

DR. DAVID OGBUELI



THE LAWS OF
PROPER
SPEECH

T H E P O W E R O F W O R D S

The Laws of Proper Speech

The Power of Words

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Introduction

Words are not just sounds; they are powerful forces that shape our reality for better or worse.

The sum of all human experiences is determined largely by what we say with our mouths. From the beginning of time, God revealed the immense power of speech when He spoke creation into existence: **“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3)**. By doing so, God established a template for creating and sustaining whatever is created through the spoken word. Since we have been created in His image, we have been given the same ability to influence our world through our words. However, many people remain unaware that their speech can either establish them in dominion or keep them bound in cycles of struggle and defeat.

The Bible warns us of the immense power our words carry in Proverbs 18:21 which says: **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”**

You will come across this scripture severally in this book because of how important it is. Every word we speak carries consequences, either for good or for evil. If we learned how to use our words properly, we would enjoy extremely successful and victorious lives. Sadly, a lot of people unknowingly sabotage their own lives by engaging in improper speech and speaking words that God never intended.

If people understood how impactful words were, I am certain we would witness a drastic change in the way a lot of people speak. For instance, the degree of toxicity found in a lot of utterances on social media is indicative of the level of ignorance displayed by a large percentage of the world’s population: ignorance of the fact that negative words can hinder us from good experiences and invite unnecessary calamity into our lives. There is a crucial need to educate people on the importance of using words wisely and

that is what I hope to accomplish by writing this book.

This book, *The Laws of Proper Speech*, is a divine call to understand and apply the principles of speaking rightly. Originally a Jewish concept, the phrase “proper speech” in this context simply means speech that is used constructively and responsibly, devoid of any negative or harmful content. This is the kind of speaking which is acceptable to God and endorsed by Him.

In the pages of this book, you will learn why proper speech is not optional but mandatory for those who desire to have great lives. You will also be taught the dangers of speaking improperly and equipped with practical wisdom on how to align your words to God's will. When we master our speech, we unlock doors to divine favor, authority, supernatural results and abundant blessings.

Through scriptural insights, practical applications, and real-life examples, this book will teach you to discipline your tongue, uproot negative speech patterns, and embrace proper speech as a lifestyle. The goal is not merely to change how you speak but to transform how you live. When your words are in alignment with God's truth, you will activate spiritual laws that cause you to rule and reign in every area of life.

If you are ready to take control of your words and step into a new realm of victory, blessing and all-round prosperity, then let us embark on this life-changing journey into *The Laws of Proper Speech*. May God open your understanding to grasp the amazing truths you are about to discover.

Chapter 1

The Power of Words

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

How Powerful are your Words?

There is tremendous power in the words we speak. All kinds of speech have the potential to impact every area of our lives in different ways, whether we are aware of it or not.

Whenever we open our mouths to speak, we either positively or negatively impact our world and influence outcomes. Words are not just mere vocal sounds; they release energy into the universe that shape the outcome of our lives and the sum of our experiences for better or worse.

The Bible speaks extensively about speech and its various functions. It emphasises topics like words, speaking, the tongue, and other aspects of speech. This focus stems from the understanding that our words have a profound influence on our lives. A scripture that highlights this is Proverbs 18:21.

Proverbs 18:21

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

We can see here that our tongues have the power to shape our experiences. Whether we experience death or life is dependent on how we use our tongue. If we use our tongues correctly, it will be a tree of Life bringing forth only good fruit.

However, if we use our tongues improperly, then the result is death, leading to a fruit of bitter experiences that God never intended for us to

have. In **John 10:10**, Jesus made it clear that He came so we can “**have life and have it more abundantly**”, but Proverbs 18:21 makes it clear that this can only happen when we direct the power of our tongues towards life.

You cannot experience an abundant life when you speak in a way that empowers death. Regardless of who we are, we will reap the harvest of the words we speak with our mouths, whether positive or negative. Whether we eat the sweet fruit of life or bitter fruit of death is decided by what we say.

When God created man, He made seven openings in our heads for interacting with the world - a pair of eyes, a pair of ears, and a pair of nostrils. The last, which is the mouth, is unique because it came singular.

I have sometimes wondered why we were all given the other openings in pairs and only one mouth. I am not sure about you, but in all my time on earth, I have only encountered one person who wished he had more than one mouth. I am sure the reason there are not more is that we realize that one is enough.

That one mouth, as small as it is, is responsible for most of the problems we face in life. However, if many people learn to use it properly, it could also be the key to getting our whole life under control.

Mastery over our mouths and what we say can reorder every aspect of our lives. It is funny how many people do not pay attention to this but spend time focusing on things that are not as important in shaping the outcome of our lives.

Another scripture that clearly emphasises the importance of how we use our mouths and how it shapes our lives is **Psalm 34:11-13**. In the NIV translation, it says:

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Psalm 34:11-13

I am certain that we all desire to live a good life and make the most of our years. According to the above scripture, the fear of God is tied to this experience.

It is also important to note that the fear of God is seen in scripture as one of the greatest principles that guarantee having a blessed, fruitful and extremely successful life. Having said so, we would do well to listen to the teaching of this subject as we are invited to by the scripture above. We also see from the scripture that the measure of our fear of the Lord begins with

what we say. Our tongues and our lips are instruments through which we manifest our fear of God.

A man who fears God will refrain from speaking evil things and telling lies, leading to the experience of a good, long life on this earth. By inference, it means one who speaks evil and tells lies does not truly fear the Lord, will not have a good life and will not enjoy the fullness of their days.

This is why everyone should experience the healing of their tongues, a subject which will be thoroughly addressed subsequently. The tongue is one area where almost everyone sins, and yet the sins of the mouth are grossly downplayed. The bible, in many instances, refers to that which has been healed as made “ whole ”, (e.g. **See Job 5:18, Mark 5:34, John 5:8-9**). In other words, something that has experienced healing is “ whole ”, and if it facilitates healing and is conducive for good health and general well-being, it is “ wholesome. ” Consider the following scriptures:

Proverbs 15:4

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

There it is again! The connection between mouth and life. Also, we see here that a tongue can also be perverse. Something perverse is that which is corrupted and contrary to what is moral, right or good. Consequently, perverseness means improper use.

So here we see again, the dual function of the tongue. That a tongue can either be healthy and life-giving, or corrupt and harmful. When a tongue is perverse, it leaves a breach in the spirit, weakening our defence and making us more vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.

I remember a man who came to me, claiming that his “ enemies ” had bewitched him and were responsible for his recent economic hardships. As I was about to pray and rebuke the evil powers afflicting his life, the Holy Spirit restrained me.

“ What are you about to do? ” He asked.

“ I ’ m about to set him free from those who bound him, ” I replied.

But God said, “ Don ’ t ask Me to untie him. I am not responsible, and neither are his so-called enemies. Ask him to untie himself. He tied himself with his own mouth.

His enemies didn ’ t do this to him. Even though in reality, he was enjoying financial abundance, he kept speaking negatively and confessing

scarcity. He kept saying his business was going down and that things were slow. He said it to avoid people asking him for money. He knew he was doing fine, but he wanted to escape financial responsibility. After saying the same thing for a while, things did go down. ”

Now, I am sure it is dawning on you just how powerful your words are. They can bind or release you. Be careful what you declare, even in passing or during conversation.

That young man didn ’ t think he was doing anything wrong. Still, his ignorance didn't spare him from the consequences of negative speaking. With his own mouth, he had shaped his reality.

When he started seeing the consequences of what he had created, he labelled it as a spiritual attack. But what he called an attack was simply a product of his negative speech. Unknowingly, he created a breach through perverse speaking, which made him vulnerable to whatever attacked his finances.

There are many people who are going through extremely tough circumstances, unaware that the things that they say with their mouths are responsible for the quality of life they are currently experiencing. In the same way, many people who can testify of a fulfilled life today are reaping the benefits of words they have spoken in the past.

Proverbs 21:23 is another very vital scripture that sheds light on the consequences of our words. It says,

“ He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity. ” (NIV)

The scripture makes it clear that being careful about the way we use our mouths and the things we say can shield us from negative experiences. The degree of safety we enjoy is determined by how well we use our tongue.

The Oxford dictionary defines calamity as “ an event causing great and often sudden damage or distress; a disaster ” . Being careful with our words will help us avoid disastrous, harmful experiences, but being careless with words will plunge us right into them.

What this means is that one of the major ways to change what you see is to change what you are saying. If you keep saying what you used to say, you will keep seeing what you used to see. If you do not like the fruit you are eating, then change the word-seed that you are planting.

If you are reading this book right now, you most likely belong to that

category of people who desperately need divine intervention and desire to see a change in their lives and circumstances. Irrespective of what the situation and the prevalent circumstances are, learning to speak properly can make a world of difference in the outcome of your life and destiny.

Proverbs 13:3 states:

He who guards his lips guards his soul, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. (NIV)

Can you see from the above scripture that your soul is preserved when you watch what you say? Additionally, destruction and ruin are invited into one's life when one begins to speak carelessly. As much as Satan desires to see us destroyed, he cannot implement his wicked agenda towards us or execute his plans against us until we speak in a way that empowers him.

Your Words Shape Your Future

Suppose words only created and changed circumstances, that would be one thing. But the truth is even deeper — your words shape your future.

It does not matter what God has destined you to be; you will become like the words you speak. What is the implication of this? If you don't like where you are in life, change what you are saying. What you declare shapes your identity and your destiny. The scripture below paints a very vivid picture of the tongue and its impact on human life.

James 3:2-10

For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.

My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

In another chapter, we will further explore this scripture in detail, looking at the various word pictures represented here and their implications. However, let us extract some important truths

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Self-control begins with mouth control. To gain control of our mouth, we must gain mastery over the use of our tongue

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The tongue is described as something very small but with the potential to cause tremendous harm when used improperly

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It is not easy for men to tame the tongue and bring it under control. However, an entire chapter in this book is dedicated to teaching you how to accomplish this.

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The tongue has a dual nature. It can be used either for good or for evil. However, it is God's will that those created in His image should use it only for good.

From the above scripture, the word picture that best illustrates the potential of the tongue to determine our destiny is that of the tongue likened to the rudder of a ship. The rudder, small compared to the rest of the ship, remains submerged beneath the water surface. You cannot see it while the ship is moving, but it determines the direction of the ship that is seen. Used properly, the ship gets to its destination. Used carelessly, the ship can suffer shipwreck.

Similarly, our tongue is small and, for the most part, hidden in our mouths, unseen. Although we cannot see it most of the time, we hear the words it produces. These words shape the course of our entire lives and destiny.

You will always reap what you sow with your mouth. You might escape the consequences of some actions, but you can never escape the harvest of your words. That's why your life is the way it is — your own words have

shaped it. The reality you are living in today is the sum of everything you have been saying.

I may not know what your vision is or what you are thinking about. But at least I can tell what you are saying when I hear you speak. Once you speak, I can tell who you are and what you will become. Guard your words, for they shape your future. Your words carry power — use them to shape your destiny, not to validate your obstacles.

Your Words Create Your World

The highest energy in the universe is generated by words. No aspect of life works without words. All activities and actions are directed by words. Words are so powerful that the existence of the earth we live in and all the significant events that have occurred in it were shaped by words.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Once upon a time, this earth was in total disorder and chaos. The earth as we know it today came about because of the things God spoke into existence. Everything appeared as he declared it to be. He used unseen words to create visible realities.

This was the first demonstration of the immeasurable power of words revealed through the Scripture.

After the creation of the earth, God created man, who was made in the image of God. Being the only living thing created in God's image, God gave man the ability to speak creatively, too. Man ruled this world exercising Dominion over all of God's creation. He demonstrated this Dominion even in deciding what all other animals should be called and naming them accordingly using words.

Genesis 2:19

But of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

Even the animals were defined by the words Adam spoke! All of creation existed in order and perfect harmony until the serpent struck.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “ Has God indeed said, ‘ You shall not eat of every tree of the garden ’ ?

How did the serpent deceive Eve and ultimately sabotage God’s plan for His creation? He spoke words to her, slandering God and deceiving her. She in turn spoke words to Adam. In other words, humanity did not fall until negative words were spoken.

This was the first demonstration of the power of improper speech and its disastrous effects revealed through the scriptures.

What determines the quality of relationships in your life? Words. What influences the success of your career? Words. What shapes how your children will turn out? Words.

For instance, what causes divorce? Words. And if a marriage is broken and you want romance to return? The flame cannot be rekindled without words. Love can be extinguished or ignited by what is spoken. Saying the wrong things can render a relationship toxic. On the other hand, if love seems dead and you feel nothing, speaking the right words can reactivate it. I just used this as an example, but the effect of words is not exclusive to this instance alone. The same way words regulate relationships is the same way it regulates every other aspect of life; a truth that is clearly revealed throughout this book.

Chapter 2

The Nature of Man

The Power to Speak: God's Outstanding Gift to mankind

The opening chapters of the Bible reveal a profound truth - that man was created in God's image and likeness. For man to be able to represent God on earth, and rule over the rest of creation, he was created to reflect God's nature in totality.

Added to these, man was also created with the ability and capability to do things like God. Genesis 1:26-27 tells us what transpired at the creation of man: ***"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*** In this cardinal verse on the creation of man, three things stand out clearly.

1. Man was created in the image of God. He was created to have the same nature as God, exhibiting such character and attributes as love, kindness, faithfulness, justice and empathy.

2. **Man was created in the likeness of God. He was endowed at creation with the ability to do things like God; to think like Him, create like Him and function like Him in general terms.**

3. Man was also empowered to have dominion over everything else that God created.

One of the most outstanding of all the gifts God bestowed upon man is

the ability to speak. This is the same ability God Himself deployed in the process of creating everything that now exists. Just as God created the universe by the power of His words - "*Let there be*" - man was given the gift of speech to rule and influence creation. This ability makes it possible for man to create in just the same way as God by declaring - "Let there be."

From the very beginning, speech was integral to man's existence. As earlier mentioned, the first task God gave Adam was to name the animals (Genesis 2:19). Adam's speech carried weight and authority because it reflected the power God had invested in him.

In naming the animals, Adam was participating in God's ongoing creative work. By speaking, he gave order to creation, assigning names and categories to the creatures God had made. This act of speech demonstrates the significant role language plays in ruling over the earth. Adam did not just observe creation; he interacted with it by using his words to define it and organize it.

Similarly, the act of speaking allows man to assert his will over his environment. Through speech, man can declare what should and should not be. Words have the power to bring about change. Whether it is calling things into being, commanding situations to change, or declaring divine truths, speech is the vehicle through which dominion is exercised.

Words Are Powerful in man's mouth

Words are powerful, living, spiritual seeds sown into the womb of the universe. Because they are spiritual seeds, they never die. Instead, they hover in the universe where they are incubated and nurtured until they give birth to multiples of times of whatever had been sown- a bounteous positive harvest if positive words have been sown; and a hefty negative harvest, if negative words have been sown.

The Lord, Jesus, said in John 6:63, "***The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.***"

Speaking in Isaiah 55:11, God said concerning the word that goes forth from His mouth, "***It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.***"

Since the redeemed man is a vessel - a temple - in which God resides by

His Spirit, the word spoken by the redeemed man bears the same effect of not returning without accomplishing the purpose for which it has been sent.

The Role of Spirit, Soul, and Body in Man

Man is a unique being, consisting of three parts: the spirit, the soul, and the body. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:23, man's triune nature reflects the fullness of God's creation:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Each part plays a crucial role in the exercise of dominion.

* **The Spirit:** This is the eternal part of man that communicates directly with God. The spirit is where man's identity lies and is the part that connects man to his Creator.

* **The Soul:** The soul comprises the mind, emotions, and will. It is the seat of human intellect, decision-making and desires. The soul processes information and directs the body to act according to those decisions.

* **The Body:** The body is the physical vessel through which man interacts with the material world. It is through the body that man exercises dominion over creation, using the physical faculties granted to him by God.

While each part of man has its function, it is the spirit that is the most crucial when it comes to exercising dominion over creation. One of the first things God did after creating man was to speak directly to him. In Genesis 1:28, God said, "***Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.***" This declaration to man is the first command given by God, and it highlights the divine emphasis of man's rule over creation, which cannot be implemented without words.

When God spoke, He exercised His divine authority to shape and order the universe. Each word God spoke brought order and structure out of existing chaos. In the same way, when man speaks, he exercises the authority given to him by God. Man's ability to speak gives him the power to shape his environment, to influence the world around him, and to fulfill God's purpose for his life. And when his words align with God's will he

uses them to effect positive change and establish order. Without speech, man would be limited in his ability to carry out the mandate of Dominion that God gave him.

Man's words have the potential to produce tremendous results, same with God's own words, because they are designed to carry out God's will on earth. Jesus taught His disciples that if they had faith, they could speak to a mountain and command it to move (Mark 11:23).

Mark11:23-24

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

This illustrates the principle that man's words, when spoken in faith, can move mountains - literally and figuratively. Isn't it amazing that God entrusted man with such an awesome responsibility by endowing him with the power of Speech?

Many animals are bigger than man. Some others are stronger than man by far. Yet man rules over them all. The singular edge man has over the animals is his ability to express rational thought, connect to higher spiritual powers and deal with spiritual matters through his ability to speak. This is in addition to his ability to create and command things into being, using the same power of speech.

If animals could speak or confer among themselves and come up with an agenda to challenge man's dominion on earth, humanity would really be in trouble. But thanks be to God that this is not the case.

The key to ruling over creation lies in understanding the power of words and using them in alignment with God's will.

Words as Instruments of Power

The act of speaking is like a builder constructing a house. He builds intentionally and carefully, knowing that people will live in it someday.

Words shape the reality in which we live. In the natural world, we see this clearly in how speech influences and directs human behaviour. Nations rise and fall based on the words of their leaders. Words build relationships, motivate action, and shape history. The spoken word has the capacity to encourage, to challenge, and to transform. In essence, words carry the power to shape the world and our experiences within it.

The Bible is filled with examples of how words hold great power. One of the most significant aspects of speech in Scripture is its role in creation. Proverbs 18:21 **tells us that “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*”** This illustrates that speech is not neutral; it carries either life or death depending on how it is used. Words can create blessings or curses, open doors or close them, heal or harm.

Consider the example of God speaking to the world in Genesis. His words brought everything into existence. But it is not only God who can speak things into existence. Man, created in God’s image, can speak, plan, and execute in a similar manner. Man’s words, like God’s, can initiate change and affect creation. This is why speech is an essential tool for ruling and having dominion.

Practical Application: Speaking into Existence

Understanding the significance of language in God’s creation challenges us to reconsider how we use words in our daily lives. If speech is a tool for dominion and a means of fulfilling God’s will on earth, then we must be intentional with the words we speak.

We are called to speak life into situations that seem dead, hope into circumstances that seem hopeless, and victory into battles that seem lost. Just as God spoke the universe into existence, we, as His image-bearers, have been given the authority to declare His will and see it manifested in our lives and the world around us.

Jesus demonstrated this authority when He calmed the storm in Mark 4:39, where He spoke to the wind and the waves, saying, “*Peace, be still!*” In the same way, we are called to speak to the challenges and difficulties in

our lives with authority. Jesus told His disciples in

Matthew 17:20, ***“If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”***

Our words, spoken in faith, have the power to shift circumstances. When we speak to sickness, poverty, fear, or any negative situation, we are exercising the authority Christ has given us to bring about change. This is not just about wishful thinking or positive declarations; it is about aligning our speech with God’s will and His Word. When we speak His truth over our situations, we invite His power to intervene and bring transformation.

