reproof epistle for those not following the doctrine in Ephesians. It is for those who need to change their thinking back to the Word so they can get back to doing the doctrine laid down in Ephesians. Reproof deals with the cause, not the symptom. The cause is incorrect thinking; the symptom is not doing the doctrine. The reproof is to change the thinking so the

actions, following the doctrine in Ephesians, will follow suit. Our actions and words are a result of the thoughts that we hold and guard in our hearts—whatever they may be. In the manufacturing example it is easier to fix a problem and the first process that it shows up in instead of later down the line. It is easier to feed ourselves the Word of God and hide that in our thoughts than to correct things when we have already spoken the damaging words.

Look back up to Philippians 4:8. We decide! Our speech and actions reveal our thoughts. We can know what to think and know what to speak. We can think on the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, that have virtue and praise. The following examines each item in this verse.

Whatsoever things are True

True is defined as open, true to fact, based on knowledge and truth, not false or concealed.

John 8:12 – 14

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

Jesus answered and said unto them, though I bear record of myself, *yet* my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Jesus Christ has knowledge based on the truth of God's Word. The Pharisees didn't have a basis for their words; they just didn't like Jesus Christ.

John 8:15 – 19

:15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

:16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

:18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

Think what is true do not guess or imagine or hint or entertain rumors. Speak the truth, not assumptions and guesses, likes and dislikes. When we are guessing don't speak it, reject it before it becomes stuck. The Pharisees here, out of their dislike for Jesus Christ and the power that He manifested which threatened them, were trying to discredit him. In the process they could not see the truth and the light of the world--Jesus Christ.

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Whatsoever things are Honest

Honest– honorable, dignified, to not be honorable or dignified hurts people and oneself.

The following is an example of a man of God walking by his five senses and his words had a very real potential to cause harm.

I Samuel 1:1 - 13

:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

:2 And he had two wives; the name of the one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, *were* there.

:4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the Lord had shut up her womb.

:6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb.

:7 And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

:8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?

:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord.

:10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.

:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

:12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth.

:13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

Eli, by just watching her and seeing her mouth move, thought that she had come in drunk. He relied on his sight to tell him what was going on.

I Samuel 1:14

And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

His words had the potential for destruction. She was very distraught and he comes up accusing her of being drunk.

:15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

But Hannah is very strong and she answered with dignity and respect not implying his error.

In the record following she is told that she would conceive, God performs His promise and she bears a son. After she weans him she brings him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh.

I Samuel 1:24 – 27

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.

For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

She didn't say to Eli "remember me, I am the one you accused, see how wrong you were!" She didn't do that. She maintains her dignity and honor and honors Eli. People tend to remember the things that have caused hurt and pain; they tend to relive the pain. But Hannah was honest--honorable and dignified.

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Whatsoever things are just:

Sometimes our knowledge reveals dishonor and shame, but we shouldn't go around speaking it. Speak that which conforms itself to the Word.

Matthew 1:18 & 19

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Joseph knew the facts, Mary was pregnant and they had not even come together yet. Now Joseph was a just man and wanted to do that which is right. He handled the information the right way, not making Mary a public example, stoning her in the streets. As a result:

Matthew 1:20

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Later on, others that knew the same facts tried to speak unjustly and destroy Jesus Christ by speaking those facts.

John 8:41 & 48

Ye do the deeds of you father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God.

Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and has a devil?

They have said three things that are not true—born of fornication, a Samaritan and have a devil. Their words are not just.

Joseph was involved in the situation and his actions were honorable and just, the others were not involved in the birth of Jesus Christ and they tried to make him a public example.

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And whatsoever things are pure

Pure is synonymous with clean. It is the Word not added to or subtracted from. We need to base our thoughts on the purity of the Word. Do not entertain thoughts that are contrary to the Word. For instance: jokes about God or Jesus Christ would not be appropriate. Anything that defames God, Jesus Christ and the Word should be guarded against.

I John 3:1 & 2

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

See Him as He is. Hope purifies, not false words. Having pure words in our hearts allows pure thoughts and pure words.

Proverbs 15:26

The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the Lord: but *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant words.

