

Higher Life Christian Centre

Higher Living May 2010

Watch Your Mouth!

Proverbs 18:21 (HCSB)

Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Over the past couple of months, we have been studying the book of James. It has been a true blessing. It is a very practical book. Some experts have dubbed it the book of proverbs for the New Testament.

It was a book written to a Jewish Christian audience, who were going through tough times. Some of them had been displaced as a result of persecution. In those days, it did not take much for you to get into trouble for your faith. Christianity was not protected by law. They were viewed as a new religious sect and were not accorded the same protection as Judaism.

The 3rd chapter of the book of James is where we have focused our bible study this month. It deals with a very important aspect of our daily life. Speaking! Yes! You read it right. Speaking!

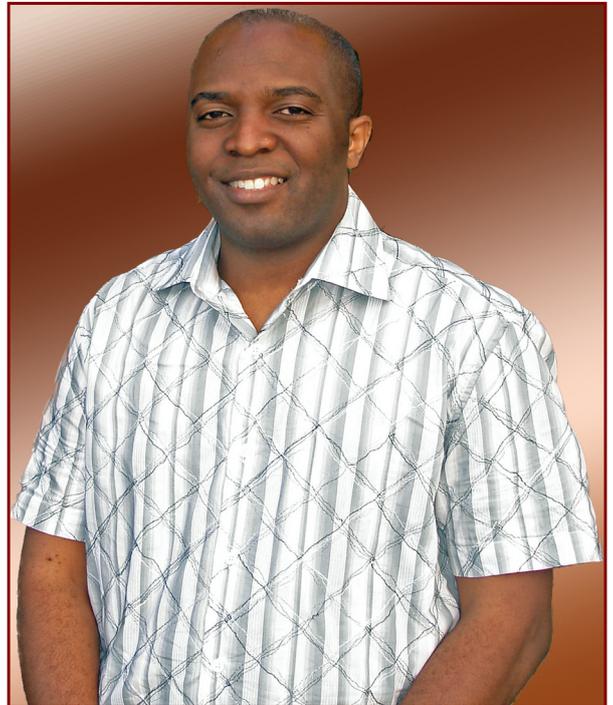
James says that every creature can be tamed, but no one has been able to tame the tongue. It can be a destructive force. This pink thing between our teeth as started many wars. Caused the death of countless. It has even rendered the lives of many people impotent. Simply because an authority figure in their life has been so destructive with their words. James calls it a world of evil ([James 3:6](#)).

Most people in word of faith circles use [Proverbs 18:21](#) to support their claim that we must always maintain a positive confession when we are trying to receive from God. If you speak negatively, the things you say might show up in your life one day.

While positive affirmations have their place and can help us succeed in life, I believe the writer of proverbs and James takes us beyond this point. The question I want to ask you is, what impact have your words had on those who look up to you? How have you used your words in your relationship with your spouse, children, friends, colleagues and fellow brethren in the Lord?

Many families have fallen apart because of words spoken in anger without thinking of the consequences. Many children in adulthood have negative relationships with their parents because of this very member of our body. Things were either said to them or about them that they carried for years only to be thrown back in their parents faces later in life.

I am not saying we must not correct our children. We must! If we don't we have ourselves to blame. But in correction, we should not throw away our brains. We should not surrender our thinking to emotion. By Gods grace we



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should act as master builders and people who can see beyond their noses. Your words used constructively will help your child succeed and cause them to stand tall in a very dark world. For you to do the opposite is to potentially give them unnecessary hang-ups before they venture into life.

You might say, "Well pastor I was angry!" Yes, we all get angry, including pastor. But the bible does say we should be angry and sin not ([Eph 4:26](#)). So, even when we are angry, we should remain in control. Anger should not be a reason to cause irreparable damage to relationships you have taken years to build.

I want to stir you up to use your words to encourage others. Be edifying. Cursing others and putting people down, is not consistent with our life in Christ (**James 3:9-12**).

There is a proverb I heard a number of times as a child in Nigeria. I am sure there are many variations of this. It simply says, words are like eggs, once you break them, you can't put the contents back again. So we need to be careful how we use our words. You are in control before you open your mouth – at least you should be. But you are not in control of how it will be received or the consequences that will ensue.

Before I sign off, I will just like to give you a few scriptures to meditate on along these lines:

Proverbs 15:1 (HCSB)

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

Proverbs 15:2 (HCSB)

The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT)

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Proverbs 10:19 (NLT)

Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

Proverbs 10:21 (NLT)

The words of the godly encourage many, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.

Proverbs 17:27-28 (HCSB)

The intelligent person restrains his words, and one who keeps a cool head is a man of understanding. Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent, discerning when he seals his lips.

Proverbs 21:23 (HCSB)

The one who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 25:11 (HCSB)

A word spoken at the right time is like gold apples on a silver tray.

Proverbs 25:15 (HCSB)

A ruler can be persuaded through patience, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Proverbs 29:20 (NKJV)

Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 21:23 (NIV)

He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Matthew 12:36-37 (HCSB)

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

Let's make a commitment to the Lord today, to think before we speak. Your words have power! What you say to someone could bring life or death, could be a blessing or a curse. Start making a difference with your words today.

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