In our personal lives, we can begin by aligning our speech with God’s promises. Instead of speaking of doubt, fear, and negativity, we must speak of faith, hope, and life. Our words must reflect the truth of God’s Word and the authority we have in Christ. As we do this, we will see our environments, relationships, and circumstances begin to change.

Speaking the Word of God

The key to exercising the power of speech as a believer is speaking the Word of God. God’s Word is living and powerful, and when we speak it, we are declaring His will and purpose.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God has the power to cut through the darkness, to expose lies, and to bring truth and clarity.

When we speak God’s Word in faith, we are exercising our authority as His representatives on earth. The Bible is full of promises, declarations, and commands that we can use in our daily speech. When we speak these truths over our lives, we are declaring God’s will for our circumstances. For example, when we face sickness, we can declare, ***“By His stripes, I am healed” (Isaiah 53:5)***. When we face financial difficulty, we can declare, ***“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1)***. By speaking

God's Word, we invite His power into our situations and align ourselves with His will.

The Importance of Renewing the Mind

To speak with the power God has given us, it is essential that we renew our minds. The Apostle Paul instructs us in

Romans 12:2: ***“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”***

The mind is the battlefield where we choose whether to speak according to God's Word or not. If we allow negative thoughts, doubts, and lies to dominate our thinking, our speech will reflect that. But when we renew our minds with the truth of God's Word, our speech will be transformed as well.

The more we meditate on God's Word and allow it to take root in our hearts, the more natural it will become for us to speak in alignment with His truth. This transformation happens through the power of the Holy Spirit, who helps us to live according to God's will and to speak words that bring glory to Him.

Chapter 3

Five Levels of Speech

God has given us the power of speech, but He left us with the choice to decide what to say and what not to say. Speech releases energy that governs the world. Whenever we do not harness the power of speech positively, we may encounter negative results. Not all kinds of speech fall into the same category. Whenever we speak, we operate at different levels. Before proceeding, let us examine the five levels of speech in this chapter.

1.

Negative Speech

The lowest level of speaking is negative speech. It refers to all kinds of evil speaking. This includes backbiting, slander, gossip, complaining, demeaning words, murmuring, lying, mean-spirited speech, hurtful words, cursing, casting spells, and other similar actions.

Negative speech can be categorised into three broad types:

- a. Anything said that can harm your life or that of another person, damage a marriage, negatively impact a business or career, or diminish someone's reputation or image in the eyes of others.
- b. Spreading false negative reports about individuals with ill intent.
- c. Talebearing: relaying negative comments made about an individual to others.

The scriptures forbid us to speak evil of others. It harms us even more than those we speak against. All negative speech is a sin that can bring damnation to us and destroy our souls. For starters, evil speaking violates the law of love; with one evil speech, you break the entire commandments

because all the commandments are summed up in love.

Galatians 5:14

'For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: " You shall love your neighbor as yourself. "

If you want to say something unpleasant about someone or bring their faults to light, it should not be out of anger, hatred, envy, or malice. If your speech is motivated by any of these, you will be judged by God. The only valid reason is love. We must only say unpleasant things about others when it is for the good of those we are speaking about and for the well-being of others.

No country will rise beyond the kind of words it speaks. A nation whose citizens constantly speak evil will not prosper. For example, Nigeria, my country, is a beautiful nation with many positive attributes. However, a narrative has been created to depict it as if everything is terrible.

Ironically, it is mostly Nigerians who tell the world how bad Nigeria is. Many other countries, although worse in some cases, tend to project and amplify only their positive aspects. We ought to take a cue from them. Another troubling trend is the recent surge of toxic words that has saturated the social media space. A nation whose airwaves are filled with evil speaking cannot experience peace, which is a foundation for lasting prosperity.

Consider the following scripture:

James 4:11-12

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother judges his brother and speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you that judges another? "

From the above scripture, we see that speaking evil of others is passing judgment on them. Only God, the lawgiver, is meant to judge humanity. We all have flaws and shortcomings. We should not be quick to expose the faults of others or speak negatively about them.

What if God put all our shortcomings on display? When we speak evil,

we can trigger events that will expose our own faults.

Evil speech also includes negative confessions. It is possible to speak evil against oneself. For example, saying things like “ I will never make it ” and “ Nothing good ever happens to me. ”

These kinds of words release negative energy into your world and attract demonic forces to fulfill them. Remember the scripture we have looked at earlier:

Proverbs 18:21 – “ Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Those that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. ”

Evil speaking should not be done towards anyone, including one you consider an enemy. God is not pleased when we do so and will not hold us guiltless. This is clearly seen in the scripture below.

Proverbs 24:17

Rejoice not when your enemy falls. Let not your heart be glad when he stumbles. Lest the Lord see it, and it displeases Him, and He turns away His wrath from him.

According to this scripture, if you start rejoicing at your enemy ’ s downfall, God will avert the punishment that would have come to them.

Now, let me show you how divine justice works. Anytime you are tempted to speak evil of others, remember this. I was taught this by some Jewish Rabbis and found it quite profound. **When someone has a fault, and you start speaking evil about him or her, the sin and punishment meant for that person gets transferred to you.** Then your perceived virtue or merits, the one making you feel self-righteous, is transferred to them. After the season passes, you will find whoever you spoke against in a better state than you. Ironically, you may now even find yourself doing the same evil you once condemned in them. They will now be carriers of your merits while you will be carriers of their sins.

I have seen live examples of this. I know a particular man of God whose ministry was destroyed by this manifestation of divine justice. Another minister erred and he should have practiced the principle in the scripture below:

Galatians 6:1

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

Instead, this man went on the attack, broadcasting the minister’s flaws and publicly badmouthing him. Ultimately, he faced many setbacks as a consequence. Learn a lesson from this: whether face to face, in print, or on social media, do not speak ill of others. It never ends well.

When we often engage in negative speech, our prayers will not have the same potency and effectiveness as someone who guards his mouth against it. We will also lose the power to decree things and see them come to pass. Negative speech causes a blockage in your soul that stops you from receiving all the light you should be receiving.

The more you take control over your speech, the more power your words will have when you say them. One of the reasons why God’s words are so powerful in His mouth is that He NEVER uses His mouth for negative speech. When we imitate the same, His words in our mouth will be as powerful as His words in His mouth.

2. Idle Speech

The second level of speech is what is called idle speech. Idle Speech involves speaking carelessly without any real intention or talking about things with no inherent worth or value in them. It also involves speaking useless words without much thought to what it is you are saying. Idle chatter, foolish speaking and careless jesting all fall under this category

Most times when such words are spoken, they are not intentionally spoken to harm anybody or anything. Sometimes they may be spoken in humour or during casual conversations. However, while seemingly harmless, this kind of speaking is a disadvantage to one who does it. Jesus himself warned us not to speak idly, as we will be judged based on what we say.

Matthew 12:36-37

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be

justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

It is also important to note that this kind of speaking is common with talkative people. When people talk a lot, there is a tendency to dabble into idle speech

Proverbs 29:20

“ See thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. ”

From the scripture above we see that we are admonished not to speak hastily or rashly without thinking. The scripture even goes as far as painting a better end for a fool than one who does so! I have often said that I believe **God gave us two ears and one mouth so we can listen at least twice as much as we speak.**

One of the worst things about idle chatter is that it wastes a lot of time. Much is said that gets one nowhere. While it may not be avoided completely- since there are times we might need to engage in some level of “ small talk ” with others- we should strive to eradicate it from our lives as much as we can.

One area we really need to be careful about that encourages idle speech is when we are trying to express humour. Not all jokes are wholesome. Jokes that blaspheme God or demean others are not in good taste and should be discouraged. Comedy can be entertaining as well as edifying. Comedy is not a justification for idle speech. When we jest carelessly, we can grieve the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30

“ And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ”

It is the Holy Spirit who seals you and protects you. That protective energy breaks, leaving you vulnerable when you habitually grieve the Holy Spirit. Your spiritual immune system is weakened by harmful words and foul speech. No one created in God ’ s image is meant to engage in idle and evil speech. Idle speech also drains away the energy that could be reserved for Holy speech, which is another level of speech we will be discussing soon.

3. Neutral/Common Speech

The third level of speaking is neutral speech, or common speech. This type of speech is essential for conducting everyday affairs. It facilitates necessary communication for human relationships and helps us accomplish tasks.

It may involve discussing everyday matters, managing our children and customers, narrating events, casting a vision for an organization, educating, marketing products, and sharing other important information. Any speaking that enables interpersonal interactions and assists us in carrying out daily activities falls into this category. It is neither positive nor negative.

4. Positive Speech

Positive speech involves communicating in a way that spreads positive energy among people. We speak positively to share hope, love, unity, comfort, and other uplifting sentiments. It achieves the exact opposite of negative speech; those who speak positively do not engage in maligning others, creating divisions, or spreading negativity.

This is how believers are meant to communicate. Our words should primarily reflect positive speech, and most of our communication should reach this standard. Inspiring words, motivating phrases, kind expressions, compliments, comforting statements, encouraging remarks, affirmations, words of affection, and similar expressions should be commonplace in our conversations. Some of us struggle to express sentiments like “thank you,” “I love you,” “I believe in you,” or “you are going places.” We need to practice saying these things more often. We are called to spread love, hope, faith, and a positive mindset among people.

Sometimes, even when things are going wrong in an organization or a society, the way we speak matters. Speaking kindly and in an edifying manner is how we heal the world. Nations, societies, churches, and even families can experience a complete transformation if we learn to speak more positively.

Even while enforcing correction, it is better to conclude with something positive. An example is when correcting your children. For instance, you might say, “I know you are better than this. You should not do this. It is not right to take what doesn ’ t belong to you. But I believe you are a good

boy. You will be wealthy; you will turn out very well, and God will bless you. Always learn to sandwich correction between two layers of praise.

In marriage, this approach works too. “ I appreciate everything you are doing for me. I will never ask for a better person than you; my life has been better since you came into it, and I love you. However, I have noticed that you add a lot of salt to the soup. Do you want me to die and not live long enough to raise our children? This is not right. How about this: I know you are doing your best, and I understand that the kitchen can be challenging. We are in this together. I will be around until you find the right balance.

Do you see how that works? It is not about criticizing harshly: "You! Your mother didn't raise you well. Do you want to kill me with salt?! I do not know why I married you." Those kinds of words can kill a person emotionally.

Matthew 5:22b says, ***But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.***

Jesus was teaching that words are severe enough to send one to hell, just like murder can. With your mouth, you can kill without a knife or gun. Words matter.

Be part of those contributing to spreading positive energy in the world. Wherever you go, even if people are discouraged, speak encouraging words. If you go to a place where people are mourning, speak comfort and inspiration. When you're with young people, motivate them; challenge them to reach their highest potential. That's how God speaks.

5. Holy Words

The last and highest form of speech is Holy Words. This is what is known as Creative Words. God made us in His image so that we can create with our words. These are the highest levels of speech, such as preaching God's word, prophecy, blessing, prayer, and worship.

When you operate in this manner, you are operating like Jesus who spoke “***Peace be still,***” and calmed the raging storm. Speaking at this level is usually powered by the anointing and by faith. In the spirit of faith, we must believe that our words will have the desired impact whenever we speak at this level.

II Corinthians 4:13

'And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, '

Because we are created in God's image, we can speak to influence circumstances and call things into manifestation. God wants us to use Holy words to accomplish His purposes on earth. We will be looking at this in greater detail in several chapters of this book

God intends for all of us to speak at this level. However, one can only operate at this level when one has consecrated one's mouth, never speaking evil or using it for foul communication. When you meet this condition, something remarkable happens. The power that resides in your spirit, which is the power of the Holy Spirit, now rests on your tongue. When you speak, you can raise the dead. When you speak, people can be healed. You have the ability to bless, prophesy, decree things, and they come to pass.

The highest ministry we have been given is to speak at God's level because we are made in His image. You can create with your mouth, change circumstances, move mountains, and bring healing through your words. Your speaking can also checkmate and frustrate the plans of the devil.

People who speak at this level also spread wisdom, inspiration and revelation. Their words enlighten others to divine truths and bring them into deeper levels of understanding.

Those who engage in positive and creative speaking are humanity's greatest assets on earth. They bring the greatest blessings.

I promise you one thing: as you apply this level of speaking, the things you had unknowingly aborted with your mouth will come alive again. You will regain lost things, including broken relationships. You will begin to attract blessings and positive experiences, and your life will take a new turn for the better. Keep reading, and you will discover just how to speak like God speaks, with tremendous results following.

The Power of Silence

Before I conclude this chapter, I want to stress a very important

discipline that will help you control your mouth and ensure that speech is restrained only to those levels that are beneficial. It is the discipline of silence. Consider the scripture below:

Ecclesiastes 3:7b

A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;

Here is an essential fact everyone must know. You must not always talk. Silence in many cases is just as good as speaking. It is better not to speak unless you have something important and productive to say. It is also a prerequisite to wisdom because people who are always talking hardly ever learn or grow in wisdom and understanding.

When we talk too much, we start shifting into the negative levels of speech. Sometimes we may feel awkward in silence but that is something we must work on and get used to. Learning to be silent also helps you in gaining control over your speech.

Harnessing the power of speech is one thing we should all labour towards. My recommendation is that you study the bible and this book intensively. Most times we delve into the negative levels of speech because we forget the consequences and say those things almost unconsciously. But as we fill our minds with knowledge, it becomes easier to regulate our tongue.

Chapter 4

The Laws of Proper Speech from the Rabbis

Careful Use of The Tongue Makes The Jews Different

A widely recognised truth is that Jews excel in virtually all fields of endeavour. In science, technology, agriculture, literature, information technology, and wealth creation, Jews are almost always at the forefront, while others follow. Their outstanding overall performance is often attributed to their covenant inherited from their progenitor, Abraham.

But the Jews are not the only ones who inherited Abraham's covenant. A vast cross-section of the Arab nations are also Abraham's descendants. Today's Christians have also become descendants of Abraham by virtue of the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary.

Galatians 3:13-14

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

So, what really is that distinguishing factor that has given the Jews the glaring edge over other descendants of Abraham, and indeed, over the rest of the world?

In this segment of the book, we shall study one of the secrets to Jewish success. This secret is the Jewish laws and ethics of Proper Speech. Over the years, these Laws of Proper Speech observed by the Jews, have given them the edge over all others.

Man is a Speaking Spirit

In the opening book of the Bible, Genesis, which is called **Bereshitin** in the Hebrew language, we find in Genesis 2:7 that God formed the human from the dust of the earth and then God blew into his nostrils, and man became a living soul.

Genesis 1:26

'Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." '

As communicated in a previous chapter, God made man in His image so he could have dominion over the earth. The instrument God gave him to exercise that dominion is his mouth. Dominion is exercised by speaking.

In the Aramaic translation of the *Torah* (the Old Testament Books of Moses), these words, "living being" or "living soul" (in Hebrew, **Nephesh chaya**) also represent **Ruach Memallala** - Man became a speaking spirit.

Talking about the human being, what makes us uniquely human, more than anything else, is the fact that we can speak and we can communicate. We are the only creatures God made on earth that can speak intelligibly.

The Jewish tradition speaks of different levels of existence. There is what is called **"the Domain of inanimate materials."** These include things like rocks, sand or salt. The next level up is **plant life**, and then the next level up is called **animal life**. Then the higher level - the highest level - is called **the human being**.

In Hebrew, the word that is chosen to describe the human being is **Medaber**, which means "the speaker" or "the one who speaks." So the Hebrew tradition points to the fact that the essence of a human being - the essence of our humanity - is that we can conceptualize ideas and express them in language. What distinguishes man from all other creatures on earth is the fact that we can speak and communicate.

God Created All Things with Words

Genesis 1:3-5

'Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the

darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.'

Now, what is interesting is that when we look at the beginning of the *Torah*, we find that the creation process took place through divine speech. God created the world through His speech. In the beginning of Genesis, God said, ***“Let there be light and there was light”*** (Genesis 1:3). That is how God brought about all of creation now in existence.

What the *Torah* is telling us is that God expressed His will through forces - the spiritual forces - that would be captured in the words.

So, when the Bible speaks about God speaking, what it means is that God projects His will through the spiritual energy that is released through words. Words are energy. Words are creative. Words are not just for communication but also for creation. They bring thoughts into existence.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

As human beings we are made in the image of God so we are co-creators with Him. Our words create our realities and circumstances. Our words shape our world and destinies.

The Bible tells us how God created the world: it was through speaking... ***“And God said let there be light”*** (Genesis 1:3).

Learn To Use Your Tongue Positively

The point for us - for our lives - is to understand that we can emulate God. We should emulate God by using our power of speech as well to create, to bring about improvements in the world, to make the world and our lives better places. For example, we can use speech to study *Torah*, to pray, to express gratitude, to show love, to express kindness, to support people, to give them good advice, to encourage them. There are so many ways that we can use our speech in helpful, creative, purposeful, useful ways that benefit the world, and benefit other people.

The Destructive Power of the Tongue

We know that those things in life that have the greatest potential for holiness and goodness, can become the most degraded and the most corrupted. This explains why the tongue which has the capacity to create life and all kinds of good is targeted by the enemies of man's destiny for corruption. They are always working to derail the tongue into speaking those things that are forbidden, thereby turning the tongue into an instrument of death. This makes it necessary that a book like **The Laws of Proper Speech** should not only be written, but also be studied widely.

Our speech can become incredibly destructive. We can demean others; we can insult them; we can gossip and we can slander. We can attack; we can undermine, and we can ridicule. We can curse and we can express hatred. We can also damage our lives greatly with our words.

Do Not Practice Or Encourage Evil Speaking

On **Yom Kippur**, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, the major ritual is something called the **V Dewey**. The **V Dewey** is the confession, where on the day of atonement, Jews bow in submission to God, and strike their chests as they recite a long list of transgressions of the kinds of things that we do wrong during the year. There are two lists: there is a shorter one and a longer one. The longer list has 40 to 44 different transgressions; 12 of these explicitly involve speech.

A Jewish Rabbi wrote, "12 of the 44 transgressions that we confess on **Yom Kippur** involve transgressions explicitly involving our speech and almost all the rest of them also involve speech."

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

King Solomon expressed this polarity of how something like speech can be both the most positive thing in the world and the most negative thing in the world in the book of proverbs chapter 18 verse 21; where Solomon says, "***death and life are in the hands of the tongue.***" The truth is that the *Torah* tells us in the book of Leviticus (*Vayikra*) chapter 19 verse 16, "***do not go as a tale bearer among your people and don't stand by the blood of your fellow.***"

Leviticus 19:16

You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

The verse here grouped tale-bearing and murder together. Tale-bearing can, therefore, be likened to bloodshed. Our words can kill. And so, Solomon said, ***“death and life are in the hands of the tongue.”***

The *Talmud* (Teachings of Rabbis on Judaism) teaches that **slanderous speech kills three people**: it kills the **one who says** it. When a person speaks evil of others, it kills them; it is a spiritual death for them. It destroys their soul.

Of course, it kills **the person who it is spoken about**. We know that lives can be destroyed and reputations can be killed with just one negative word.