Thoughts of purity produce pleasant words. If you remove the italicized words “*the words*” the figure of speech of omission is plain. The words omitted become emphasized. So, **the words** of the pure are pleasant words. (The words ‘are’ is italicized because there is no verb ‘to be’ in the Hebrew language so they must be added for clarity. The figure of speech pertains to the subject of the second part of the sentence.)

The words of the pure are a delight.

Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

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And whatsoever things are lovely

Lovely aims toward tenderness and affection, peace towards others, building friendships, amiable, kindly affectioned one to another. We cannot have this if our thoughts are not lovely.

I Kings 12:1-15

:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

:2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of *it*, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

:4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

:5 And he said unto them, Depart yet *for* three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

:6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

:8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, *and* which stood before him:

:9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

:10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father's loins.

:11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

:12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

:13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

:14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

:15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the Lord, that he might perform his saying, which the Lord spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Jeroboam spoke roughly without caring. His speech was not lovely but cruel.

Lovely doesn't mean the art of diplomacy; that is the ability to speak eloquently to get something out of people. Our speech needs to be lovely without trying to get something from someone, keep the unity and the bond of peace.

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Whatsoever things are of good report:

That which builds fame. Think of the things that build fame, not what would defame or destroy. What do you choose to believe? The natural tendency of man is to badmouth. When someone comes up to converse and he or she start talking good about someone we might agree, but are not too interested in pursuing the conversation further. However, if someone was to come up and talk bad about someone, defaming them and bringing out dirty laundry, the tendency is to be interested and the conversation would run longer. It is our challenge to remember the praise and discard the offenses. Lean our tendency toward a good report. Especially of the family of God, we are to speak their true colors: Christ in you the hope of glory. Called of God, righteous, justified, redeemed, sanctified with the ministry of reconciliation; this is who we are.

Luke 7:37 – 39

And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Jesus Christ knew who or what she was, just like the Pharisee, yet the way she is considered are different. The Pharisee magnifies that she is a sinner; Jesus sees her differently and forgave her sins.

Luke 7:40 – 50

And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.

:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.

:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

The Pharisee just accused Jesus (in his own mind) that if Jesus was a man of God (vs. 39) he would know she was a sinner. Well, he knew, Jesus forgave her her sins, and told her to go in peace. The Pharisees chose not to see this.

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If there be any virtue

Virtue—that which makes someone worthy.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

If God did this, who am I to think anything less of God's people? God has said this of everyone.

I Peter 1:18 – 23

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:  
:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,  
:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.  
:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

Love with the love of God with a pure heart fervently.

:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Recognize the redemption in our brothers and sister in Christ. The world looks to the worth of an individual—their money and works. Our worth is determined by the Word. It is a far greater treasurer than any earthly corruptible treasure this world has to offer.

II Corinthians 10:7

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's let him of himself think this again, that, as he *is* Christ's, even so *are we* Christ's.

When we focus on our outward appearance our thoughts won't be right and our words will not be virtuous.

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If there be any praise:

Praise—an outward manifestation of approval—clapping.

This word praise is not used of men but of God. It is praise for spiritual reasons.

Philippians 1:11

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

1 Peter 1:7

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

We decide to think things that are the truth, honorable, just, pure, lovely, of good report with virtue and praise. If there is anything worth praising—speak up.

Proverbs 16:23

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

If our thoughts line up with the Word our words will bring grace to the hearer, for our heart teaches our mouth.

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.

What is the use of the words from our mouths? They are to edify, build up and benefit others. Let our words be good to edify in the specific situation. Let them be good to benefit others according to the need of the moment. Our words are to be the kind that minister grace unto the hearer. This also encompasses the goal of the words. If the words are pleasant and the goal is corrupt it is corrupt communication.

II Corinthians 10:8

For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

The goal of Paul's words was to edify, not tear down, belittle or defame.

II Corinthians 13:10

Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification and not to destruction.

Our responsibility is to walk in the Word and to edify, not destroy.

Have you noticed that it is easier to demolish a building than it is to build it? It may take months to construct a building but only a few minutes to destroy it. The world destroys, our words can build. As children of God our words should bless and help. We speak out of the abundance of the heart; make that abundance the Word of God.

James 3:3 - 6

Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

The consequences of a spoken, ill-conceived thought can be devastating. It is set on fire of hell.

