

The Power Of Our Words

We are reminded of the power of our words in Proverbs 18:21 *The tongue has the power of life and death, ...* How many times have we said words to loved ones and others that have been hurtful and destructive and then had to ask for forgiveness knowing full well that we were wrong in the words that we voiced. Proverbs 6:2 says that *we have been trapped by what we said, ensnared by the words of our mouths.* The sad part is that we can be forgiven for our destructive words, but the memory of them has been stored as a reminder of the hurt caused by our unChrist-like words. How tragic that many depart this earth carrying hurtful words that were said to them by others where forgiveness was never asked or given. Some would respond by saying "I really didn't mean it" to soothe their conscience, but have never asked for forgiveness.

The Bible reminds us of the importance of exercising forgiveness in Matthew 6:14,15 "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins." God's Word tells us also in James 3:9,10 that "with the tongue we praise our Lord and Father and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing, my brothers, this should not be." Certainly our words either bless God or curse Him; bless others or curse them.

Why is the tongue which is such a small part of our bodies so unruly? I believe that our tongues reflect the last vestige of our flesh that we surrender to the Lord, and by so doing, is a reflection of what is in our hearts (Matt. 12:34-36). Even knowing that God hates a lying tongue, a false witness that speaks lies, and one who sows discord does not seem to deter us from speaking words that curse rather than bless (Prov. 6:16-19). We have all experienced opportunities to speak life or death into the lives of those around us. Are we making the right choices in choosing our words? Proverbs 15:4,5 tells us that "The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit." God warns us in Ephesians 4:29 "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear." The level of our spirituality is measured by our words. "if anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." James 1:26.

In Proverbs 10:21 we are told that "The lips of the righteous nourish many, ... Our unruly words convict us of our disobedience to the Scriptures, as revealed in Galatians 5:22,23 where we are told about the Fruit of the Spirit; specifically:

Love, Kindness and Self-Control. This portion of Scripture goes on to say in verse 24 that those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

As believers we must make Godly choices as to the words that we speak to God and man. This means that we must discipline our lives and tongues in order to glorify Him.

O Lord, I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth ... (Psalm 39:!)

I will open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (Ps 51:15)

And May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (Ps 19:14)