And finally, **the third person that the *Talmud* speaks about is the one who listens to the negative, destructive speech.**

The *Talmud* adds something that we might not have thought about: the person who listens to evil speech, is worse than the one who actually speaks it. Such a person is like a house that opens its doors for thrash and garbage to be heaped inside it. The persons who listens to, and entertains gossip and slander (evil speaking), are the ones who encourage the spread of such evil speaking. The person who encourages the spread of evil speaking receives three times as much repercussions as the person doing the evil speaking.

The Impact of Evil Speaking Is Irreversible

One of the major problems with evil speech, more so than any other transgressions, is that it is virtually impossible to rectify. If you steal a hundred dollars, you can return the hundred dollars. If you break someone's car, you can pay for the repairs. But when you speak negatively about someone, it is very difficult to ever make up for what you have caused; you cannot remedy the damage you have caused.

There is a famous story where someone in a town in Europe was speaking about others in negative ways. He was slandering them and gossiping about them. After some time, he began to feel very bad about what he was doing. It may be that he heard a sermon on the subject that touched his heart; maybe someone told him that what he was doing was

terrible. He began to have tremendous regret for what he had done and he wanted to repent. He wanted to do *teshuva* (repentance). He wanted to rectify his sins, and so he came to the local Rabbi and he said, Rabbi I need some advice because I know I have been doing the wrong thing. I know I have been slandering people and speaking about them behind their back. I know that I have hurt people. What should I do?

The Rabbi said, **“Listen, the first thing I want you to do is to go to your home and take the pillow off your bed, and I want you to take that pillow and go to the top of the tallest hill in the area. Climb to the tallest hill. Take your pillow and cut it open. Then, go ahead and shake it so that the feathers in the pillow are poured out, and they all go flying all over the place. And then I want you to wait an hour; then you go and pick up all those feathers.”**

The person thought for a moment and said, Rabbi it's impossible, I won't be able to track down all those feathers; they can blow miles and miles away. And the Rabbi said, that is exactly what I want you to realize: that when you say something about someone, you have no idea where it travels. ' It passes from person to person. Think about our world today where on the internet, you can say something: a mere tweet; a mere comment or a post, and it goes around the world. You could send the message in just five seconds, yet, millions of people will hear or receive the negative comment.

The Disease of Leprosy

So one of the great problems with destructive speech is that it is very hard to undo. In the *Torah* (Old Testament Books of Moses), we find several chapters in the book of Leviticus dealing with an unusual phenomenon. This phenomenon is called “Sarat”, and these are basically white patches that can appear on a person's skin. But they can also appear on a person's garments, and they can even appear on the walls of a person's house.

Often in translations of the *Torah* it is translated as leprosy, but it is obviously not just leprosy. People don't get leprosy on their clothing or the walls of their house. This is very obviously a spiritual manifestation, and our sages tell us that one of the possible and most likely causes of “Saras” was evil speech. When you spoke negatively about others, the result could be that you could get **Sarat** on your skin, on your clothing, or on the walls

of your house. Evil speaking affects not only the person, but also the house and environment where it is spoken.

There was a purification ritual for leprosy that involved two birds. When the person was going to become purified from this condition, from this manifestation, a complex ritual is involved and, we are not going to go into all the details, But basically, it involved two birds. One of the birds was sacrificed, and the second was sent out free upon the open field.

Evil Speaking Is Double Offence

The Rabbis explain that because “Saras” (Leprosy) comes about as a result of slanderous speech, birds, which are constantly twittering and chirping and shattering, are used in the purification process. One bird is sacrificed because this represents the destruction that can be caused by negative speech. But why is one of the birds set free? Our sages teach that we are not only held responsible for our evil speech, but also for all of the positive words that we could have spoken, but we did not because we were involved with speaking ill of others. So there are really two things that happen at that moment you are engaged in negative speaking. Engaging in negative speaking at that moment prevented you from doing the positive speaking you could have used that same time for. You are therefore held responsible for the negative speaking that you did, and the positive speaking you could have used the time for, but did not. You commit double offence whenever you engage in negative speaking.

Evil Speaking Is Worse Than Murder, Idolatry and Adultery Combined

The sage of the *Talmud* made great efforts to express how terribly destructive negative, slanderous speech is. In Hebrew, this kind of speech is called ‘*lashon hara*’ (evil speech). The Rabbis of the *Talmud* taught that “*lashon hara*” - this kind of evil speech - is worse than the three cardinal sins combined. The three cardinal sins are sins for which you should give up your life instead of committing them.

Normally, in Judaism, you don’t have to give up your life for breaking most of the laws in the *Torah*. You can violate the sabbath and that will not cost you your life; you can eat on Yom Kippur, a fast date; you can eat ham if there is no other food to eat and you are going to starve. But there are three transgressions which you have to allow yourself to be killed rather

than commit those transgressions.

If someone tells you that you have to kill someone or you will be killed, the *Talmud* says you cannot kill the other person that is innocent. In other words, you should rather give yourself to be killed than accept to kill the innocent person. The question often asked is, “Who says that your blood is more red than the other person’s blood?”

So we are not allowed to murder other people in order to save our own lives.

We cannot worship idols, even if someone is threatening your life that you should worship idols or you will be killed. We cannot start worshipping idols.

The third sin for which one may have to die is the sin of adultery or sexual immorality.

We have to give up our lives rather than commit any of these three sins of murder, idolatry or adultery.

The *Talmud* says that speaking ill of others (*lashon hara*) is worse than committing all these three sins put together. It is agreed that the sages were not exaggerating when they taught that the main cause of the exile that began when the second temple was destroyed in the year AD 70 was “*Sinatra*” (baseless hatred), which was expressed primarily through negative speech about other people.

Keep Your Tongue From Evil

In modern times, it was the saintly Rabbi, **Mayor Hakohein** of Radhan who dedicated himself to clarifying and teaching the laws of speech and spreading the awareness about them. His famous work which is based upon the verse in Psalms chapter 34 verses 13 and 14.

Psalms 34:13-14

Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

This verse stresses that whoever desires life, and loves to live long on earth, and also see good coming his way, should keep his tongue from evil

and his lips from speaking deceit.

The words in this verse, who desires life, in Hebrew are “**Harvetz Heim**” and this is the name of the work that Rabbi Sorel Mayor published in the year 1873. In this work, he demonstrates that it is possible with one utterance of *lashon hara* (negative speech), to violate up to 31 different biblical commandments in one shot. You are able to violate different biblical commandments with one word of *lashon hara* (Negative speech).

He delineates two major types of forbidden speech. **One is “*lashon hara*”, which refers to any statement that harms, embarrasses, diminishes or lowers the status of another person.**

People often assume in our world that if what they're saying is true, then there is no problem. As a matter of fact, this is the standard that is used in secular courts for defining slander throughout the world. And so, a person cannot be found guilty of slander in secular courts if what they are saying is true. But according to *Torah* law, *lashon hara* by definition is something that is true. This implies that if you know something that is true, and also know that spreading that truth will hurt someone or cause damage, you are not allowed to spread that truth.

If it is a negative statement that is harmful, that is even a more serious transgression called *motzishemra* - someone who brings forth a false, negative report about someone. So by definition, *lashon hara* is something that is true about someone else, but it embarrasses them, it demeans them, and diminishes them.

The second kind of prohibited speech according Mayor is called *Rechilut* which is hard to translate but often rendered as tale bearing. *Rechilut*(Or tale bearing)occurs when you pass on to someone the hurtful or harmful things that another person said about them behind their back. If you basically relate to someone negative things that were said about them, not in their presence, you are indulging in forbidden speech.

The biblical source for this prohibition is found in the book of **Leviticus, Vayikra chapter 19 verse 16**; where it says, “***do not go about as a tale bearer among your people.***”

Leviticus 19:16

You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

Conditions For Giving Negative Information

Now there is one exception to the overarching prohibition of *lashon hara* or evil speech and that is when someone has an important and legitimate reason to get information about someone else which may be negative. This is called in Hebrew *letoeled*. For example, if someone asks you about a potential marriage partner; if someone is thinking about marrying a person they don't really know well, but you know that person, and they ask you for a reference, you should tell the enquirer the truth you know, whether that truth is positive or negative.

If you know that there are problems about this person, you are allowed to relate that information, or someone wants to check with you about a person who applied for a job with them, and this applicant once worked for you or you happen to know that person very well, so you are allowed, if you know, to relate something that is negative, because this person that is hiring has a need to know and they have a right to know.

A third example can be found in medical or therapeutic situations. In a therapeutic session, it may sometimes be necessary to share negative information about someone else. This serves the important purpose of providing accurate information that leads to the patient's proper diagnosis and treatment. For instance, if a doctor is transferring a case to another physician, they are required to share all known details about the patient's situation with the new doctor. In a hospital setting, it is essential to share everything you know about the patient, including names, statistics, and other relevant data; you have done nothing wrong.

However, in all cases where sharing negative information is permitted, your intention must only be for constructive purposes, not to harm someone. This means that if you do not like the person being asked about, your intention cannot be to hurt them. You are only allowed to share information to assist the person asking you.

Number two, you must be very specific. You cannot tell a potential employer, for example, "do not hire that person; he's a terrible employee." You cannot say that. Instead, you need to specify what the issue is; for instance, you can say, "he worked for me, and every single day he arrived

late. " If you are very precise and specific, then it is acceptable.

Do Not Exaggerate

You are not allowed to exaggerate at all. You must be very accurate; and you cannot pile on extraneous material. Extraneous information refers to something that may not be totally relevant to their question. This means that once you are on the subject of this person and his personality, you can't relate anything that is negative if it is not specifically relevant to the question that you are being asked. Now, the person who is asking you about the prospective employer, for example, or the person that is looking to get married, are allowed to not only to give the negative report, the person who asked you is at liberty to listen to what you said and decide how to use it.

There's something else. Aside from the fact that the person asking here is allowed, in a case of need, to hear the negative report, but they are not obliged to believe or act on what they are told. This means that if a third party comes to them and says, I'm thinking of hiring Joe, what can you tell me? The person you spoke to cannot tell the third party, don't hire Joe, he comes late to work every day. The person you spoke to cannot say that because they are not expected to absolutely believe what you told them. They are only obliged to listen to or act on what you have said and to exercise caution. But they are not obliged to believe it.

This is a very important caveat - you can only relate negative information that you yourself know personally.

How to Build healthy relationships and a healthy Society

What is clear in our world is that if you listen to the conversations of people in our lives, in the workplace, when people are getting together at a party, you will unfortunately hear that a huge percentage of conversation centers around discussing other people, and often in negative ways. It is one of the most destructive things in our society. And so the *Torah* tells us that in order to have a healthy society with healthy relationships, where we can live properly and nobly, the *Torah* commands us to use our speech very carefully; to guard our speech and to never speak negatively at all, even in the most subtle ways about other people unless it is absolutely necessary for someone because they have an important pressing purpose.

Chapter 5

The Purposes of Speech

If the purpose of a thing is not known, then abuse of that thing becomes inevitable. To make the most of a book on The Laws of Proper Speech, such as this, it is necessary to have an understanding of the Purposes of Speech, then we can utilize them in the most proper ways.

When God gave us the ability to speak, he intended that we speak with purpose in mind. In this chapter we shall delve into why words exist in the first place, and some of the purposes they accomplish.

1.

Words are Used to Communicate

Communication is the exchange of information through the medium of either spoken or written words, to achieve understanding. Without words, it would be impossible to communicate complex ideas, ideals and thoughts.

Every living creature communicates. Every living creature can express itself in one way or the other. Almost all animals can make some sort of sound to communicate different things like fear, rage, pain, excitement, etc, and some even possess the ability to produce sounds too high pitched or low pitched, for the human ear to pick up. Others can communicate via touch and other means. However, only human beings possess the ability to communicate intelligibly through words and sentences that can give life to complex ideas. This ability is one of the things that has exalted humans, above all the other creatures of the earth. No other creature can put words together to communicate an idea and thoughts. Only God has this ability, and He gave it to man whom He made in His own image and likeness.

2.

Words are Used to Praise and Worship God

The primary reason God created man was because He desired worship and praise. When this happens, it gives Him immense pleasure and He rains down blessings on us. It is with our words, that we praise and worship God. Our main purpose is to worship Him, and this is one of the reasons we are given the ability to speak.

Revelation 4:11

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

When God made man, He made a creature that was a little lower than Himself. Man was given the divine capacity and intelligence to willingly choose Him. Our worship to God, using the breath that He has given us demonstrates our willing, acknowledgment of the worth we place on Him, and His indisputable position as our sovereign Lord. It is a divine ordinance that everything that lives and breathes owes words of praise to the One who is the Author of life.

Psalms 150:6

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

3.

Words are Used to Cast a Vision and Shape People ' s Values

As shown above, the primary purpose of words is to communicate. One of the things that you communicate with words is Vision. Vision conceived must be articulated before it can be executed.

Habakkuk 2:1-3

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and

make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

From the scripture above, the vision was given to the prophet and he was instructed to write the vision down, so he could communicate it to the people he had been sent to. No vision is ever given for just a man. It might be given to a man, but it is always given for a people. However, the man to whom the vision is given, has the responsibility of communicating that vision to the people who hear him.

Without the proper communication of a vision, the people will not rise to run with it; then the vision will die. This is why the scripture in Habakuk said, “***write the vision, make it plain, that they may run that read it.***” For the people who hear or read the vision to run with it, the vision must be caught and understood. It takes the proper communication of the vision, to make it clear enough for it to motivate those who hear it towards giving an appropriate response.

Also, words are the tools used to shape a society ’ s moral values. If a society begins to decay and its moral fibre seems to have eroded, the way to begin to build back and reorganise the values of the society is to begin to plant the right kind of words into the society. Words are seeds. They grow and multiply in any environment into which they are sown and return harvests that mirror the kind of word-seeds that have been sown.

Using different platforms, words that reflect the right kind of values and behaviour can be used to reprogram society. For instance, in the media, adverts that reflect positive values can be aired. Movies with positive story-lines can be promoted. Music with the theme of the right societal values should be played on the air waves constantly. As this goes on consistently over time, the society begins to reflect the values that have been pumped into it through these words. A changed and wholesome society becomes the harvest of the seed of these words that were planted.

4.

Words are Used to Create Miracles and Bring Things to Pass

The creative potential of words makes it possible for words to be used

to create tangible things out of intangible resources. In the book of Hebrews, we see the writer describe how the worlds were made by the power of the Son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:2

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

However, the Son through whom everything was made, is also known as the Word.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

This scripture says, there is nothing that was made, that wasn't made by Him. The Son, who is the Word, made everything in existence. All of creation was called into being by the Word. By speaking the word, we can speak what we want into reality.

Genesis 1:1-6

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

From this scripture in Genesis, we see that God spoke creation into being with words and we have already expounded on the fact that since God made us in His image, and after His likeness, we have the same capacities as God has. If God spoke creation into reality with His words, we can also speak our reality into being, by deploying the power of words.

What is that situation you are facing right now? What is that problem

that seems to have you bound and has crippled your ability to live in victory? Open your mouth and begin to address that situation. Do not speak negative words that empower fortify the negative situation in your life. Rather make positive confessions and begin to speak the reality you want to see and in a matter of time, everything will change to begin to reflect the reality you want.

5.

Words are Given to Educate and Impart Knowledge and Wisdom

Some of the greatest scriptures you can find in the Bible are in the book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. They were written by King Solomon, who was blessed with Wisdom above all in his time.

In those books you find words of deep wisdom and counsel, that can help a man become the best he can be.

Proverbs 1:20-23

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Time and time again, we find the writer of Proverbs, exhorting and calling men to wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-8

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

It is with words that he imparts knowledge, wisdom and understanding. However, even King Solomon acknowledges that he also learned wisdom from the words his father spoke to him, when he was a child.

Proverbs 4:3-7

For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Even the wisest king, was himself taught and had knowledge, understanding and wisdom imparted to him. His father taught him all he knew with words, while he was child sitting at his father ' s feet.

It is with words that we pass information, impart knowledge, and wisdom to the next generation.

6.

Words can Reveal Who a Person Is

Many times, we do not know who people really are because the first impression we have of them, is based on physical sight. When the prophet Samuel was sent by God to anoint the young man David to be King, something very remarkable happened.

1Samuel 16:4-7

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? 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. And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for

man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Samuel on seeing Eliab the first son of Jesse had assumed that he was the one to be anointed because he was tall and had a good stature. But God said he had rejected him because He, the Lord, looks at the heart, not the outward appearance. As a result of this, David who was still very young at this time, was anointed to be king, in the place of Saul. This implies that it is our inner nature that truly defines us and not our exterior appearance.

God looks at the heart to know the quality of a man. However, for normal human beings, the way to know who a man is, is by listening to him speak. Every time a person speaks, they reveal the content of their heart and show the kind of person they are.

Matthew 12:34

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A wise saying says, “ show me your friends and I will tell you who you are. ” I will also add, “ Open your mouth, and I will tell you who you are. ” The quality of your character is revealed by the quality of your speech, and the content of your words shows also the content of your heart. The hidden man of the heart which no man see, can be revealed, the moment you open your mouth and begin to speak.

7.

Words can Impart Faith, Courage, Confidence and Conviction

Words are the vehicles through which faith travels into our spirits. The worst kind of system failure in a human being is heart failure. Once it happens, the heart stops beating and that person ’ s life ends. However, there is something worse than heart failure, and it is Faith failure. If the just shall live by their faith, according to Romans 1:17, God never intended we should live without faith. An absence of faith can disconnect a man from any form of contact with or blessing from God. Without faith, you cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

When we speak, we can either boost or cripple the faith of others. According to the scripture, ***faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)***. When words are spoken in line with God's word, the seed of faith is planted in those that listen. Words have the capacity to ignite faith in the heart of a man, for whom the sparks have already died. When that man begins to hear faith filled words, again and again, something inside him awakens and the force of faith bursts alive inside him, and that man can move any mountain he faces.

Even fearful people can be seeded with words of courage, and the harvest will be people brave and confident enough to confront their fears. With words, a man of no convictions at all can be transformed into a man with deep convictions, who will be willing to die for them, if the right words are seeded into him, consistently.

8. Words can Bond and Unite people.

In the use of words in relationships, scriptures tell us that words can be used to de-escalate situations that might be tension filled.

Proverbs 15:1

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

In times when there have been quarrels and things have gone wrong, words have the capacity to bring people back into harmony. The scripture above says "a soft answer ..."; meaning that words spoken quietly and without an aggressive tone, have the power to diffuse tension and bring peace to a tense situation. In the same way, when people want to be bound together in unity, the words they speak to each other, have the capacity to bind them together.

Even a married couple that has begun to lose love for each other, can rediscover love for each other and deepen their bond. If there ever is a

situation where people are always quarrelling and you 're wondering what to do to settle the issues, get them to change what they say to each other, and that relationship will change from one of hatred, to one of love. They will be bonded together in unity in just a matter of time.

9.

To Manifest God ' s Glory and to Enforce Order over Creation

When God made the whole universe in Genesis, He used words to do so. With His words, He spoke all of creation into being, calling the things that be not, as though they were.