James 3:7 & 8

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Not being able to tame the tongue is not an excuse to hurt with it, that is out of context. The context is what can be tamed of mankind. Man, according to his natural ability and wisdom cannot tame the tongue. Man cannot, of himself tame the tongue, but God's Word can! We can let the Word of God dwell in our hearts and lives and that will guide the words that issue forth.

James 3:9 - 12

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

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

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

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

What you speak is a reflection of what is in your heart. You cannot have blessings and cursings in your heart at the same time. You cannot be bitter and sweet.

Proverbs 16:23 & 24

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

When the Word of God is in our hearts our words will be sweet and health giving.

What are words that bless and words that curse? Is it four-letter-words, dirty jokes, sex? It is bigger than that. What is a blessing are words that bring edification. What is important is controlling the vocabulary so we don't say things which destroy, but only that which builds. Speak words that edify and take care of a specific need. Man doesn't set the standard of corrupt communication; we must go to the Word to learn what it teaches.

### **Some categories of corrupt communication:**

[Blasphemies](#), [Murmuring](#), [Lying](#), [Filthiness](#), [Foolish Talking](#), [Jesting](#)

### Blasphemies

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Blasphemies—corrupt communications. What is the Words interpretation? Blasphemy is speaking against God or things of God. Speaking stupid or injurious things against God and the things of God. Statements like “God took his life,” “God sent the sickness to teach a lesson,” “God needed another rose petal in heaven,” all are contrary to God's matchless Word and are blasphemies. If God was human He could sue for character defamation.

Matthew 15:15 – 20

:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable

:16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

:17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

:20 These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

If the heart contains doctrine contrary to the Word, even if the person praises God the words he will speak will be contrary to the Word.

II Timothy 6:3 & 4

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Railings is the word blasphemies.

II Peter 2:1 & 2

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

The words “evil spoken of” is blasphemy. False prophets teach the Word falsely. Then those people say things of God that do not show His true nature. False teachers and prophets cause people to speak blasphemous words, and then they are condoned by the world.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Some people believe that “saved by grace” is blasphemy but they blaspheme not recognizing and speaking the truth.

Mark 15:27 – 32

:27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

:28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

:29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days,

:30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

:31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

:32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

To mock or make fun of is in the category of blasphemy.

Acts 18:5, 6

And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus was* Christ.

And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook *his* raiment, and said unto them, Your blood *be* upon your own heads; I *am* clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

I Peter 4:1 – 5

:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

:2 That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

:3 For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:

:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

Blasphemy is also speaking against those that stand on the Word of God.

I Peter 4:15 & 16

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Do not be concerned with what others say or think about us.

It is important to note what book scriptures are located in. The exhortation in Ephesians is:

Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

The correction in Colossians is:

Colossians 3:1, 2 & 8

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Controlling the vocabulary in your heart and your focus will allow us to control our actions. In Ephesians we “Let all ... be put away from you...” in Colossians “But now ye also put off all these...” It takes more of a conscience effort if the doctrine is not followed from the start.

Even jokes about Jesus Christ and God are slander, don't allow it. Someone asked Edgar Ibarra, “May I tell you a joke about Jesus Christ?” and he replied, “May I tell you a joke about your mother?” Don't allow it!

It is possible to depart to the point of blasphemy. It is important to keep your heart with all diligence.

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### Murmurings

From the Word we learn that murmuring is the Greek word *taluwnah* which is derived from the word *luwn* or *liyn* meaning ‘to pass the night, to tarry, dwell’ and also obstinate/stubborn. So a concise meaning would be to dwell and continue in an obstinate way, dwell in stubbornness. The result is speaking out in indignation, not necessarily behind someone’s back. Murmuring is to show indignation and complain without biblical reason. Sometimes we must complain for various reasons Not all complaining is murmuring, sometimes it can be necessary. Murmuring is a result of being unfaithful to God’s Word—a lack of recognition of God and thankfulness.

Israel is a good example of murmuring and complaining.

Exodus 15:22

So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

God has already shown them great power. The plagues on Egypt didn’t affect them, just the God rejecting Egyptians. When they left Egypt they left wealthy and God guided them and protected them from the Egyptian army with only one man raising a hand and that was Moses. He did that to part the waters of the Red Sea, which is an awesome visual manifestation of God’s power in itself!