Genesis 1:1-6

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

As seen in this scripture, He spoke all of creation into being with His words. However, He didn ' t stop there. Not just that all of creation was spoken into being with His words, all of creation is also sustained with His words. The very words that He spoke that brought the Universe into existence, is still sustaining the universe as we speak. Science has shown that the universe has from its creation, been expanding and is still expanding. As the word went forth from God, it made the ' Big Bang ' that created the universe. As the explosion spread forth, the planets and all the gases and stars in the universe were formed. Till date, that process continues.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express

image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews tells us that the word which created, is still the word that has been sustaining till date.

When God made man, He also gave him the same creative ability as himself. Man is the only creature made by God, that was made in His image and likeness, and with the ability to speak. This ability brought everything in creation into being, and man was also made with this ability. What this means is that with words, we can also create like God, enforce order over creation like God can do, and show forth the glory and power of God.

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

God made us in His image and gave us authority over all of creation. As a result, we have the power to bring order into any situation we meet, with our words. We are the Masters of Creation.

10.

Words help us interface between the supernatural world and the physical world

With words, we are also able to interface between the physical world and the spiritual world. The physical world that we see is controlled by the unseen spiritual realm. As a result of this, if we want to have dominion over the physical world, we must learn to function in and influence the spiritual world. One of the ways we can do this is with words. Words create conduits between both worlds, causing the intangible to manifest as tangible realities.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

For instance, we can see from the scriptures above that all the blessings and advantages we have in the covenant, are in heavenly places in the spiritual realm. For us to enjoy them, we must figure out how to translate them from the spiritual, to the physical. There is an inexhaustible bank of endless resources at our disposal if only we could master the art of converting them from the spiritual realm to the physical. The right words can accomplish this.

11.

To inspire and motivate people to rise to their highest level of creativity or performance.

Some of the greatest feats ever achieved by mankind, were accomplished by men and women who at some point or the other, felt they were not good enough or capable of achieving anything laudable. For many of them, they stepped into this level of accomplishments because someone, spoke words that inspired, motivated and propelled them to rise beyond their perceived weaknesses. Liberated from fear, they went on to deliver mind boggling achievements.

Words can be used to inspire people to accomplish great things and activate their potential for outstanding success.

12.

Words create atmosphere and shape the environment in any place.

Many people are under the erroneous impression that when they say something, their words are inactive. Unaware of the impact of words, they speak carelessly with no consideration of consequence. If only they knew that the words we speak, come alive once they leave our mouths. They have the ability to alter atmospheres, creating either peace and harmony, or strife and tension.

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Jesus in the scripture above was referring to spoken words and said the

words He had spoken, were spirit and life. This means that words are spirit, and because they are alive, they have the power to shape an atmosphere with their presence.

If you want to create an atmosphere of peace and serenity in a place, speak words of peace and serenity. Make sure that no divisive or strife filled words are spoken there. Make sure that no word is spoken in bitterness and anger, then that environment will be heaven on earth. If you want love to be in the air, make sure words of love are spoken; if you want to create an atmosphere of oneness and unity, then speak words of unity. With the right words, you can create whatever atmosphere and shape any environment you want.

13. Words Can Heal Anything on Earth

Words are given as medicine and can heal anything on earth. The proper use of words can work as a healing balm to diffuse any situation on earth.

Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

From the above scripture, pleasant words are good medicine. They can heal wounded souls. I have seen broken hearts restored, mended by the power of God, through the channel of words spoken that facilitated the healing. No matter the extent of pain and the hurt someone is suffering, the right words, can bring healing to that aching heart.

14. Words change minds and opinions

With words, you can sell any product, idea or opinion. You can convince people to buy something they never thought they needed in the first place. This skill has been used in both the positive as well as negative lights in the history of the world.

Chapter 6

The 24 Types of Prohibited Speech

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

A proud look,

A lying tongue,

Hands that shed innocent blood,

A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that are swift in running to evil,

A false witness who speaks lies,

And one who sows discord among brethren.

Words are among the most powerful forces at man's disposal. They can either build up or tear down, heal or harm, inspire, or even cause destruction. The Bible emphasizes the profound impact of our speech, reminding us that "the tongue has the power of life and death" (**Proverbs 18:21**). Despite its potential for good, the tongue can also be a source of catastrophic evil if not carefully guarded.

Andrew, a young banker who resided in my city suddenly started having breathing difficulty along with a persistent cough. One night he was rushed to the hospital for treatment. During one of the rounds of diagnostic tests, the questions his doctor asked, revealed something strange.

“ Andrew, have you been smoking recently? ” , asked the doctor.

“ No, not at all, I have never been a smoker. I detest smoking ” , Andrew responded.

“ Okay, but do you have smokers who are your friends? ”

“ Yes. ”

“ How often do you meet with these friends? ” demanded the doctor.

Andrew answered, “ After my busy work weeks, I hang out with my friends, and as usual, they smoke, but I don ’ t ever join them. ”

“ I ’ m sorry to inform you that after extensive tests, you have been diagnosed with lung cancer which is a result of prolonged exposure to other people ’ s smoking ” , the doctor disclosed.

Medical science has discovered that exposure to secondhand smoke can cause harmful health effects. A lot of orientation is going on in this regard because there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Similarly, exposure to negatively charged words can damage you even if you are not the one who spoke them. You can be dangerously infected by hanging around people whose mouths speak evil. Bad words are like a highly communicable disease. Evil communication can contaminate your heart, your soul, and your life.

These rules are applicable everywhere in the world and even in heaven. Did you notice that after Lucifer ’ s failed coup attempt in heaven, one-third of the angels who listened to his manifesto fell from dominion and were stripped of their glory? May you never be associated with people whose foul words have the potency to destroy your destiny, in Jesus' name.

We shall explore **24 Types of Prohibited Speech**, often referred to as the "**24 Diseases of the Tongue.**" These are patterns of speech that the Bible warns against, as they can lead to sin, harm relationships, and dishonor God. From gossip and slander to harsh words and deceit, each "disease" represents a misuse of the gift of speech — a gift meant to glorify God and edify others.

Let us now expose these diseases of the tongue. Relevant scriptures accompany them to provide biblical context and guidance.

1. Lying and Deceit

This refers to making false statements with the intention of deceiving. It includes scams and misleading language. It also encompasses manipulation, which refers to controlling someone or something to your advantage, often in an unfair or dishonest manner.

Scriptures:

- **Psalms 101:7 (NKJV):** “ He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence. ”
- **Proverbs 12:22 (NIV):** "The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy."
- **Colossians 3:9 (AMPC):** "Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices."
- **Proverbs 12:19 (KJV):** “ The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment. ”
- **John 8:44 (NLT):** “For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- **Ephesians 4:15 (NLT):** “ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ”

Lying is one of the most grievous sins because it undermines trust, which is the foundation of all relationships. The Bible consistently condemns deceit, emphasizing that God is a God of truth (**John 14:6**). When we lie, we not only harm others but also distance ourselves from God ' s nature.

Lucifer lied to angels in heaven, and as a result, a third of the heavenly hosts were cast down with him. He lied in Eden and man fell from dominion. He is still lying today. May you not become a victim of lies nor speak guile henceforth in Jesus ' name!

2. Perjury and False Oath (lying under oath and false covenant)

The offence of Perjury is committed by giving false testimony, especially in a legal or formal setting, to harm someone or benefit oneself. This includes judicial **perjury**, which is lying under oath.

Scriptures:

- **Leviticus 19:16 (NLT):** “ Do not go about spreading slander among your people. ”
- **Zechariah 8:17 (NKJV):** “ Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' Says the LORD. ”
- **Proverbs 19:5 (NLT):** “ A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape. ”
- **Leviticus 19:12 (KJV):** “ And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord. ”
- **James 4:11-12 (KJV):** “ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you — who are you to judge your neighbor? ”

Both perjury and false witnessing are serious sins because they pervert justice, harm innocent people, and violate the sanctity of truth. If you have been called as a witness on any matter, never harm an innocent person by testifying against them. The Bible places great emphasis on truthfulness, especially in matters of justice, and warns that false witnesses will not go unpunished.

3. Slander (Evil Speaking, Defamation, and Backbiting)

Slander is damaging someone 's reputation through false statements, whether spoken (slander) or written (libel). This also includes **backbiting**, which involves making unkind remarks about someone who is not present.

Scriptures:

- **Psalm 101:5 (NIV):** “ Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate. ”
- **James 4:11 (NLT):** “ Don ’ t speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God ’ s law. ”
 - **Proverbs 10:18 (KJV):** “ He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool. ”
 - **Ephesians 4:30-31 (KJV):** “ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ”

Together, these forms of speech are destructive and can cause lasting harm to individuals and communities. The Bible calls us to protect the reputations of others and to speak truthfully. In the course of this book, I will show you the consequences of this sin.

4.

Gossiping (Tale-Bearing)

Gossiping involves conversations or reports about others people ’ s private lives that are unkind, disapproving, or untrue.

Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 20:19 (NIV):** "A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much."
- **Proverbs 16:28 (NIV):** “ A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. ”
- **Proverbs 26:20 (NIV):** “ Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip, a quarrel dies down. ”

Gossip is often disguised as a harmless conversation, but it can have devastating effects. It erodes trust, spreads misinformation, and creates

division. The Bible warns us to avoid gossip and to speak words that build up rather than tear down.

5.

Flattery (False Praise)

Flattery is practiced by copiously praising a person or persons, often in a way that is not sincere, because you want something from them.

Scriptures:

- **Job 32:21-22 (NIV):** "I will show no partiality, nor will I flatter anyone; for if I were skilled in flattery, my Maker would soon take me away."
- **Proverbs 26:28 (NLT):** "A lying tongue hates its victims, and flattering words cause ruin."
- **Proverbs 29:5 (NKJV):** "A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet. "
- **Acts 12:21-23 (NLT):** " And an appointment with Herod was granted. When the day arrived, Herod put on his royal robes, sat on his throne, and made a speech to them. The people gave him a great ovation, shouting, " It ' s the voice of a god, not of a man! " Instantly, an angel of the Lord struck Herod with a sickness, because he accepted the people ' s worship instead of giving the glory to God. So he was consumed with worms and died. "

Flattery is deceptive because it uses praise as a tool for manipulation. It can lead people to make poor decisions or trust the wrong people. The Bible warns us to beware of flattery and to seek genuine relationships built on honesty.

6.

Jesting (Foolish Talk)

Jesting is a type of speech that is frivolous, inappropriate, or irreverent. It often involves joking, teasing, or humor that is inappropriate or coarse, and it can be seen as contrary to the virtues of seriousness and

respectfulness that are encouraged in Christian conduct.

Scriptures:

- **Ephesians 5:3-4 (NKJV):** “ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ”
- **Proverbs 26:18-19 (NKJV):** “ Like a madman shooting firebrands and deadly arrows, so is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, 'I was only joking! ”
- **Ephesians 4:29-30 (KJV):** “ 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. 30And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ”

Potential harm can come from jesting, especially when it involves deceit or insensitivity. It often crosses the line into disrespect or irreverence. The Bible encourages us to use our words to uplift and encourage, rather than to mock or belittle.

7.

Talkativeness (Excessive or Hasty Speech)

Talkativeness is a tendency to frequently engage in talking about relevant and irrelevant things without attention to decorum or order. It involves engaging in excessive or careless talking, including speaking without thinking.

Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 10:14 (NLT):** “ Wise people treasure knowledge, but the babbling of a fool invites disaster. ”
- **Proverbs 10:19 (NLT):** “ Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut. ”

- **Proverbs 29:20 (KJV):** “ Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him. ”
- **James 1:19 (NLT):** “ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ”
- **Proverbs 15:28 (NLT):** “ The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words. ”

Talkativeness can lead to sin because it often involves speaking without considering the consequences and speaking without thinking.

8. Negative Confession (Discouraging or Demoralizing Words)

Negative Confession is characterized by pessimistic, critical, or toxic speech that demoralizes and brings despair. It can also happen when people talk down on themselves due to rejection or an inferiority complex.

Do you know that you have a subconscious ear, and whenever you say negative words, they also travel into your soul to cause damage?

Scriptures:

- **Numbers 14:1-4, 11-12, 27-29 (KJV):** “ And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 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! 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? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. ”

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? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater

nation and mightier than they.

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. Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, ”

- **Proverbs 18:21 (NIV):** "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who love it shall eat the fruit thereof."
- **James 3:6 (NLT):** And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.
- **Numbers 13:32-33 (NKJV):** “ And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

When God had finally brought the Israelites to the border of the Promised Land, twelve spies were sent to scout the land. But ten of them returned with pessimism and fear. Then they came to the National Assembly of Israel and vomited that gall which finally destroyed every person in their generation, except Joshua and Caleb who were very vocal and positive.

May you never become a victim of the damage from negative words! And may your tongue not set your life on fire in Jesus ' name!!

9.

Foul Words or Vulgar Speech (Filthy or Corrupt Speech)

Foul Words or Vulgar Speech refer to offensive, indecent, shocking, dirty, or unwholesome language that are usually a reflection of a corrupt

heart.

Scriptures:

- **Ephesians 4:29 (NIV):** “ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ”
- **Colossians 3:8 (AMP):** “ But now rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, malice, slander, and obscene (abusive, filthy, vulgar) language from your mouth. ”
- **Matthew 15:11 (NLT):** “ It ’ s not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth. ”

The Bible calls us to purify our speech, ensuring that our words reflect the holiness and purity of God.

10. Murmuring or Complaining (Ungrateful Speech)

Murmuring or Complaining **are indulged in through** subdued or private expressions of discontent or dissatisfaction. Murmuring and complaining are signs of ingratitude and a lack of trust in God ’ s provision.

Scriptures:

- **Numbers 14:27-29 (NLT):** “ How long must I put up with this wicked community and its complaints about me? Yes, I have heard the complaints the Israelites are making against me. Now tell them this: ‘ As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I have heard you say. ’ You will all drop dead in this wilderness! Because you complained against me, every one of you who is twenty years old or older and was included in the registration will die. ”
- **Philippians 2:14-15 (NLT):** “ Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ”

- **1 Corinthians 10:9-10 (NLT):** “ Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. And don ’ t grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. ”

Notice that the report from the ten spies corrupted the faith of an entire nation, and a whole generation paid the costly price with their lives. Joshua and Caleb, who had a different spirit and language, were the only two people in their generation to enter the Promised Land and inherit their portions in it.

11.

Harmful / Injurious Speech

Harmful and Injurious Speech are words that express hatred, extreme dislike. They cause bitterness, and are unkind, cruel, unpleasant or unnecessarily severe, wounding others.

Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 10:18 (NIV):** “ Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool. ”
- **1 John 3:15 (NLT):** “ Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. ”
- **Ephesians 4:31 (KJV):** “ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. ”
- **Proverbs 15:1 (NIV):** “ A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. ”
- **Proverbs 12:18 (TPT):** “ Reckless words are like the thrusts of a sword, cutting remarks meant to stab and to hurt. But the words of the wise soothe and heal. ”
- **Ephesians 4:31 (NLT):** “ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ”

Harmful and harsh words are destructive and can lead to violence, division, deep emotional pain, damaged relationships, and even the destruction of nations or the ignition of wars. Rehoboam, the grandson of David, lost ten tribes of Israel at the inception of his reign because of his rash speech to his subjects. May you not lose destiny helpers, important relationships and opportunities because of the pain your words cause to others. Henceforth, your speech shall always be with grace and seasoned with salt (**Col 4:6**) in Jesus' name!

12. Boasting (Proud Speaking)

Boasting is portrayed by excessive pride in talking about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities. This includes taking the glory that should be ascribed to God.

Scriptures:

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24 (KJV):** “ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. ”
- **1 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV):** “ For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? . ”
- **1 Corinthians 1:27-29, 31 (KJV):** "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

- **Proverbs 16:18 (NIV):** “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”
- **James 4:16 (NKJV):** “But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”
- **Proverbs 27:1-2 (NKJV):** “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.”

Scripture shows us the dangers of prideful boasting through clear examples. In 2 Kings 18:33-36, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, boasts through his messenger Rabshakeh, claiming no god could save Jerusalem from his power. He listed all the nations he had conquered, mocking Hezekiah's faith and trying to intimidate God's people. Hezekiah's officials remained silent, following the king's command not to respond to such arrogance.

The consequences of this pride are clearly shown in **2 Kings 19:32-33**, where God declares through Isaiah that Sennacherib would not enter Jerusalem, shoot an arrow there, or build a siege against it. He would return the way he came, his boasts proven empty.

Isaiah 14 presents an even more serious warning in the fall of Lucifer, the morning star. As described in **Isaiah 14:12-14**, Lucifer's pride led him to make five boastful "I will" statements, including "I will ascend to heaven" and "I will make myself like the Most High." This ultimate act of prideful boasting resulted in his fall from heaven. These passages teach us a consistent truth: those who exalt themselves through boastful words will face God's correction, while those who place their trust in God rather than their own strength will find true deliverance.

13. Cursing (Evil Wishes or Pronouncements)

Cursing involves invoking harm, injury, or misfortune upon someone. It is a direct violation of the command to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (**Matthew 5:44**). It reflects a heart filled with anger and bitterness rather than the love and grace of Christ.

Scriptures:

- **Psalms 109:17-19 (NLT):** “ He loved to curse others; now you curse him. He never blessed others; now don ’ t you bless him. Cursing is as natural to him as his clothing, or the water he drinks, or the rich food he eats. Now may his curses return and cling to him like clothing; may they be tied around him like a belt. ”
- **1 Peter 3:9-10 (NIV):** “ Don ’ t repay evil for evil. Don ’ t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 10For the Scriptures say, If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. ”
- **Romans 12:14 (NIV):** “ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ”
- **James 3:9-10 (NLT):** “ Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! ”
- **Proverbs 20:20 (KJV):** “ Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. ”

14. Insults (Derogatory or Abusive Words)

Insults are deliberately disrespectful, offensive, or scornful speech intended to belittle or humiliate others. They are a form of verbal abuse that can cause deep emotional pain. The Bible calls us to treat others with respect and dignity, even when we disagree with them.

Scriptures:

- **Matthew 5:22 (NIV):** "But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

- **1 Peter 3:9 (NLT):** "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing."
- **Proverbs 11:12 (KJV):** "He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace."

15. Profanity (Blasphemous or Irreverent Words)

Profanity is the usage of words and language in a manner that disrespects God, sacred things, or human dignity. Profanity is a direct affront to the holiness of God. It degrades the sacred and diminishes the dignity of human beings, who are created in God's image.

Scriptures:

- **Exodus 20:7 (NIV):** "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name."
- **Matthew 12:36 (NLT):** "And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak."
- **Colossians 3:8 (KJV):** "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."

16. Mockery (Scoffing or Ridiculing)

Mockery is insulting or making light of someone, often through imitation or caricature. It is a form of bullying that seeks to humiliate and belittle others. The Bible calls us to treat others with kindness and respect, rather than resorting to ridicule.

Scriptures:

- **2 Chronicles 36:16 (NIV):** "But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy."

- **Proverbs 13:1 (KJV):** “ A wise son heeds his father ’ s instruction, but a mocker does not respond to rebukes. ”
- **Proverbs 22:10 (NLT):** “ Throw out the mocker, and fighting goes, too. Quarrels and insults will disappear. ”
- **Proverbs 14:6 (NIV):** "The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning."
- **Psalms 1:1 (NLT):** "Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers."
- **2 Peter 3:3-8 (KJV):** “ knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ”

17. Speaking Treachery and Betrayal

Treachery and Betrayal are exhibited through verbal expressions of disloyalty, deceit, or breaking trust, as well as sharing confidential information without the person's permission. Betrayal often involves disappointing a friend or someone who trusts you.

Scriptures:

- **Psalms 55:11-15 (NIV):** “ Everything is falling apart; threats and cheating are rampant in the streets. It is not an enemy who taunts me — I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me — I could have hidden from them. Instead,

it is you — my equal, my companion and close friend. What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God. Let death stalk my enemies; let the grave swallow them alive, for evil makes its home within them. ”

- **Psalm 41:9 (NIV):** "Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me."
- **Proverbs 11:13 (NLT):** "A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence."
- **Proverbs 26:24-26 (KJV):** "He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart. Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation."

Treachery and betrayal are among the most painful forms of speech because they involve a breach of trust. The Bible calls us to be faithful and loyal in our relationships, honoring the trust that others place in us.

18.

Divisive Speech (Sowing Discord)

As the name implies, this is a kind of speech intended to cause strife, disagreement, or division between people or a group. This is often used as a tool or weapon by insincere leaders to keep their subjects divided while they exploit their disunity for selfish purposes.

Scriptures:

- **Titus 3:9-11 (NKJV):** “ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. ”
- **Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV):** "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness

who pours out lies, and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."

- **Romans 16:17-18 (NLT):** "And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters." Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people ' s faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them."
- **Acts 20:29-30 (NLT):** " I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. "
- **James 3:16 (KJV):** "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

Divisive speech undermines the unity and peace that God desires for His people. The Bible calls us to be peacemakers, promoting harmony and reconciliation rather than division.

19. Nagging (Fault-Finding or Destructive Criticism)

This refers to persistent and irritating complaints or criticisms that lead to discord. Nagging is a form of destructive criticism that can erode relationships over time. The Bible calls us to communicate with patience and kindness, avoiding unnecessary conflict.

Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 21:9 (NIV):** " Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife. "
- **Proverbs 25:24 (NLT):** " It ' s better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a quarrelsome wife in a lovely home. "
- **Proverbs 27:15 (KJV):** " A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. "
- **Ecclesiastes 7:26 (KJV):** " I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare. "

20. Judging (Judgmental or Condemning Speech)

This is expressing a superior or self-righteous opinion of others' behavior. The judgmental speech reflects a self-righteous attitude that is contrary to the humility and grace that God calls us to embody. The Bible reminds us that only God has the authority to judge, and we are called to show mercy and compassion to others.

Scriptures:

- **James 4:11-12 (KJV):** “ Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? ”
- **Romans 14:4, 13 (KJV):** “ Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother ' s way. ”
- **Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV):** “ Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ”
- **Romans 2:1 (NLT):** “ You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. ”
- **James 4:12 (KJV):** “ There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? ”

21. Divulging Confidential Secrets

This is revealing private or sensitive information, often breaching trust.

Divulging confidential secrets is a breach of trust that can cause significant harm. The Bible calls us to be trustworthy and to honor the confidence that others place in us.

Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 11:13 (NIV):** “ A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. ”
- **Proverbs 20:19 (NLT):** “ A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don ’ t hang around with chatterers. ”
- **Proverbs 25:9-10 (NLT):** “ When arguing with your neighbor, don ’ t betray another person ’ s secret. Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation. ”

22. Hasty Speech

These are Words spoken quickly without proper thought or consideration, leading to errors or regret. Hasty speech reveals a lack of self-control and wisdom. The Bible consistently warns against speaking before thinking, encouraging believers to be thoughtful and measured in their words.

Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 29:20 (KJV):** “ Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him. ”
- **Ecclesiastes 5:2, 6 (KJV):** “ Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few ... Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? ”
- **James 1:19 (KJV):** “ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. ”
- **Proverbs 15:28 (KJV):** “ The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. ”

- **Proverbs 17:27 (NLT):** “ A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered. ”

Hasty words often lead to sin, conflict, and damage that cannot be easily undone. God calls us to be quick to listen and slow to speak, demonstrating the wisdom that comes from careful consideration.

23. False Oath and Careless Vows

This is making false oaths, careless vows and breaking covenants. Making light of covenants, consecrations, and commitments you have made to God or to others before God. God takes oaths and vows seriously, and He expects His people to do the same.

Scriptures:

- **Numbers 30:2 (KJV):** "If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."
- **Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 (KJV):** "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"
- **Psalms 24:3-4 (KJV):** "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."
- **Psalms 15:1-4 (KJV):** "LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth

them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not."

The Bible teaches that breaking promises, especially those made before God, has serious consequences. A person of integrity honors their commitments, even when it becomes difficult or costly to do so.

The Gibeonite Covenant

In **Joshua 9:3-27**, the Gibeonites deceived Joshua into making a peace covenant with them. Though they were neighbors whom Israel was commanded to drive out, once the oath was sworn "by the LORD, the God of Israel," Joshua honored it, saying, "We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them." Even after discovering the deception, Joshua kept his word, making them woodcutters and water carriers instead.

Generations later (**2 Samuel 21:1-10**), a three-year famine struck during David's reign because Saul had violated this covenant by attempting to annihilate the Gibeonites. When David sought the LORD about this famine, he faced the personal cost of honoring both covenant obligations. The Gibeonites demanded seven of Saul's descendants as atonement. David spared Mephibosheth (Jonathan's son) because of his covenant with Jonathan, but had to surrender five sons of Michal (Saul's daughter and David's wife) among the seven, as recorded in **2 Samuel 21:8-9**: "But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Aiah's daughter Rizpah, whom she had borne to Saul, together with the five sons of Saul's daughter Michal, whom she had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite. He handed them over to the Gibeonites, who killed them and exposed their bodies on a hill before the LORD." This difficult decision demonstrates the heavy personal price David paid to honor both the ancient Gibeonite covenant and his personal promise to Jonathan, showing that keeping one's word before God sometimes requires painful sacrifice.

24. HERESY (False Doctrine and False Prophecy)

This is teaching or prophesying falsely, distorting God's Word, or promoting doctrines contrary to biblical truth. False doctrine and prophecy lead people away from God's truth and can cause serious spiritual damage. The Bible repeatedly warns against those who distort Scripture for personal

gain or to promote their own ideas.

Scriptures:

- **1 Timothy 6:3-5 (NLT):** "Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy."
- **2 Peter 2:1-3 (KJV):** "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. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."
- **Titus 3:9-11 (KJV):** "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."
- **2 John 1:10-11 (NLT):** "If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement. Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work."
- **Jeremiah 23:15-18, 21-22 (KJV):** "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the

land. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD. They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?... I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings."

God holds teachers and prophets to a high standard, expecting them to communicate His Word faithfully rather than their own thoughts or desires. Believers are instructed to test all teachings against Scripture and to avoid those who persist in promoting falsehood. Choose your words carefully! They have consequences now and in eternity.

Chapter 7

The Seven Biblical Pictures of the Tongue

When it comes to the issue of speaking, the organ primarily responsible for speech is the tongue. Hence, we cannot discuss the issue of speech without paying attention to the primary organ that makes speaking possible. Throughout the scriptures, the tongue and words are described in several ways that help us understand how they can be used, either positively or negatively. Words mirror the characteristics of the various things used to describe them. These are things known to us and by observing some of their features, we can have a better understanding of the various functions of words.

1. Words are swords

A sword is a weapon consisting primarily of an elongated blade, used primarily for piercing and cutting whoever it is used against in battle. The biblical description of the tongue as a sword alludes to the nature of the tongue to pierce and cut, the same way that swords do.

Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

The tongue, like a sword, can be wielded to inflict harm when used destructively. It can also bring healing, as seen in the scripture above. However, the injuries it inflicts do not first register physically but in the unseen parts of human beings. The words spoken by the tongue can sometimes cause more unseen damage to a person's self-esteem or psyche than any physical wound ever can. Many people walk around wounded, not necessarily due to injuries from physical accidents but because of words spoken to them. The destructive cutting effect of negative words is also

highlighted in the book of Psalms, where the tongue is referred to as a razor.

Psalm 52:2

Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

However, just as swords are not just used for evil purposes but can also be used to wage righteous warfare against enemies, the piercing and cutting effect of words can also be positive. For instance, the spoken word of God is referred to as the “***sword of the spirit***” in Ephesians 6:17. God’s word is an effective weapon to wage war against the enemy when used properly. It can also be used as a tool to cut people into shape and bring healing, reformation and transformation. This is the same way a surgeon’s knife helps him conduct surgeries on a patient, positively impacting the patient’s health.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God’s word can be used as an operating tool to separate the soul, body and mind. No physician's tool can access the heart and mind. The word can cut out attitudes and vices. It can operate and reconfigure mindsets. While it is true that the Government can make laws to enforce behaviour, laws cannot go inside a human being to change the hearts and attitudes of men. However, God’s words can.

2.

Words are seeds

Every human being is in a sense, a farmer. There are different kinds of seeds and different kinds of soils, as will be discussed in greater detail subsequently in this book. However, you must know that anytime you speak, you are planting seeds. Once you speak, something has been planted in the soil of the cosmos that will show up in future. What you plant will determine what you reap because one of the laws governing sowing and reaping is that the seed will always reproduce according to its kind. Just as a

mango seed cannot produce a tree bearing orange fruit, and an apple seed cannot bring about a harvest of corn, you can't go planting negative seeds and expect to reap a harvest of positive experiences in the future. When we understand this, we will be more careful with the things we say and become intentional about planting word seeds that look like the kind of harvest we want to see.

One thing that we must also remember is that there is time between a seed and harvest. Seeds never bring forth a harvest immediately. What that means is that just because you don't see the immediate effect of what you said doesn't mean it won't show up eventually. You may find yourself in a situation where you are intentionally speaking but can't see the results consistent with what you are saying. Don't let this discourage you; keep saying the right things and wait patiently until your life aligns to your speech. In the same vein, don't continue saying negative things just because you have not yet seen the negative consequences of evil speaking. One day, the fruit of your mouth will surely manifest except you change the things you are saying today

Psalm 34:12-13

Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

Do you understand this now? Seeds are planted anytime someone speaks and whenever someone is listening! Teachers and preachers are seed planters in the lives of their students. Parents speaking to their children are planting seeds that will manifest as a harvest in their adulthood. Spouses speaking to each other are planting seeds in the garden of their marriage and what they say will determine what fruits grow in it.

Even when you speak into your own life, you are planting seeds into your destiny. Your future will be a harvest or outcome of the seeds planted in you. This gives us hope that we can influence and shape our future by the things we hear and speak. It also should cause us to exercise caution in what we say and what we listen to because anyone we listen to has been empowered by us to help shape our future.

Proverbs 18:20-21

A man 's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Today is a harvest of words spoken yesterday and tomorrow will be a harvest of words planted today. If you want to see a brighter future you must change your present confessions, declarations and conversations. For as Jesus clearly said in Mark 11:23, “ ***you shall have whatsoever you say*** ”

3. The Tongue is a Bridle and bit

Horses are generally known to be very strong animals and some estimate that the average healthy adult horse can carry more than 300 pounds load on its back and drag a load three times its weight. The term 'horsepower', used to describe the output power of various machinery, shows just how strong horses are. It would take about 10 average adult men to equal the strength of one horse; yet men throughout history have found a way to tame horses and make them do their bidding.

They do this through a bridle, which is a headgear strapped to the horse and attached to a bit: a small metal piece placed in the horse 's mouth. This unique mechanism allows the less powerful human to control the movement of the horse, and all that horsepower submits under the hands of a skilled rider.

You may be asking: Why are we talking about horses in a book that deals with speech? If our lives and destinies are the horse, then our tongue is the bridle that controls it. James the apostle made this very clear in his epistle to the church while writing to them on the need to control their tongue.

James 3:2-3

For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses ' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

4.
The Tongue is a rudder.

James 3:4

Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

A rudder is a small sheet-like plate located at the back of the ship and connected to the steering mechanism of the ship. It enables the ship to turn in any direction the sailor desires. In the scripture above, the rudder is described as “very small”. To give you an idea, the size of the rudder compared to an entire ship it controls is generally only a small percentage of the total size of the ship.

For example, the ill-fated, well-known Titanic which sunk on its maiden voyage on the 14th of April 1912, boasted a gigantic size of 883 feet in length and 92 feet wide. Yet its rudder was only 78 feet high and 15 feet long. In the same way, the tongue, despite how small it is, can steer your life through the turbulent waters of circumstances if you use it rightly

It is what and how you speak that directs your life to where you will end up. How people talk determines what direction they walk. No matter how big the vessel of your destiny is, the steering of your tongue controls the bearing of your life’s journey. What people say will determine the direction of their life and future. No matter how much you pray, your words can overthrow your prayers and even God’s plan for you.

For example, the children of Israel, who God delivered from the bondage of Pharaoh in Egypt were destroyed by their negative speaking and failed to enter the promised land, even though God had a great plan for them. God came down by Himself in the form of a burning bush, called Moses and tasked him with the assignment to deliver His people. He equipped Moses with supernatural power allowing Moses to display mind boggling signs and wonders. Even in the wilderness, the children of Israel were miraculously provided for through manna from heaven and quail supernaturally directed to them by God.

You would have thought that with all this, their future was guaranteed. Yet despite it all, an entire generation perished due to unbelief expressed through words after listening to the discouraging speech of their leaders.

Numbers 32:9-12

For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, so that they did not go into the land which the Lord had given them. So the Lord's anger was aroused on that day, and He swore an oath, saying, ' Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord. '

Joshua and Caleb were the only adult males in that generation that saw God's promises fulfilled because they spoke differently even when most of their peers were speaking negative words. Don't be like the children of Israel. Learn to speak in accordance with your desired destination and not your present situation. The outcome of your life is far more influenced by what you say than by the circumstances you face. Just as a ship reaching its destination is not solely dependent on the weather but on the skill of the ship's captain and his ability to steer the ship to its desired destination, so it is with you; become a skilled captain of your life. It doesn't matter what the economy or the government is saying, it is your words that determine your world. Jesus proved to us that even the storms of life can be controlled with words when he declared ***"peace be still"*** and calmed the raging winds and waves (***Mark 4:39***)

5.

The Tongue is a fire

James 3:4-5

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of [c]iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

In the scripture above, James emphasized just how destructive the tongue can be. Fire is one of the most destructive phenomena naturally known to man. It burns mercilessly, consuming everything in its path and

leaving destruction in its wake. Once ignited and uncontrolled, it can ravage an entire civilization and until it is extinguished, it is never satisfied until there is nothing left to feed on. It's the same with the tongue. Its destructive potential is immeasurable.

Recently at the beginning of this year, between January 7th and 31st 2025, the United States of America was embattled with wildfires raging through the Los Angeles metropolitan area and San Diego County in California. Despite daunting efforts by the Firefighters to put it out, the fires ended up killing nearly 30 people, destroyed about 18,000 homes, consumed thousands of acres of land and caused droves of Americans to flee to safety out of fear of being caught in its path. Amazingly, fires such as one of this magnitude usually begin with a single spark or a very tiny flame. Similarly, one small word can burn down a relationship, burn down a marriage, scatter a family, scatter a community, destroy a business relationship and even start wars.

Nations have gone to war with millions ending up dead over mere rumours. For example, almost three million people died in the Nigerian civil war in the late sixties because of rumours which framed the Igbos of the Southeastern region for being solely responsible for the 1966 coup.

Similarly, in 1994, Rwanda was plunged into chaos as the Hutu tribe turned on Tutsis, massacring them in droves, fuelled by anti-Tutsi propaganda on the radio that compared them to "cockroaches" deserving of extermination.

And how can we forget one of the worst blights on human history, the Jewish Holocaust? In 1939, a little-known man from Austria, rose to prominence by using words to convince his political party, that certain people were a superior race; the Aryans. He convinced them that the Jews were an inferior race and that they should be wiped out from the surface of earth. That man was Adolf Hitler, and the ideology that he sold, and which the Nazi party bought, led to the second world war and the Holocaust, that saw the death of over six million Jews, as well as millions of the others, who were all involved in the war.

That same war led to the invention of the Atom Bomb, with which Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed, to finally end the war. Words

sparked the fire of global conflict which sentenced millions to death! It is amazing that after wars cease, they try war criminals who violated the rules of war, but no one touches the one who incited the conflict with words.

No weapon man has manufactured is more destructive and devastating than words. Words have done more damage to humanity than swords, guns, war tanks and even nuclear bombs. The fiery destruction evil speaking can cause makes it a sin that shouldn't be taken lightly. Many people repent of the sins of action but don't repent of the sin of evil speaking. One of the easiest ways for demons to instrumentalize human beings to do their bidding is by corrupting their tongues or hearts. If your tongue is foul, Satan is using you. If your words are wholesome God is using you.

This is what James meant in the scriptures by the tongue "being set on fire by hell". The destructive words that people say are ignited by demonic activity.

All destructive acts that occur on Earth begin with words, whether they involve marriage crises, crime, demonic issues, national crises, or even the breakdown of relationships. The most concerning aspect is that evil speaking not only destroys like fire; it can also drag the person speaking into the fires of hell. Revelation 21:8 clearly states that "all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire," and Jesus warned in Matthew 5:22 that insulting one's brother places one in danger of hell. Both are sins of the mouth. It is essential to repent if you discover you have been using your tongue to ignite destructive fires. Unfortunately, many people no longer care about the impact of their words.

6.

The Tongue is a Carrier of Deadly Poison.

James 3:8-9

But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the [f]similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

The above scripture speaks of another destructive analogy of the tongue.

It can be used to poison the hearts and minds of men, causing massive damage when used improperly.

The effectiveness of poison as a weapon is in its ability to gain access to its victims undetected, until the effect of its damage is seen. Poison has felled men who were too strong to be defeated in battle and one small drop of venom can kill a large animal. The venom of a small snake can bring down an entire elephant.

In the same way, most people are unaware when they are being poisoned. The effect of poison is usually only seen after poison has done its destructive work. In the previous examples I gave about the tongue likened to fire and warfare ignited by words, one common factor in all those instances is that apart from sparking fires, words were spoken that poisoned the heart of the instigators of those conflicts. Every word that goes out is either poisoning hearts and minds or healing them. This is why the way you speak should be taken seriously and checked if it produces a negative effect on others. We are admonished by scripture to have our speech seasoned with grace to build others up and not poison them or tear them down.

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

We must also guard against allowing ourselves to be poisoned by others. One of the worst parts about people who are poisoned by words is that when such words have poisoned their hearts, minds and social consciousness, it forms a perception that makes them feel justified in their unrighteous actions.

Also, when people are being verbally attacked or persecuted, those whose minds have been poisoned against them vilify the victim instead of rising in their defence against their persecutors. This is why we shouldn't keep quiet when an innocent person or even a righteous organization such as the church is being maligned. If that poison is unchecked, it can trigger persecution at staggering levels, even to the extent of being backed by government policies.

Consequently, one of the kinds of people we must be the most cautious of are peddlers of lies, rumours, gossip and slander: those in the business of

spinning narratives and poisoning the minds and perceptions of others with their evil speech.