Exodus 15:23 & 24

And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

God has done so much for them and has promised them deliverance that they have no real biblical reason to murmur. They could have said, “Moses, what are we going to do now? We know God is wonderful, could you ask Him for water?” Yet they murmured without believing God. Moses, out of his commitment to God, goes to Him.

Exodus 15:25 & 26

And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, *which* when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the Lord that healeth thee.

That was a temporary fix; God leads them to Elim where there are 12 wells of water.

They have not believed God in so long that they have forgotten how. It doesn’t take long before they start murmuring again instead of asking Moses to ask God for something.

Exodus 16:1-3

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which *is* between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

They did not recognize God's goodness and His ability to provide but complained. Next we see God, out of His great goodness and love for His people, take care of them, in a grand way.

Exodus 16:4-8

:4 Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

:5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare *that* which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

:6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:

:7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what *are* we, that ye murmur against us?

:8 And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what *are* we? your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the Lord.

They not only murmured against Moses, but against God also, it got really bad.

Exodus 16:9-20

:9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: for he hath heard your murmurings.

:10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

:11 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

:12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that *I am* the Lord your God.

:13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

:14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness *there lay* a small round thing, *as* small as the hoar frost on the ground.

:15 And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, *It is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, *This is* the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.

:16 This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, *according to* the number of your persons; take ye every man for *them* which *are* in his tents.

:17 And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

:18 And when they did mete *it* with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

:19 And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

:20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

Moses was mad because they didn't follow God's instructions. They are still unbelieving.

Ex 16:21-27

:21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

:22 And it came to pass, *that* on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one *man*: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

:23 And he said unto them, This *is that* which the Lord hath said, To morrow *is* the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake *that* which ye will bake *to day*, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

:24 And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

:25 And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day *is* a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field.

:26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, *which is* the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

:27 And it came to pass, *that* there went out *some* of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

Some still have trouble believing. That is the way of people.

Exodus 17:1-3

And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and *there was* no water for the people to drink.

Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the Lord?

And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Here they are murmuring instead of believing God again. God led them here, God would not let them perish, He has plans.

Exodus 17:4 - 6

And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

The people of Israel had not hid the Word of God in their hearts. Consequently they fell into murmuring rather easily. They even complained about the abundance God gave them.

Numbers 11:6

But now our soul *is* dried away: *there is* nothing at all, beside this manna, *before* our eyes.

The word dried means to lose vital, life giving strength. Yet the manna is what has been sustaining them.

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

That which was drying their bones was their attitude.

Psalms 1:1 - 3

Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Believing God causes vitality. It was not the manna that was drying their bones, it was their attitude of unbelief.

Numbers 21:4 & 5

And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for *there is* no bread, neither *is there any* water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

The word loatheth is the Hebrew word *quwts* and the sound of the word is graphic like 'belch' sounds like the action or 'meow' sounds like a cat. This is the figure of speech onomatopoeia. The word *quwts* sounds like vomiting. The Israelites attitude toward the manna was that their soul vomits—*quwts* because of this light bread. With this attitude it is no wonder they dried up.

Numbers 11:6 & 7

But now our soul *is* dried away: *there is* nothing at all, beside this manna, *before* our eyes.

The people chose what they wanted to see—they did not choose God's gifts and abundance.

Numbers 11:7 - 10

:7 And the manna *was* as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.

:8 *And* the people went about, and gathered *it*, and ground *it* in mills, or beat *it* in a mortar, and baked *it* in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

:9 And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.

:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

God has caused the abundance and now the people were weeping.

Number 11:11

And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

Moses has a right to complain. God has totally taken care of His people and Moses, always providing water and food for which they did not have to work for, just go out and gather it up. And the people seem never to be satisfied.

Numbers 11:12 - 20

:12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

:13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

:14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because *it is* too heavy for me.

:15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which *is* upon thee, and will put *it* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear *it* not thyself alone.

:18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for *it was* well with us in Egypt: therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

:19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;

:20 *But* even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the Lord which *is* among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

The children of Israel had despised the Lord. God kept His promise of taking care of them, but again, they will murmur.

Even leadership succumbed to murmuring.

Numbers 12:1 - 8

:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

:2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard *it*.

:3 (Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)

:4 And the Lord spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

:5 And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

:6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, *I* the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, *and* will speak unto him in a dream.

:7 My servant Moses *is* not so, who *is* faithful in all mine house.

:8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

God confronted them for speaking against the Man of God—Moses. God speaks with him and God would have reproved Moses if marrying the Ethiopian woman wasn't the best.

The children of Israel didn't have a very good opinion of themselves, let alone the power of God. In Numbers 13:1 – 33 God has Moses send one person from every tribe to spy into the land of Canaan. They were to bring back a report regarding the people of the land, if they were weak or strong; if the land itself is good or bad; the kinds of cities, if tents or strongholds; and the land, if it is fat or lean.

The report that they brought back was that the land flowed with milk and honey—food in abundance that required little or no work. Caleb suggested they go immediately, but, they were afraid for they thought the people were stronger than they were.

Numbers 13:32, 33

And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Their opinion of themselves were that they were like grasshoppers compared to the inhabitants. So, here we go again:

Numbers 14:1 – 10

:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

:3 And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

:4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

:6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

:7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, *is* an exceeding good land.

:8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

:9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord *is* with us: fear them not.

:10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

:11 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

With God they could have the land but the people looked only at themselves and their own weaknesses and could not see the goodness and power of God. They murmured. It was their decision to believe whether the inhabitants were as bread, or whether they themselves were like grasshoppers.

Numbers 14:26 & 27

And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,  
How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Murmuring has become a disease among the people, God says murmur three times in this last verse.

The people began by having a negative thought about their circumstances, then they didn't control it and then they started to murmur. Murmurings poison believing and trust in God.

The following is a synopsis of Exodus:

Ps 106:1 – 25

:1 Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

:2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? *who* can shew forth all his praise?

:3 Blessed *are* they that keep judgment, *and* he that doeth righteousness at all times.

:4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favour *that thou bearest unto* thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;

:5 That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

:6 We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

:7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked *him* at the sea, *even* at the Red sea.

:8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

:9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

:10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated *them*, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

:11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.

:12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

:13 They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

:14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

:15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

:16 They envied Moses also in the camp, *and* Aaron the saint of the Lord.

:17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.

:18 And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

:19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.

:20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.

:21 They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

:22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, *and* terrible things by the Red sea.

- :23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy *them*.  
:24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:  
:25 But murmured in their tents, *and* hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.

God showed the people many mighty acts that are so wonderful that it is hard to speak them all. Yet, the people murmured in their tents at night, while their family was gathered around. Instead of recognizing the goodness and grace of God they were unbelieving—it was their freewill decision. Because of their unbelief that generation, except for the spies that believed God, all died (except Caleb and Joshua the two believing spys) before reaching the promised land. Their children did believe and God went before them into Canaan and they inhabited the land flowing with milk and honey.

God tells us in I Corinthians 10 why those records were written in the Old Testament.

I Corinthians 10:1 – 12

- :1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;  
:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;  
:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;  
:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.  
:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.  
:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.  
:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.  
:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.  
:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.  
:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.  
:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.  
:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

All of this is written to us as examples. Let us not say “how could they have done that,” but it is written as a warning—it could still happen to us. We must take care so we do not stop loving and being thankful and faithful—keep standing by taking heed lest we fall (to go from a high place to a low place). The high place is God’s Word. Learn it and keep it so we don’t fall into the low places of idolatry and fornication. The people were brought down because they murmured. Don’t forget and begin murmuring. The children did not take responsibility for their actions but blamed God and His men and paid the consequences.

Corinthians is a reproof epistle following Romans where we learn of grace and sonship with God. The Corinthians were not believing the grace and sonship taught in Romans.

I Corinthians 1:1 – 11

:1 Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother,  
 :2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:  
 :3 Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.  
 :4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;  
 :5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge;  
 :6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:  
 :7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
 :8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 :9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 :10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.  
 :11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

Contentions lead to murmuring—take heed!

I Corinthians 3:1 – 3

:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.  
 :2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.  
 :3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

This always ends in murmuring.

I Corinthians 4:5 & 6

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and *to* Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

Being puffed one against another leads to murmuring. Take care! If we don't these things will sleep with us at night in our beds.

The following is other references to murmuring in the Word:

Luke 5:25-32	Luke 19:1-10
Luke 15:1-32	Matthew 20:1-15

Philippians is also a reproof epistle to Ephesians.