Let me ask you this: When a single snake enters a room, how come no one is relaxed until it is killed? It is impossible to sit comfortably in a room knowing a snake is lurking somewhere in the corner. You will be afraid that at any moment the snake can creep up on you unawares and bite you, inflicting you with its dangerous venom. So how come when someone who slanders or gossips comes around, many of us are not on edge and wary? Sometimes we even entertain them and encourage them! This is obviously because we don't understand the venomous nature of the tongues of such people.

While I am obviously not saying you should try to kill them, you must be as cautious with them as you would with a snake. There are a lot of "snakes" who take pleasure in moving around and poisoning people's minds against their brothers, spouses, authority figures, churches and the like. Firstly, make sure you are not one of them and repent if you have ever found yourself doing things like this. Remember God is merciful, and he is willing to forgive you if you confess your sin to him. (1st John 1:9) Secondly, be wary of such people and avoid them at all costs. Just as a bystander can be harmed by the second-hand smoke coming from a smoker in his vicinity, it is the same way gossip, slander, backbiting and all other kinds of evil speaking harm not only those who peddle it but also those around them who entertain it. And remember, whoever gossips with you will one day gossip about you. Whoever slanders someone before you will slander you before someone else.

7. Words are Energy

Job 8:2

"How long will you speak these things, And the words of your mouth be like a strong wind?"

Just like wind energy, words are pregnant with invisible forces that move reality in the direction of what is spoken. Positive words release positive energy and attract positive outcomes. The same goes for negative words; they release negative energy and attract negative outcomes. Words are energized with power and anytime you speak power is released.

The kind of power you release is determined by what you speak. Negative words can also drain power. For instance, you can go on a fast and generate spiritual power but leak everything out with careless speaking. People should be taught not just how to fast but also how to speak during and after the fast to conserve what they generated from it. Negative words can attract demonic powers while positive words can attract angelic activity.

Once spoken words generate a force field and replicate realities according to the energy of what was said. Creative speaking can start a revolution that changes everything. The right words can change a family, a church, an organization. It can inspire people to rise and accomplish the impossible. In the same way, negative words can do the exact opposite and cause great harm and destruction.

Genuine Religion According to the Scriptures

James 1:26 NKJV

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

One thing that can nullify or validate your Christian experience is the way you talk. Inability to control one's tongue is contrary to Christian doctrine and lifestyle. Speaking negatively does not demonstrate the faith we profess and when we are afflicted with “mouth disease” it jeopardizes our faith and the faith of others

According to the scriptures, pure religion is demonstrating love and not defiling your world through your tongue. This scripture isn't just talking about the consecration of actions but also the consecration of words because James already made it clear that one of the things that defile our entire body is how we speak.

Matthew 15:18-19

18. But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

19. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries,

fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Jesus also made it clear that it is what comes out of the heart that defiles a man, especially evil words. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We will discuss the connection between the heart and the mouth later in this book. As vessels who carry the Holy Spirit within us, we aren't supposed to be associated with words or actions that mirror the nature of the devil.

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

One goal that ought to be common to every single believer is demonstrating Christlikeness because it is a purpose to which we are all called according to **Romans 8:29**. Anything we do that will not reflect the glory or character of God should be highly discouraged, including evil speaking.

Is your tongue currently manifesting any of the negative characteristics we discussed in this chapter? Remain glued to these pages because as we progress, I will show you how you can get healing for your tongue. It is time to become who God created you to be and use your mouth exclusively as an instrument of good and not for evil.

Chapter 8

The Destructive Power of Bad Words

Ecclesiastes 5:6

'Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? '

Not all sins have curses associated with them in the scriptures. However, evil speaking is one of the greater sins that carries a curse. Whenever evil speech proceeds from our mouth, negative consequences are sure to follow.

We see from the above scripture that the consequences of evil speaking rest not only on the speaker but also on everything he produces. This may even affect his offspring.

However, there are several other impacts of evil speaking. It is misleading to believe that when bad words are spoken, they only affect the subject of those words. In reality, when such words are uttered, they impact people on three levels. First, they negatively influence the speaker of the harmful words; then, they affect the person being spoken about; and finally, they adversely impact the listener who receives the negative communication.

Three Levels of Impact of Evil Words

The Speaker:

The first person affected by bad words, is the speaker of the words. When you speak negative words about a person, those words first travel inward and do damage to you, the speaker. I showed you earlier that words are spirit, and they carry energy. When you speak negative words, those

words come alive, and depending on the kind of words they are, they can generate either negative or positive energy. When you speak negative words, they generate negative energy, and that negative energy, first travels inside you and causes damage to you, even before it causes damage to the person you spoke of.

Just as everyone has an immune system that physically protects us from infection, believers also have a spiritual immune system, that protects them from the attacks of the enemy. It is the seal of the Holy Spirit. Before the devil can access the life of a believer, this seal has to be broken. When you speak evil against anyone, you break this seal and this gives the devil access into your life to perform his ministry of stealing, killing and destroying.

Psalm 59:12-13

For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for the cursing and lying which they speak. Consume them in wrath, consume them, That they may not be; And let them know that God rules in Jacob, To the ends of the earth.

As a matter of fact, negative words spoken against, or about another person, also have the capacity to bring divine judgement on the speaker. The Lord has said that He hates those who speak negatively against others; if you do it, you open yourself to divine judgment.

Numbers 12:1-3, 9-10

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it. (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)...So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.

The words Miriam spoke against Moses, traveled inside of her and gave birth to corruption inside her, that showed itself as Leprosy. Evil speaking is like and produces the effects of the contagious disease of leprosy. Divine judgment was unleashed and it took the prayer of the same Moses, whom

she had spoken against, to get her healed and whole again.

Numbers 12:13-15

So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “Please heal her, O God, I pray!”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again.” So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in again.

However, as a result of this incident, we never heard of the ministry of the prophetess, Miriam again. This marked the end of her ministry. Speaking against others can also make you lose your standing in the presence of God, and suspend your destiny. You must understand that God’s absolute will is immutable and will definitely be done, but the people through whom they will be done, can be changed. Many people have lost ministry, blessings and position God gave them, because of evil speaking.

This is shown again in the book of **Numbers 16**, when Korah, Dathan and Abiram, led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. They spoke lies and slandered them before all of Israel and scriptures show us the consequences.

Numbers 16:1-3,

Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”

This time it not only affected the men who spoke, it affected everything they owned, their wives, children and everything tied to them, went to hell alive. The consequences of evil speaking are very grievous.

Numbers 16:31-33

Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the

ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly who were offering incense.

After reading this scripture we should be extremely cautious of the way we use our mouths. As earlier stated in this chapter, curses follow the one that speaks evil. You may think you are getting away with it when you do it but that isn't the case. I will show you one more scripture on this that I want us to consider.

Deuteronomy 27:24

'Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

One might ask, "But how can I strike my neighbour secretly? How can I hit the person without them knowing?" With words, of course! Do you remember that the tongue can be used as poison and a sword? When you speak ill of others behind their backs and damage their reputation, you are striking them in secret. Even if what you said was true, if you expressed it derogatorily or with ill intent, you are guilty of secretly attacking the person. If you had to invent lies, that is even worse. Slander is more harmful than gossip, though both are evil. The consequences of this for the speaker are crystal clear from the scripture mentioned above.

The Person Spoken of

The second person affected by evil speaking is the one who is spoken about. When someone is slandered, gossiped about, or subjected to malicious commentary, it can impact their name, character, and influence. This can tarnish their reputation and potentially deplete their reputational capital, reducing their overall influence.

When the devil deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, he did so by slandering God to her. He claimed that what God said was a lie and insisted that she would not die for eating the fruit. In fact, he presented a scenario to her, accusing God of withholding something from both her and Adam. He led her to believe that God was keeping something good from them by

instructing them not to eat the fruit from the tree.

Genesis 3:1-4

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “ Has God indeed said, ‘ You shall not eat of every tree of the garden ’ ? ” And the woman said to the serpent, “ We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘ You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. ” Then the serpent said to the woman, “ You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. ”

As a result of this slander against God, the woman lost her faith and trust in God and was deceived. God as it were, lost His influence with the woman and she acted in disobedience. As a result of this slander against God by the devil, the Lord the creator of heaven and earth, lost the fellowship He had with Adam and his wife.

The devil also played this same game with the angels in heaven, and he got a third of them to rebel along with him, against God. As a result of this, God lost a third of the angels he had created.

Another example of this is found in the book of **1 Samuel 22**. Doeg the Edomite carried tales to king Saul about David and the priests, and it cost the priests their lives.

1 Samuel 22:7-10

then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “ Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day. ” Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, “ I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. And he inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. ”

This information passes on to king Saul angered him to the extent that he commanded that the whole city of priests, their wives and children should be wiped out. All this happened because someone yielded to do the reprehensible work of a tale bearer.

1 Samuel 22:16-19

And the king said, “ You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father ’ s house! ” Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, “ Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me. ” But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the Lord. And the king said to Doeg, “ You turn and kill the priests! ” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep — with the edge of the sword.

The Receiver of Evil Words

The third person evil speaking damages is the person who listens to and receives evil words spoken against another person. It poisons his perception about the person in question and can destroy relationships. The person who receives negative or evil words about someone else, usually ends up doing something that they eventually regret, as a result of the evil words they entertained.

The first case study I will mention is what happened in heaven when Satan rebelled against the Almighty God. John 8:44 describes Satan as one in whom there is no truth and ***“a liar and the father of it.”*** We have already seen him manifest this trait with Eve and Adam in the garden of Eden, but it didn't start there. In the vision of John recorded in the book of revelations, we see an interesting account of an event that happened in heaven.

Revelation 12:3-4

'And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his

heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. '

While I will not go into elaborate details to explain this vision, for the purpose of this discussion, suffice it to say that the “great fiery red dragon” represents Satan. The “third of the stars of heaven” represents a third of the heavenly host of angels. What John was witnessing was how Satan caused a rebellion in heaven that caused the fall of a third of the entire population of angels! Satan did not fall alone. Revelations 12:9 also tells us that ***“his angels were cast out with him”***

Where did Satan’s angels come from? We know that God was the one who created the angels and Satan created nothing. How did angels, created pure as beings of light, turn to Satan’s side to wage war against God? The liar must have told them something to rebel, just as he spoke to Eve in the garden. However, it was the responsibility of those angels not to entertain slander or whatever malicious speech Satan spoke to them. For listening to him and being ensnared by his poisonous tongue, they now share the same fate. Apart from being expelled from Heaven, they will all end up in ***“the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41)***. The third of the angels in heaven were initially innocent, until they listened to and received the slander that the devil was selling. One can only wonder what Satan told them. Whatever it is, it was poisonous enough to change their perception towards their loving Creator and convince them they could war against Him!

This is why we are prohibited not just from speaking evil but also from listening to evil speech. It is not enough to say, “I will just listen, I will not contribute to the discussion”. By listening you commit two sins: firstly, you are encouraging the evil speaker to keep sinning. The Jews call it “putting a stumbling block before the blind”. A gossip or slanderer needs an audience. If you had chosen to walk away or insisted on changing the subject, the gossip would have stopped. Secondly, you are sinning by listening to that evil speech because you are allowing your heart and mind to be poisoned.

The person who entertains evil speech being spoken against another person, is the one who receives the most damage. Once people’s hearts are poisoned, they begin to look for other people that they can infect with their

mouth disease. Do not let them infect you with that deadly disease. Do not give anybody the opportunity to infect you with their bitterness. Do not put yourself at risk because you do not want to offend others by doing what is right. This disease of the mouth is dangerously infectious; protect yourself from it.

Another case study is the biblical account of the twelve spies of Israel who were sent out to spy on the land of Canaan which the Lord had promised them. Israel had been in the wilderness for months, and they had braved several battles and obstacles, to arrive at the mouth of the promised land. These twelve men were sent out to give the children of Israel, an idea of the land they were about to inherit. However, ten of the spies came back with an evil report. They said the land was good but that the land swallows up its inhabitants, and that they were like grasshoppers in their own eyes, before the giants they saw in the land. This evil report had a disastrous effect on the congregation of Israel.

Numbers 14:1-4

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “ Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt? ” And they said to one another, “ Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt. ”

The consequence of this was that God swore that not one of these people who had murmured would enter the promised land. The evil report that they entertained cost them the land they had been promised. It extended the journey that was supposed to be forty days, to a forty-year journey, until everyone of them had died in the wilderness. The very children who they grumbled would be taken as slaves, were the ones who now inherited the land of promise, under Joshua.

Numbers 14:22-23

...because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see

the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

They spoke against the land saying that the land was one that swallowed up its inhabitants, and that the giants in the land would destroy them. All of Israel rebelled against God and accused Him of bringing them to Canaan, to kill them. They wished they had died in Egypt or even the wilderness. By entertaining the evil report of the ten spies, they rebelled against God and as a result, God said he would do to them what they said. They all died in the wilderness and their children whom they said would be carried away as slaves, were the ones who finally inherited the promised land.

Numbers 14:28-29, 31

Say to them, As I live, ' says the Lord, ' just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above ... But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

There are many people who are also wandering round in circles in their life like this. They pray and ask God to change their situations, but they stay bound in chains. Nothing they do prospers and they think they are under a spell.

The spell holding them bound is their mouths and the evil words they have spoken. You should not speak evil against your land, neither should you speak against your future, your family, your destiny or anything that concerns you. It impacts your environment negatively and attracts negative energy to you. It also damages God ' s plan and purpose for you, short-circuiting it.

Some Other Effects of Bad Words

1. It leads to eternal damnation; because no slanderer can make heaven.

Matthew 5:22

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the

council; and whoever says, ‘ You fool! ’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

2. It can destroy a company or a person ’ s business, ignite rebellion within a system and destroy cohesion and unity in an organization.

3. It damages social capital, destroys relationships, and erodes trust.

Proverbs 11:13

A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

4. It can hinder the achievement of organizational mission and goals.

5. It leaves a lot of people hurt, wounded, damaged and disoriented, damaging their health and shortening their life span.

Psalms 34:12-14

What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

6. It can make young believers backslide and lose their faith.

7. It can affect a nation ’ s development. It can negatively affect international relations among nations and hinder a nation ’ s development because their image has been damaged, making life hard for the people of the nation.

Proverbs 11:11

By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

Once you get people to speak wrongly, every other sin follows. Wherever bad words have gone before, destruction follows. Demons don ’ t move till bad words are spoken. Bad words are a poison and hell ’ s fury can never be unleashed without bad words.

Negative words corrupt the tongue so it can no longer carry God ’ s power. The prayers of a believer who consistently speaks evil words, do not cross the roof of his house; they hover around the atmosphere and never make it to God ’ s presence. The man who speaks evil words, loses integrity

and authority in the spirit.

Some Other Scriptural Examples of the Effects of Bad Speech

- Potiphar ' s wife lied against Joseph: **Genesis 39:7-20.**
- Joab lied to get Abner to come to him in peace, and killed him; Curses were rained on Joab. **2 Samuel 3:22-30.**
- Judas betrayed Jesus and he committed suicide and went to hell. **Acts 1:15-20, Matthew 27:3-9.**
- Jonadab gave Amnon evil counsel that led to Amnon raping Tamah his sister. Amnon lost his life as a result. **2 Samuel 13:1-29.**
- Balaam gave Barak evil counsel that led Israel to sin and it caused the death of many Israelites. Balaam lost his life. **Numbers 31:1-8,16.**
- False Accusation against Stephen, led to his death. **Acts 6:11-14, 7:57-60.**
- Rehoboam ' s harsh words cost him the kingdom. **1 Kings 12:1-19.**

Chapter 9

The Connection between your Mouth and Your Heart

Understanding the Heart-Mouth Connection

The words we speak are not random; they flow from the depths of our hearts. What fills the heart eventually finds its way to the mouth.

Luke 6:4

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks”

When we verbalize the things in our hearts, we create them. They move from the inner world of thoughts into existence in the universe, shaping our experiences, relationships, and destiny. This is how the content of our hearts and the words we speak work together to shape our lives and determine our destinies. This is what the Heart-Mouth Connection is all about.

Our speech is a direct reflection of what is inside us. Just as a tree produces fruit according to its nature, our words reveal the state of our inner being. If our hearts are filled with faith, love and wisdom, our speech will reflect these qualities. If on the other hand they are filled with fear, anger and negativity, our words will betray us. Understanding this connection is crucial because words are not just sounds; they carry power to build or destroy, to bless or curse, to create or tear down.

The Heart: The Source of Speech

The heart, in this context, represents the core of our being which includes our thoughts, emotions, beliefs, and values. It is the center from which all decisions, attitudes and words originate. The Bible teaches in ***Proverbs 4:23, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”*** This means that everything we experience in life is

influenced by the state of our heart, including our words.

Consider a person who has been wounded by betrayal. If the pain is left unresolved, bitterness may take root in their heart. Over time, their words will reflect this bitterness; whether in hatred, harsh criticism, or an inability to trust others. On the other hand, a person who has cultivated peace and forgiveness in their heart will naturally speak words of grace and wisdom.

The Mouth: The Instrument of the Heart

While the heart is the source, the mouth is the instrument through which our inner thoughts and emotions are expressed. Recall what **Luke 6:45** says, **“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”** This means that our words serve as a mirror, revealing what truly resides within us.

Imagine two individuals facing the same difficult situation. One says, "I will never get out of this mess. My life is ruined." The other says, "This is challenging, but I will overcome with God's help." Their words reflect their inner beliefs; one filled with despair and the other with hope. Over time, these words will shape their experiences and outcomes.

Words as Creative Forces

Throughout history, words have been recognized as powerful forces that shape reality. In the book of Genesis, God created the world through spoken words: **“Let there be light,” and there was light.** This demonstrates that words have the ability to bring things into existence. Similarly, our words create our personal worlds.

Many successful people have attributed their achievements to the power of spoken words. Athletes, business leaders, and spiritual figures often speak positively about their future before it happens. Conversely, those who speak negatively about themselves and their circumstances, often find that their words become self-fulfilling prophecies.

Case Studies: The Power of Speech in Action

Let us examine some hypothetical cases and draw lessons from them.

Case Study 1: The Impact of Negative Speech

John had always struggled with low self-esteem. Throughout his childhood, he heard phrases like "You're not smart enough" and "You'll never amount to anything." Over time, he internalized these words, and they

became part of his self-talk. Whenever he faced challenges, he would say, "I can't do this," and he eventually stopped trying. His speech reflected the condition of his heart, and as a result, he lived a life of limitation.

Case Study 2: Transforming Life Through Proper Speech

Sarah, on the other hand, faced many obstacles but refused to let negativity take root in her heart. She filled her mind with scriptures and positive affirmations. Every morning, she declared, "I am blessed. I have the wisdom to succeed. Nothing is impossible with God." Over time, these words shaped her mindset, her actions, and eventually her reality. She became a confident, successful individual, proving that proper speech, rooted in a transformed heart, can change one's destiny.

The Call to Guard Your Heart and Words

Understanding the heart-mouth connection, calls us to be intentional about what we allow into our hearts. If we desire to speak words that bring life, we must first cultivate a heart that is full of life. Here are a few steps to achieve this:

1.

Monitor Your Thoughts and Influences: Be mindful of the things you watch, listen to, and engage in. Negative influences can corrupt your heart and, consequently, your speech.

2.

Practice Gratitude and Positivity: A heart filled with gratitude will naturally produce words of encouragement and hope.

3.

Fill Your Heart with God's Word: Meditating on scriptures will help shape your thoughts and speech according to truth and wisdom.

4.