Philippians 2:12 - 18

:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

:18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Without murmuring there is joy and rejoicing . We already must deal with unbelief and murmuring in the world. But, we are sons of God, what do we have to murmur about—we have eternal life. We shine as lights in the world and speaking the Word brings grace to the hearers.

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## Lying

What does God's Word say about the cause, the action and the remedy?

The Greek word for lying is *bseldos*—false, opposite of telling the truth.

We must know what is true, we must become familiar with the genuine in order to tell the difference between the truth and a lie.

John 7:7

The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

The Word is true, every other thing is false. The Word is true—consider a lie against the truth. Man's religion has taught lies as truth.

Titus 1:1 & 2

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

God cannot lie!

John 8:44

Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The devil is the father of lies.

Consider the actions and words of Samuel and what God has him do.

I Samuel 16:1 –5

:5 And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

:2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord.

:3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

:4 And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

:5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

Samuel did what God told him to do, he did not give up all the information. He didn't have to let everyone know what he was doing. Withholding information is doing the Word of the Lord. Do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing. **Do not let evil know what the righteous are doing.**

II Kings 20:12 – 18

:12 At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

:13 And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and *all* the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

:14 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, *even* from Babylon.

:15 And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All *the things* that *are* in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

:16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord.

:17 Behold, the days come, that all that *is* in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.

:18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Hezekiah did a stupid thing. He was not required to be 'honest' at this time, he didn't have to show the king of Babylon everything. Hiding things is not always bad. Don't let the left hand see what the right hand is doing. Do not let evil see what the righteous are doing.

The next account is of King Jehu who God called to be king over Israel. God told him to rid the land of all of Ahab's influences (who did evil in the sight of the Lord), his sons and followers and idols and also of the effects of Jezebel, his mother and her witchcrafts.

II Kings 10:18 – 28

:18 And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; *but* Jehu shall serve him much.

:19 Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice *to do* to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did *it* in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal.

:20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed *it*.

:21 And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another.

:22 And he said unto him that *was* over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments.

:23 And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the Lord, but the worshippers of Baal only.

:24 And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu appointed fourscore men without, and said, *If* any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, *he that letteth him go*, his life *shall be* for the life of him.

:25 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, *and* slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast *them* out, and went to the city of the house of Baal.

:26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.

:27 And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.

:28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

The god Baal was the lie that must be destroyed. Was Jehu sinning by destroying the enemy? God told Jehu to destroy all of the followers of Baal, God wanted those people destroyed. Jehu was doing the Word of God by entrapping those idolaters and destroying them.

We must be wise, be smart in the things of God and do the Word even if it is against the world's 'morals or ethics'. The Word is true—our standard. We don't have to tell everyone everything.

Matthew 10:16

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Our standard is the Word and the Word is truth.

You see many times what people think pleases God angers Him and what pleases God people think angers Him.

The Standard:

Eph 4:22 – 25

:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians is written to faithful Believers and God still had to tell them to put away lying.

Colossians 3:8 – 11

:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

Christ is in us—do not lie to each other. Speak the truth to Believers, give them the Word of God do not deceive.

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech *be* alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

II Corinthians 2:17

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

Paul does not corrupt the Word which means to adulterate—like a tavern keeper watering the drinks. We must make sure we quote exactly the Word of God and speak its accuracy.

Ephesians 4:31 & 32

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Bitterness, wrath and anger are in our minds. Clamour is an uproar against people. Evil speaking is blasphemies against God. We must handle these when they come up or we will manifest malice and be ready to do evil. Be kind and forgiving.

The right way:

Ephesians 5:1 – 3

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

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.

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

Do not even mention fornication, uncleanness or covetousness, but walk in love; followers of God.

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### Filthiness

Ephesians 5:3 & 4

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

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

Filthiness: obscene things that cause shame. Refrain from obscene words that cause other to be ashamed. This does not mean to never use obscene '4-letter-words,' but consider the context. Do not use them when it causes shame or is offensive. It is not so much the words themselves that cause the offense but it is when they are used in any particular situation/culture/area.

### Foolish Talking

Foolish talking is stupid senseless things—you have a mouth and you just have to use instead of seeking to speak that which is edifying. It is making noise just to hear your gums flap.

### Jesting

Literally, jesting is used to denote the quick and varied movements of monkeys. Regarding language, it is a quick answer—a double meaning with a shameful answer, making fun of people, sarcasm.