Be Slow to Speak: Take a moment before speaking to assess whether your words are necessary, kind, and edifying.

Powerful Forces That Shape Lives

The heart-mouth connection is one of the most powerful forces in shaping our lives. Our words do not operate in isolation; they are deeply connected to the condition of our hearts. By transforming our inner world, we can begin to speak words that align with God's purpose for our lives;

words that bring healing, success, and fulfillment.

Program Your Heart for Proper Speech

If our words are direct reflections of our hearts, then transforming our speech begins with transforming our inner world. Many people struggle with negative speech patterns, because their hearts have been programmed by past experiences, cultural influences, or personal struggles. Just as a computer operates based on the software installed in it, our speech is dictated by what has been programmed into our hearts over time.

The good news is that we can reprogram our hearts to align with truth, wisdom, and positivity. By intentionally renewing our minds and reshaping our internal beliefs, we can develop a habit of proper speech that leads to success, peace, and fulfillment.

The Condition of Our Hearts

Every word we speak is the result of past conditioning. The way we were raised, the things we have experienced, and the messages we have repeatedly heard, have all contributed to shaping the way we think and speak. Some people have been conditioned to expect failure, so their words constantly reinforce fear and defeat. Others have been trained to see opportunities, so they naturally speak with confidence and hope.

Proverbs 23:7 says, *“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”*

This verse reveals that our thoughts; what we meditate on and believe; ultimately shape who we become and how we speak. If our inner world is filled with doubt, anger, or insecurity, our words will reflect that. But if our hearts are filled with faith, wisdom, and gratitude, we will naturally speak words of life.

Cleansing the Heart of Negative Programming

Before we can speak properly, we must cleanse our hearts of the negative beliefs and emotions that have been stored over time. Just as a garden must be cleared of weeds before good seeds can grow, our hearts must be freed from destructive thoughts and emotions. Here are some ways to do this

:

- 1.

Identifying Negative Heart Conditions

The first step in reprogramming your heart is recognizing what is already there. Some common negative conditions that affect speech include:

- **Bitterness and Unforgiveness**– Leads to harsh and critical speech.
- **Fear and Anxiety**– Produces words of doubt and negativity.
- **Low Self-Worth**– Causes self-defeating and limiting speech.
- **Anger and Resentment**– Results in harsh and harmful words.

To identify these negative influences, pay close attention to the words you frequently say about yourself, others, and life in general.

2.

Releasing Negative Emotions

Once you identify what has been stored in your heart, the next step is to release it. This can be done through:

- **Forgiveness**– Letting go of past hurts to free your heart from bitterness.
- **Prayer and Meditation**– Surrendering negative emotions to God and allowing His peace to fill your heart.
- **Confession and Repentance**– Acknowledging and renouncing any destructive beliefs or speech patterns.

Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

This should be our daily prayer as we seek to reprogram our hearts for proper speech.

Filling the Heart with Wisdom and Truth

Cleansing the heart is just the beginning. To ensure lasting transformation, we must replace negative programming with truth, wisdom, and positivity. Here's how:

1. Meditate on God's Word

The most powerful way to program the heart is by meditating on the truth found in Scripture. When we feed our minds with God's promises, our hearts are renewed, and our speech aligns with His wisdom.

Joshua 1:8

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night.”

Some key scriptures to meditate on include:

- **Philippians 4:8**– Thinking on things that are true, noble, and pure.

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”

- **Romans 12:2**– Renewing the mind to transform our lives.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

- **Proverbs 18:21**– Understanding the power of the tongue.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

2. Practice Gratitude and Positivity

A grateful heart produces positive speech. When we focus on what is good, we naturally speak words of encouragement, hope, and faith. Start a gratitude journal, where you list things you are thankful for each day. Over time, this will train your heart to see the good in every situation and speak accordingly.

3. **Surround Yourself with the Right Influences**

The company we keep and the content we consume, play a significant role in shaping our inner world. If we are constantly exposed to negativity, gossip, and discouragement, our hearts will be filled with those things. Instead, choose to:

- Spend time with people who uplift and inspire you.
- Listen to sermons, motivational messages, and positive affirmations.
- Read books that encourage faith, wisdom, and personal growth.

Practical Exercises for Heart Reprogramming

To solidify these principles, here are some practical exercises to help reprogram your heart for proper speech:

1. **Daily Affirmations**

Affirmations are powerful tools that help to overwrite negative beliefs and replace them with positive truths. Speak affirmations like:

- *“I am blessed, favored, and filled with wisdom.”*
- *“My words align with God’s truth and bring life to my circumstances.”*
- *“I have a heart filled with peace, joy, and gratitude.”*

2. **The “Pause and Filter” Technique**

Before speaking, pause for a moment and ask yourself:

Is this true? · Is this necessary? · Is this uplifting?

This simple practice can prevent destructive speech and encourage life-giving words.

3.

Scriptural Declarations

Find Bible verses related to the kind of speech you want to cultivate and declare them daily. For example:

•

Proverbs 16:24—“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

•

Colossians 4:6—“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt.”

Position Yourself for Consistent Proper Speech

Our hearts determine the words we speak, and our words shape the course of our lives. If we desire proper speech that brings success, peace, and blessings, we must begin with the inner work of reprogramming our hearts. By cleansing our hearts of negativity and filling them with truth, gratitude, and wisdom, we position ourselves to speak words that align with God’s plan for our lives.

How Your Words Shape Your Life

Every word you speak has creative power. Your life today is, in many ways, a reflection of the words you have spoken in the past, whether consciously or unconsciously. Words are not just sounds, they are containers of power that can build or destroy, bless or curse, uplift or tear down.

Proverbs 18:21

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

This means that your words produce outcomes, whether good or bad, and you will eventually experience the consequences of what you consistently say.

The Creative Power of Words

From the beginning of time, words have been the primary tool for creation. In Genesis 1, we see that God created the world through spoken words:

- ***“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”***
(Genesis 1:3)

“And God said...” appears multiple times, demonstrating that everything was formed through His words.

Because we are created in God’s image, our words also have the ability to shape reality. When we speak, we activate spiritual and natural forces that align with our declarations.

Jesus reinforced this principle in **Mark 11:23**, saying, ***“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”***

This shows that spoken words, combined with faith, can bring real change.

Words and Personal Identity

The words we speak about ourselves shape our identity and self-perception. Many people live limited lives, because they have programmed themselves with negative speech patterns such as:

- “I am not good enough.”
- “I will never succeed.”
- “Nothing ever works out for me.”

These statements reinforce failure and insecurity. Conversely, when you speak words of faith and positivity, you reprogram your mind for confidence and success.

Consider the story of Gideon in **Judges 6**. When the angel of the Lord appeared to him, he was hiding in fear, but the angel called him a “**mighty man of valor**.” Though Gideon saw himself as weak, God’s words redefined his identity, and he eventually rose to lead Israel to victory.

How to Speak to Reinforce a Strong Identity:

1.
Speak what God says about you– Replace negative self-talk with God’s truth.
2.
Affirm your strengths– Declare, “I am wise, strong, and capable.”
3.
Reject negative labels– Do not accept defeatist words spoken by others.

Words and Circumstances

Our words do not only shape our self-perception; they also influence our circumstances. Many people unknowingly sabotage their own progress by constantly speaking negatively about their situations.

Consider these examples:

- A person who says, “*I will never find a good job,*” may struggle with job opportunities.
- A student who repeatedly says, “*I am not smart enough,*” may find it difficult to succeed academically.
- A couple who constantly say, “*Our marriage is failing,*” may experience unnecessary conflict.

Words set the direction of your life. James 3:4 compares the tongue to the rudder of a ship; small but powerful enough to determine the ship’s course. If you want to change your circumstances, start by changing your words.

Speaking Life into Your Circumstances:

Instead of saying: “I am broke and struggling.”

Say: “God supplies all my needs, and I walk in abundance.”

Instead of saying: “I always get sick.”

Say: “I walk in divine health, and my body is strong.”

Instead of saying: “I will never overcome this problem.”

Say: “I am more than a conqueror through Christ.”

Words and Destiny

Your future is being shaped by the words you speak today. If you consistently declare defeat, you are programming your destiny for failure. But if you align your speech with God’s promises, you set yourself on a path to success.

In **Numbers 13**, twelve spies were sent to scout the Promised Land. Ten of them returned with negative words, saying, “***We are like grasshoppers in their sight.***” Their words created fear and unbelief, and as a result, they never entered the land. However, Joshua and Caleb spoke faith-filled words: “***We are well able to take the land.***” Because of their speech, they were the only ones from that generation to step into the promise.

Practical Steps to Speak Your Destiny into Reality

1.

Set a vision for your life and speak it daily– Declare your goals as though they are already accomplished.

2.

Cancel negative words– If you say something negative, immediately replace it with a positive declaration.

3.

Surround yourself with faith-filled speech– Avoid environments that encourage doubt, fear, and negativity.

Practical Exercises for Life-Changing Speech

To ensure that your words consistently shape your life for the better, practice the following:

1.

The 24-Hour Speech Challenge

For one day, commit to speaking only positive, faith-filled words. If you catch yourself speaking negatively, immediately rephrase it.

2.

Write and Recite Daily Declarations

Create a list of affirmations based on God's Word and repeat them every morning. Example:

- "I am blessed, favored, and walking in purpose."
- "I have the wisdom to solve every challenge I face."
- "Goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life."

3.

Partner with an Accountability Friend

Find someone who also wants to transform their speech. Encourage each other to speak life daily.

Set Yourself Up for Success

Your words are shaping your reality, whether you realize it or not. If you want to experience change in your life, begin by changing how you speak. By aligning your words with faith, wisdom, and positivity, you set yourself up for success and divine favor.

Chapter 10

31 Laws of Proper Speech

Leviticus 19:16-18

"You shall not go about as a tale-bearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

The Bible contains over 31 prohibitions against negative speech in the Old Testament alone. This emphasis reveals the profound importance God places on how we use our words. In Jewish tradition, these principles are known as the laws of proper speech, guiding us to use our divine gift of communication with wisdom and compassion.

Our words carry immense power. They can build up or tear down, heal or wound, unite or divide. The Rabbis teach that the tongue, though small, can cause great damage or bring extraordinary blessing. These laws help us harness the power of speech for good, enabling us to create a world of peace rather than toxicity.

The Laws of Proper Speech

1. We Are Prohibited From Being Peddlers or Spreaders of Bad News and Rumors

Proverbs 11:13

"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a

secret."

God commissioned us to spread good news, not bad. When we peddle rumors and negative reports, we abandon our divine assignment and take up the devil's work instead. The spreader of rumors becomes like a merchant of destruction, carrying harmful words from place to place.

When Moses sent twelve spies to explore the Promised Land, ten returned with fearful rumors that spread throughout the camp. These rumors led to rebellion against God and Moses. As a result, an entire generation was condemned to die in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land (**Numbers 13-14**). Their negative speech altered the destiny of a nation.

Before sharing information, always ask yourself: "Is this helpful? Is it necessary? Is it kind?" If not, choose silence.

2. We Are Prohibited From Being Tale-Bearers and From Spreading Gossip

Leviticus 19:16

"Do not go about spreading slander among your people."

A tale-bearer carries gossip as merchandise, going from person to person saying, "I heard such and such about so-and-so." The prohibition stands even when what is being said is true. God commands us to refrain from speaking negatively about others.

Consider Doeg the Edomite, who reported to King Saul that the priest Ahimelech had helped David. This tale-bearing led to the massacre of eighty-five priests and their families (**1 Samuel 22:9-19**). What might have seemed like a simple sharing of information resulted in tragic bloodshed.

Instead of discussing people, we can talk about ideas, interests, and positive matters. You can be sociable without being a gossiper, a people person without being a slanderer.

3. It Is Prohibited to Speak Negatively About God, Yourself, or Others

Philippians 4:8

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things."

Negative speech manifests in three harmful directions: against God, against oneself, and against others. All three forms dishonor the divine image and contradict the positive focus God calls us to maintain.

Consider King David's son Absalom, who masterfully employed negative speech in all three dimensions. He spoke negatively about his father King David's leadership: "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you." He elevated himself inappropriately: "If only I were appointed judge in the land!" And he implied God's favor had shifted: "Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice" (**2 Samuel 15:3-4**). This calculated negative speech pattern eventually led to rebellion, civil war, and Absalom's own death.

Another very instructive case study is what Satan said to Eve to deceive her into eating the forbidden fruit. (**Genesis 3:1-5**) He slandered God, painting the impression that God was a liar who asked them not to eat the fruit because He was insecure and wanted to protect His position. He misrepresented God's noble intentions as ulterior motives, causing Eve to lose trust in God and act against His will. Whenever we do anything similar, we are acting like Satan.

Guard your speech in all three directions. Fill your mind with what is true, noble, and praiseworthy, and your speech will naturally follow. When tempted to speak negatively, ask yourself if your words meet the **Philippians 4:8** standard. If not, find a way to reframe your communication in a constructive manner.

4. We Are Prohibited From Speaking Derogatorily of or to Any Person

Proverbs 12:18

"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the

wise brings healing."

Derogatory speech lowers another person's reputation, shames them, or diminishes their dignity. Such speech wounds the heart and damages relationships.

When the young men mocked Elisha, saying, "Go up, you baldhead!" they suffered terrible consequences (**2 Kings 2:23-24**). Their derogatory speech displayed contempt not just for Elisha but for God's authority represented through him.

Practice speaking words that elevate others. Look for the good in people and verbalize it. This creates an atmosphere of honor that benefits everyone.

5. It Is Prohibited to Entertain Gossip and Slander About Others

Proverbs 17:4

"Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay attention to slander."

The one who entertains slander is worse than the speaker, for they encourage the gossip to continue spreading harmful words. Without an audience, gossip dies like a fire without oxygen.

When the Israelites listened to and accepted the negative report of the ten spies, they participated in the slander against the Promised Land — God's gift to them. For this, they were condemned to wander in the desert (**Numbers 14:26-35**). The listeners shared in the punishment because they entertained the slander.

To stop gossip, either openly confront the speaker or indicate that you will contact the subject of the gossip. These actions will often extinguish the flame of slander before it spreads.

6. It Is Prohibited to Speak Evil of God and His Promised Destiny for Your Life

Numbers 13:31-33

"But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We cannot attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored."

When you speak negatively about yourself and your God-given destiny,

you are speaking against your Maker. Saying things like "I won't amount to anything" or "I can't succeed" contradicts God's promises and plans for your life.

The Israelites declared, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt" (**Numbers 14:4**), rejecting God's promised destiny for them. This negative self-talk led to their wandering in the wilderness for forty years, rather than entering their promised inheritance.

Speak words of faith over your future. Align your declarations with God's promises, not your fears.

7. It Is Prohibited to Speak Evil of God's Creation

Genesis 1:31

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Mocking God's creation is mocking God Himself. When we speak negatively about how God made people, places, or things, we suggest that the Creator made a mistake.

When the people complained about the manna God provided, saying, "We detest this miserable food," they were speaking against God's provision and creation (**Numbers 21:5**). Their ingratitude brought judgment in the form of venomous snakes.

Practice gratitude in your speech. Acknowledge the good in God's creation, even when you encounter challenges or difficulties.

8. It Is Prohibited to Spread Negative Reports About Institutions, Organizations, or Businesses

Proverbs 11:11

"Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed."

Spreading negative reports about organizations, institutions, or businesses can damage their reputation and the livelihoods of many who depend on them. Our words have the power to build up or tear down entire communities and establishments.

When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin wrote a letter of accusation against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes, saying, "This city is a rebellious city, troublesome to kings and provinces, and that they have incited sedition within the city in former times..." (**Ezra 4:12-16**), they halted the rebuilding of Jerusalem for many years. Their negative report about the city and its inhabitants caused significant harm to God's purposes and people.

If asked directly for feedback, however, one may offer honest assessment for the purpose of improvement. The difference lies in the intent — to destroy or to build up. When we speak about institutions, we should consider the many lives connected to them and speak with responsibility and care.

9. It Is Prohibited to Speak Praise of People on Their Enemies' Platform

Proverbs 27:14

"If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse."

Speaking someone's praise in the presence of their enemies can incite jealousy and hatred. Even positive words, spoken in the wrong context, can cause harm.

When the women praised David saying, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands" (**1 Samuel 18:7**), their praise inflamed Saul's jealousy and endangered David's life. Context matters in how our words are received.

Be wise about where and when you speak well of others. Consider the audience and potential consequences of your praise. Respect the platform of anyone who has given you access.

10. It Is Prohibited to Communicate Negative Information Through Facial Expressions, Eye Motions, or Sign Language

Proverbs 6:12-14

"A troublemaker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth, who winks maliciously with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers, who plots evil with deceit in his heart — he always stirs up

conflict."

Negative communication extends beyond words. Rolling eyes, mocking gestures, and disdainful expressions can communicate contempt as effectively as harsh words.

When Michal watched David dancing before the Lord and "despised him in her heart," her facial expression later revealed her disdain (**2 Samuel 6:16**). This nonverbal communication led to conflict in their relationship and lasting consequences.

Monitor your nonverbal communication. Your facial expressions and gestures should communicate the same respect and kindness as your words.

11. It Is Prohibited to Make Jokes of People in a Derogatory Manner or Embarrass Them Publicly

Proverbs 26:18-19

"Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, 'I was only joking!'"

Humor should never come at the expense of another person's dignity. Mocking others or making them the butt of jokes causes pain and destroys relationships.

When the youths mocked Elisha for his baldness (**2 Kings 2:23**), they used his physical appearance as a source of derision. Their mockery brought swift judgment, showing that what they considered a joke, God considered a serious offense.

Find humor that brings joy without causing pain. True wit uplifts rather than degrades others.

12. It Is Prohibited to Speak in Ways That Cause Pain and Hurt

Ephesians 4:29

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Words that wound are prohibited. Our speech should bring healing and

encouragement, not pain and suffering.

When Job's friends spoke harshly to him in his suffering, suggesting his calamities were punishment for sin, their words only deepened his pain (**Job 16:2-4**). God later explicitly rebuked them in **Job 42:7-8**: "After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has. So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly.'"

Ask yourself before speaking: "Will these words heal or harm?" Choose words that bring comfort, not further injury, especially to those already suffering.

13. It Is Prohibited to Speak Words That Damage People Mentally and Emotionally

Proverbs 15:4

"The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit."

Words have extraordinary power to either nourish or devastate another person's spirit. Speech that wounds the mind and heart can cause lasting damage that physical wounds cannot match. When we speak in ways that crush another's spirit, we violate the sacred commandment to love our neighbor.

Consider how King Saul spoke to his son Jonathan regarding his friendship with David: "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?" (**1 Samuel 20:30**). These cruel, emotionally violent words not only damaged their father-son relationship but revealed the spiritual darkness consuming Saul's heart. Such bitter speech wounds not only the hearer but also corrupts the speaker.

Choose words that give life rather than crush the spirit. Remember that emotional wounds often take far longer to heal than physical ones. Your gentle, encouraging words may provide the very strength someone needs to

persevere through their darkest times.

14. We Are Prohibited From Speaking Against Our Parents or Cursing Them

Exodus 21:17

"Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death."

Speaking against our parents dishonors them and violates the fifth commandment. God takes this prohibition so seriously that in ancient Israel, the penalty was severe.