These three, filthiness, foolish talking and jesting are not convenient, they do not edify.

Ephesians 5:6 – 20

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

:13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Give thanks! Endeavor to bless with words and deeds, edify others.

Isaiah 55:8 & 9

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's thoughts are not ours. God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours. Even though His thoughts and ways are higher than ours, He is not saying they are beyond our capacity to do. We can grow into the knowledge of His Word and Will. We can learn his way and Word so our thoughts become closer to his thoughts and our ways closer to His ways.

I Corinthians 13:9 – 13

:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

Not one of us knows everything but we can love people with the love of God and bless them.

In the gospels God gave Joseph revelation about Mary, Jesus' mother, after he decided to handle the situation quietly without causing shame according to the Word. He was given the knowledge and wisdom because he acted rightly.

Sometimes we think we are so good at what we do, maybe so but keep it in perspective:

Job 38:1 – 12

:1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

:2 Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

:8 Or *who* shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, *as if* it had issued out of the womb?

:9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

:10 And brake up for it my decreed *place*, and set bars and doors,

:11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

:12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; *and* caused the dayspring to know his place;

All of this is beyond human capacity, we were not here when God made the earth and measured it out making the dry land. We did not stop the rain when it had covered the earth. Do we control the morning and when it will come?

Job 40:1 – 9

:1 Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said,

:2 Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct *him*? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

:3 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

:4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

:5 Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

:6 Then answered the Lord unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

:7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

:8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?

:9 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

We are weak, God is the strength, He is the one with the power.

Job 42:1 - 5

:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

:2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

:3 Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

:4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

:6 Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

God is wonderful, we are learning. Be humble, give God the glory for it is His strength and power that puts us where we are today.

Consider a record in Luke in regards to priorities.

Luke 12:1 – 32

:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

[Jesus is speaking only to the disciples in the multitude]

:2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

:3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

:4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

:8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:  
 :9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.  
 :10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.  
 :11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and *unto* magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:  
 :12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.  
 :13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. [Now he is speaking to one in the company]  
 :14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

We are not here to be judges and dividers. We are here to teach, preach, evangelize, pastor and reconcile people back to God. We are here to edify and bring people the Word. To be concerned with ones material things over the things of God messes up the priorities.

:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.  
 :16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:  
 :17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?  
 :18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.  
 :19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry.  
 :20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?  
 :21 So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.  
 :22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.  
 :23 The life is more than meat, and the body *is more* than raiment.  
 :24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?  
 :25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?  
 :26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?  
 :27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.  
 :28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith?  
 :29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.  
 :30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.  
 :31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.  
 :32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

### What to Speak

Proverbs is written to kings and Solomon, David's son. The word proverb is *mashal* in Hebrew meaning to govern or rule. Proverbs are words to help govern or rule life.

Proverbs 1:1 – 5

- :1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;
- :2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;
- :3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;
- :4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
- :5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

God wants to teach us knowledge and understanding

Proverbs 2:1 – 5

- :1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
- :2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;
- :3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;
- :4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;
- :5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 5:1 & 2

- My son, attend unto my wisdom, *and* bow thine ear to my understanding:
- That thou mayest regard discretion, and *that* thy lips may keep knowledge.

Lips and mouth are figures of speech putting importance on our words. Our words should communicate knowledge of the Word by attending unto the wisdom of God's Word and let that knowledge keep or guard your mouth.

Verse 2 can be literally rendered:

- The wisdom of God and understanding of God may keep a guard in your mouth.

Many places in Proverbs speak about speaking.

Proverbs 10:11 – 14

- :11 The mouth of a righteous *man is* a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.
- :12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
- :13 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod *is* for the back of him that is void of understanding.
- :14 Wise *men* lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish *is* near destruction.

The mouth can be a well of life. The lips that have understanding will be found. The wise lay up knowledge.

Proverbs 10:18 & 19

- He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.
- In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.

Sometimes the wise thing to say is nothing. We need more teachings on how to stay quiet.

Proverbs 10:31 & 32

- The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked *speaketh* frowardness.

Proverbs 11:12 & 13

He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

No gossiping!

Proverbs 12:16

A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent *man* covereth shame.

Our speech can show our foolishness shortly.

Proverbs 12:18

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise *is* health.

Heal don't hurt.

Proverbs 12:25

Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

Consider the words that you speak, they are very important.

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 14:17 & 29

*He that is* soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

*He that is* slow to wrath *is* of great understanding: but *he that is* hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Be at peace.

Proverbs 16:32

*He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Ok, so which one is more difficult, ruling the spirit or taking a city? I image the ruling of our own spirit (will).

Proverbs 19:11

The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression.

Proverbs 25:28

He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without walls.

We need to rule our own lives or anyone can come in rule it for us.

Proverbs 26:17

He that passeth by, *and* meddleth with strife *belonging* not to him, *is like* one that taketh a dog by the ears.

Do not get involved in problems that don't belong to us, no meddling, let it pass.

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Shouting doesn't give us any more authority. Firm words with a soft voice are very valuable. Some people who are unsure of their words will shout to add validity.

Proverbs 15:2, 4 & 7

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish *doeth* not so.

The word disperse is like spreading seeds. When a farm scatters seeds he broadcasts them abundantly over a large area.

Proverbs 15:28

The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

Words are valuable, consider them that way, hold them precious.

Proverbs 17:27

He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Spareth can be defined as saves. Saving ones words is to speak judiciously, not rattle on about everything.

Proverbs 18:6 – 8, 13

A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it*, *it is* folly and shame unto him.

Listen and answer with wisdom.

Proverbs 21:20

*There is* treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

Speak words worthy of jewels, appreciate wise words.

How to keep our souls (lives) from trouble:

Proverbs 21:23

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

The word 'keep' means: to keep, guard, observe or give heed. Guard the mouth, keeping an eye on what you say also guards your soul, preventing trouble.

Proverbs 22:17 & 18

Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

For *it is* a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

“Bow down thine ear” is to put attention to. Put attention to what, the words of the wise. Applying the heart to knowledge takes effort. Then it is pleasant to have the wise words within, then they shall be on our lips. Hear—See—Keep—Manifest.

Proverbs 22:20 & 21

Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,  
That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

Proverbs 15:23

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*

A word spoken in due season, how wonderful it is to be able to say the right thing at the right time.

Proverbs 25:11

A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

The words are like very valuable unique jewelry—rare.

Proverbs 25:20

*As* he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, *and as* vinegar upon nitre, so *is* he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

Nitre is a special soap that is very good but when it is mixed with vinegar it doesn't work any more. Nitre and vinegar are good by themselves but they do not work together.

We need to be masters of speaking the correct words; our example is Jesus Christ. Study the *logos*, the whole word. Know the *rhema*, the specific words. We can see that through the gospels Jesus Christ knew the *rhema*. We can have the *rhema* also and say the right word at the right time.

John 3:34

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*.

In this verse words that Christ spoke are *rhema*, the specific words. The person that God sends speaks the specific words, *rhema*, of God.

Luke 7:36 – 50

:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.

:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.

:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Jesus Christ knew the *logos* the whole word. He had the wisdom and knowledge to speak the *rhema* the specific words at the right time.

Another example:

Mark 8:31 – 33

:33 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Matthew 15:1 – 3

:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Jesus Christ answered a question with a question, now he is in charge.

Luke 12:13 & 14

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

Here Jesus Christ's priority is not to judge, he didn't come to judge. The answers Jesus Christ gave addressed the problem, not merely directed at the symptom.

Luke 20:19 – 21

:19 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

:20 And they watched *him*, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

:21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person *of any*, but teachest the way of God truly:

It is true what they are saying, but they are using the truth deceitfully; they are lying.

Luke 20:22 – 26

:22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

:23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

:24 Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

:25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

:26 And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.

It is Christ in us, we can have the right answer at the right time also. In fact, if we are quite, do not take the opportunity to speak the Word it is deceitful. It is our right, privilege and responsibility to speak and teach the Word of God.

I Peter 2:21 – 25

:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Jesus Christ; our example. He always did God's will. When he was threatened he didn't threaten back but turned to God for an answer of truth.

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

It is Christ in us. We can grow to the point of speaking the right words. We have the privilege and responsibility to speak the knowledge and wisdom of God's word to edify and uplift—the right words in the right situation.

Our words can have power! Our words can have the love of God, healing and kindness.

**Our words can be the Word of God.**