Ham spoke disrespectfully about his father Noah's nakedness instead of covering it discreetly as his brothers did (**Genesis 9:20-27**). This dishonor brought a curse upon his descendants, showing the seriousness of disrespecting parents.

In speaking to Parents, it is also commendable to apply wisdom. Communicate respectfully and gently in a way where you can influence them without making them feel insulted. If you cannot do this, its better to leave the issue alone.

Furthermore, you should not openly tell them they are wrong even if they are. A better way to get them to correct the wrong may be to make reference to truth without outrightly confronting them. Take for instance, you have a mother that gossips about others. Dont say to her, “ Gossip is a sin. You are sinning ” . Rather you could say “ I was reading a book the other day titled Laws of Proper Speech by Pastor David Ogbueli and I learnt of the dangers of gossip. I resolved from then on never to gossip about anyone! ” Leave it to their judgment to realize their wrongdoing by themselves. This wisdom also applies to elders and people in authority.

Honor your parents in your speech, both in their presence and when speaking about them to others. This brings blessing to your life.

15. It Is Prohibited to Speak Against God or Mock His Word

2 Kings 19:22,35

"Who is it you have ridiculed and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!... That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning — there were all the dead bodies!"

Speaking against God, questioning His goodness, or mocking His word brings judgment. God will not be mocked, and those who speak against Him face serious consequences.

When the Assyrian commander Rabshakeh mocked the Lord, saying, "Do not let Hezekiah deceive you by saying, 'The Lord will deliver us'" (**Isaiah 36:14-20**), God answered by destroying 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night (**Isaiah 37:36-38**). This devastating judgment came directly in response to King Sennacherib's blasphemous speech against the Holy One of Israel.

Speak of God with reverence, even when you don't understand His ways. Honor His word in your speech, acknowledging its wisdom and authority.

16. It Is Prohibited to Speak Negatively About a Tribe, Race, or Group

James 3:9-10

"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."

Spreading racial or tribal hatred violates God's command to love all people made in His image. Group-based prejudice and stereotyping are forms of evil speech.

When Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of his Cushite wife, focusing on her ethnicity, God's anger burned against them (**Numbers 12:1-9**). Racial prejudice in speech brought divine discipline.

Speak of all people groups with respect, recognizing the divine image in every human being. Celebrate diversity as God's creative design rather than

a basis for division.

17. It Is Prohibited to Speak Against God's Anointed and Ministers

Psalms 105:15

"Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."

Speaking against those whom God has called to leadership positions in the church or community brings judgment. Respect for God's appointed servants is required.

When Korah and his followers spoke against Moses and Aaron, God caused the ground to open and swallow them alive (**Numbers 16:1-33**). Their rebellion against God's appointed leaders brought swift judgment.

Honor spiritual leaders with your words. If you have concerns, address them directly with respect rather than spreading criticism.

18. It Is Prohibited to Speak Lies and Deceive One Another

Proverbs 12:22

"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy."

Deception and falsehood violate God's nature of truth. Lying damages trust and relationships and separates us from God's presence.

Ananias and Sapphira lied about the amount they gave to the early church and were struck dead for their deception (**Acts 5:1-11**). Their story stands as a stark warning about the seriousness of dishonesty.

Speak truth consistently, even when it costs you. Your integrity in speech builds trust and reflects God's character.

19. We Are Prohibited From Speaking Evil of Others and Ourselves

James 4:11

"Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it."

Evil speech, whether directed outward or inward, violates God's

command to love. Self-deprecation dishonors the image of God in us, just as slander dishonors it in others.

When the ten spies spoke negatively about themselves, saying, "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes" (**Numbers 13:33**), they rejected God's view of them as conquerors. Their negative self-talk influenced the entire community toward fear rather than faith.

Speak of yourself and others with the dignity befitting those made in God's image. Your words should reflect God's perspective, not the world's.

20. It Is Prohibited to Say "Thus Says the Lord" When God Has Not Spoken

Jeremiah 23:16

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord.'"

False prophecy misleads God's people and misrepresents His character. Claiming divine authority for one's own words is a serious offense that undermines faith and leads people astray.

The story of Hananiah vividly illustrates the severity of false prophecy. In Jeremiah 28:1-4, Hananiah stood in the temple and boldly proclaimed: "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord's house... I will also bring back Jehoiachin... and all the exiles from Judah... for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

Jeremiah, the true prophet, initially responded with appropriate caution: "Amen! May the Lord do so!" (**Jeremiah 28:5-6**). But soon after, the authentic word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, exposing Hananiah's deception. In **Jeremiah 28:15-17**, Jeremiah delivered God's actual message: "Listen, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies. Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against the Lord.'" The

passage ends with the sobering fulfillment: "In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died." His false words claiming divine authority brought swift and fatal judgment.

Be cautious about attributing your thoughts to God. Speak with humility, clearly distinguishing between your opinions and divine revelation. The consequences of falsely claiming "Thus says the Lord" are severe — both for the speaker and for those misled by such claims.

21. It Is Prohibited to Speak in Ways That Cause Strife and Division

Proverbs 6:16, 19

"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him... a person who stirs up conflict in the community."

God hates divisive speech that tears apart families, churches, and communities. Unity is precious to God, and those who destroy it through their words face judgment.

Consider the story of Sheba son of Bikri, who used his words to create a devastating division in Israel. After David's return to power following Absalom's rebellion, Sheba blew a trumpet and proclaimed: "We have no share in David, no part in Jesse's son! Every man to his tent, Israel!" (**2 Samuel 20:1**). With this brief but inflammatory statement, "all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba" (**2 Samuel 20:2**). His divisive words led to another civil conflict, more bloodshed, and ultimately his own execution when his head was thrown over the city wall to end the rebellion (**2 Samuel 20:14-22**). One man's divisive speech cost many lives and nearly fractured the kingdom.

Use your words to build bridges, not walls. Speak in ways that foster unity and reconciliation rather than division and strife. Remember that God places divisive speech among the things He most detests, alongside arrogance, deceit, and the shedding of innocent blood.

22. It Is Prohibited to Mock God or His Holy Things

2 Kings 2:23-24 (NIV)

"From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. 'Get out of here,

'baldy!' they said. 'Get out of here, baldy!' He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.'

Mocking God, His word, His worship, or His servants profanes what is holy. The Hebrew word translated as "jeered" (qalas) indicates serious contempt and ridicule, not innocent teasing. These were not simply young children making fun of baldness, but youths deliberately insulting and rejecting a recognized prophet of God. Their mockery of Elisha represented a deeper contempt for the God he served and the prophetic office he held. Such mockery brings judgment rather than blessing.

When Belshazzar used the sacred vessels from Jerusalem's temple for a drunken feast, mocking the God of Israel, a hand appeared and wrote his doom on the wall (**Daniel 5:1-30**). Daniel explained the meaning of the mysterious writing to the king: "You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you have not honored the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways" (**Daniel 5:23**). That very night, Belshazzar was slain and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom. His mockery of holy things led directly to his downfall.

Approach sacred things with reverence, not casual disrespect. Honor what God has declared holy through your speech and actions. Remember that disrespect toward God's representatives and things dedicated to His service reflects one's attitude toward God Himself.

23. It Is Prohibited to Speak Words That Corrupt Others' Hearts and Minds

Ephesians 5:3-4

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."

Speech that corrupts the innocent or leads others into sin brings severe judgment. Our words should elevate, not degrade, those who hear them.

When the serpent spoke corrupting words to Eve, twisting God's command and suggesting God was withholding good from her, he introduced sin into the human experience (**Genesis 3:1-6**). Corrupting speech continues to lead people away from God's ways.

Use your influence through speech to lead others toward righteousness, not away from it. Your words can either corrupt or purify.

24. It Is Prohibited to Speak Words That Lower Moral Standards of Individuals and Society

1 Corinthians 15:33

"Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'"

Words that normalize sin, justify wrongdoing, or encourage others to lower their moral standards bring judgment. Our speech should always inspire people toward righteousness, not lead them toward compromise.

King Jeroboam provides a powerful example of how speech can lower moral standards. After becoming king of the northern tribes of Israel, he feared losing his people to the southern kingdom of Judah if they continued worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem. So he created two golden calves and told the people: "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt" (**1 Kings 12:28**). He then appointed his own priests and established unauthorized festivals. The scripture summarizes the devastating impact: "This thing became a sin; the people came to worship... even as far as Dan" (**1 Kings 12:30**). Jeroboam's words lowered Israel's moral and spiritual standards for generations, so much that later kings were measured by whether they continued "in the sins of Jeroboam" (**1 Kings 15:34**). His corrupting speech became the reference point for evil in Israel.

Speak in ways that elevate godly standards rather than diminish them. Your words have the power to either strengthen or weaken others' moral resolve. Choose speech that inspires holiness, not compromise, remembering that you will account for words that lead others astray.

25. It Is Prohibited to Speak in Ways That Damage People's Reputation, Value, or Esteem

Exodus 23:1 (ESV)

"You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness."

Speaking in ways that damage someone's reputation, value, or esteem steals something more valuable than material possessions — their good name. Such speech violates God's command not to bear false witness and can cause lasting harm that cannot easily be repaired.

The story of Haman powerfully illustrates both the evil of reputation-damaging speech and its consequences. When Haman was enraged that Mordecai would not bow to him, he sought to destroy not only Mordecai but all the Jewish people. He did this by deliberately damaging their collective reputation with King Xerxes: "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people, and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain" (Esther 3:8).

Haman's carefully crafted words mischaracterized an entire people group, falsely portraying them as disloyal and dangerous to the kingdom. His slanderous speech was so effective that it led to a royal decree for the annihilation of all Jews throughout the Persian empire. However, when Queen Esther revealed her Jewish identity and exposed Haman's plot, saying, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman" (**Esther 7:6**), the tables were turned. King Xerxes ordered that Haman himself be hanged on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai (**Esther 7:9-10**). The man who had used his words to destroy another's reputation was himself destroyed.

Protect others' reputations as you would protect your own. Speak of people in ways that preserve their dignity and honor, especially when they are vulnerable or not present to defend themselves. Remember that character assassination through speech can destroy careers, relationships, and lives — sometimes including the life of the slanderer.

26. It Is Prohibited to Speak in Ways That Glorify Oneself

Proverbs 27:2

"Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider,

and not your own lips."

Self-glorification steals honor that belongs to God. Boasting about our own accomplishments reveals pride, which God opposes.

When King Nebuchadnezzar boasted, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built... by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" he was immediately struck with madness (**Daniel 4:30-33**). Self-glorifying speech brings divine opposition.

Direct praise to God for your accomplishments. Acknowledge His role in your success rather than claiming all credit for yourself.

27. It Is Prohibited to Speak Words That Hurt and Harm Others

Proverbs 18:21

"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Words that harm others violate the command to love our neighbors. Whether through direct insults, passive-aggressive comments, or thoughtless remarks, harmful speech is forbidden.

When Nabal spoke harshly to David's men, saying, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse?" (**1 Samuel 25:10-11**), his harmful words nearly cost him his household. Only his wife Abigail's wise intervention prevented bloodshed.

Consciously choose words that bring life, not death. Consider the impact of your speech before you speak, and choose kindness over harshness.

28. It Is Prohibited to Shame, Ridicule, or Humiliate Others

Matthew 5:22

"But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

Public shaming and ridicule violate human dignity. Words that humiliate

others have no place in the mouth of a believer.

Consider the story of the wealthy women of Samaria whom the prophet Amos rebuked. These women ridiculed and humiliated the poor, treating them with contempt. Amos delivered God's powerful judgment against them: "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, 'Bring us some drinks!' The Sovereign Lord has sworn by his holiness: 'The time will surely come when you will be taken away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks'" (**Amos 4:1-2**). God specifically condemned these women for their demeaning speech and treatment of the vulnerable, promising severe judgment for their humiliating words and actions.

Another striking example occurs when Michal, King David's wife, ridiculed him for dancing before the Lord. When David returned home, "Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, 'How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!'" (**2 Samuel 6:20**). Her contemptuous words were meant to shame and humiliate David for his uninhibited worship. David responded that he was willing to appear even more undignified in his devotion to God. The consequence of Michal's mocking words was severe: "And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death" (**2 Samuel 6:23**). Her ridicule brought a permanent judgment.

Speak to and about others with dignity and respect. When correction is needed, do it privately and gently rather than through public humiliation. Remember that words that shame or humiliate others can bring severe consequences to the speaker.

29. It Is Prohibited to Speak Out of Pride and Boast About Oneself

James 4:16 (NLT)

"Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil."

Boasting about our abilities, possessions, or accomplishments reveals pride in the heart. Such speech fails to acknowledge God as the source of all good things and often alienates others.

The Pharisee in Jesus' parable provides a powerful example of how boastful speech reveals a prideful heart. Jesus told of two men who went to the temple to pray: "The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get'" (**Luke 18:11-12**). His prayer was not really directed to God but was self-congratulatory speech meant to elevate himself. In contrast, the tax collector stood at a distance, unwilling even to look up to heaven. He beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus concluded the parable with this judgment: "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (**Luke 18:13-14**).

Practice humility in speech. Acknowledge your limitations as readily as your strengths, and give credit to God and others for your successes. Remember that self-exalting words might impress people temporarily but alienate them permanently, while humble speech draws both God's favor and genuine human connection.

30. We are advised not to correct People who are Proud and Unteachable

Proverbs 9:7-8

"Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse. Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you."

While correction is sometimes necessary, wisdom dictates when and to whom we should offer it. Correcting those who refuse instruction wastes words and may incite conflict.

When Jesus stood before Herod, who hoped to see him perform a miracle, Jesus remained silent (**Luke 23:8-9**). He recognized that Herod sought entertainment, not truth, and withheld words from one who would not receive them.

Exercise discernment about when to speak and when to remain silent. Reserve corrective speech for those with receptive hearts, not those who

will despise wisdom.

31. You are allowed to speak or preach against sin and moral corruption

Matthew 4:17 NKJV

[From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “ Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ”

Jesus himself preached the gospel of the kingdom and urged people to repent of their evil ways while he walked this earth.

While all the previous laws mentioned previously state what is prohibited, this final law states what is mandatory.

Preaching the gospel and calling people to repentance is one of the mandates given to every genuine child of God. It is impossible to do so effectively without confronting sin and exhorting morality, according to God ’ s righteous standards.

Effective preaching is evidenced by its ability to enlighten people through revelation and its transformative effect on those who hear it. When executed properly, preaching serves as a tool to counteract the spread of evil, transform ungodly mindsets and attitudes, discourage societal vices, and provide a moral compass to guide individuals' actions.

When sin is not preached or condemned, it becomes a cancer that erodes the very fabric of society, bringing reproach upon the people. In conclusion, one area we must target in our preaching is to admonish individuals about the dangers of evil speaking and encourage repentance. The sins of the mouth, as revealed in this book, are sometimes even worse than the sins of the hands. We can use preaching to discourage the sins of the mouth and inspire others toward repentance and adherence to the principles of proper speech.

In summary, the laws of proper speech guide us in using our words wisely. When we follow these principles, we create environments of peace, build others up, and honor God with our lips. By guarding our tongues, we protect ourselves and others from the damage that careless words can cause.

The power of speech is a gift with tremendous responsibility. Each day, we make hundreds of speech choices that either reflect God's character or distort it. By practicing these laws of proper speech, we become agents of healing in a world wounded by harmful words.

As the Psalmist prayed, "Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips" (**Psalm 141:3**). This should be our daily prayer as well. For in mastering our speech, we master ourselves, and in mastering ourselves, we reflect the character of our Creator.

May our words always bring life, healing, and blessing to those who hear them.

Chapter 11

The Conditions for Sharing Unpleasant Information about Others

If we are walking in the truth, it is not always possible to say nice and pleasant things that make others feel good. There are certain circumstances where the things we may say, though correct, may rub others the wrong way or put them in an unfavourable light. However, wisdom demands that if our speaking ever takes this form there should be a justifiable reason for doing so.

While you are not supposed to say anything negative about another person, there are certain times when it is advantageous and even necessary to do so. Here are some conditions that should guide us if the need to do so ever arises.

1.

The law of knowledge

Correction is never pleasant as *Hebrews 12:11* aptly puts it.

Hebrews 12:11

'Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.'

However, its unpleasant nature is deliberately designed by God to discourage what brought about the correction in the first place. Still, as valuable as correction is there is a condition that guides its usage when dealing with others.

Don't correct people or reveal their wrongdoing to others until you

have taught them first. In other words, before correcting someone, you must be able to discern if what you are about to correct was done out of ignorance or despite the person's knowledge of what is right. If ignorance fuelled the wrongdoing, use the opportunity to teach the person and impart knowledge privately instead of rebuking them, or ever mentioning their wrongdoing in public. In other words, give them the benefit of doubt and the opportunity to do right, after they have known the truth.

Those with divine authority to correct, such as parents, spiritual leaders, teachers, and others, should prioritise education over discipline. Correcting someone without teaching them is akin to a teacher giving exams to a child on a subject they have never been taught and then penalizing them for failing. This violates God's principles.

2.

The law of first mention or privacy

This law states that if you have anything unpleasant or negative to disclose about anyone, you must speak to the person **privately** first before bringing up your issue with them to a third party.

You must give the person a right to hear what you have against them, take responsibility, and make amends. You only speak to a third person when you have tried to resolve it privately and the person didn't listen. We will discuss this in greater detail when we look at the laws of disclosure.

It is also important to note that the goal here for speaking to a third party should be to help the person change, not malign them. Consequently, whoever you say this information to has to be someone who has influence over the person you are speaking about, not just random people who do not have his best interests in mind. It must be someone they respect and will listen to, such as a parent, sibling, mentor, pastor etc. This person must also trust you enough to receive the information you are bringing.

However, in a case where the third party you are speaking to is the one you intend to protect by relaying information, the condition stated above doesn't apply; they do not have to confront the sinner but only need to use the information to protect themselves.

3.

The law of evidence and confirmation

If there is a valid need to disclose information about someone else to a third party, you must confirm the information you are about to share before speaking. If you didn't see it with your eyes or hear it with your ears, directly from the person you intend to speak about, don't be quick to spread it. You must never spread unconfirmed rumours around that have not been proven true beyond any reasonable doubt. One question you must always ask yourself is "How would I feel if someone went around sharing false and unconfirmed information about me?"

4.

The law of proper perspective/perception

Before you speak unpleasantly on a matter or concerning someone else, you must confirm that your opinion or perception about the situation is correct; assumptions are not enough when it comes to speaking things that may put someone in a bad light. One must make sure that they perceive the situation objectively. This requires having all the information and sometimes even knowledge of history that led to current events. It also definitely involves hearing the person's side of the story. Even when all information appears accurate, you must verify.

Many times, things are not what they seem. Even when you see it with your own eyes, you must be extremely certain that your interpretation of the situation is accurate before making conclusive statements. Perception is stronger than reality. People do not usually see things the way they truly are; they see things according to their personal bias.

5.

The law of Motive

The goal and motive for communication of all kinds should be love. Whatever doesn't promote love or isn't motivated by love should be questioned. This includes when you are saying unpleasant things about someone. Consequently, the only justifiable reason why you should share unpleasant information about someone to another person is when confiding in a third party will promote the person's well being. Whenever you notice your motive is wrong and driven by anger, bitterness, envy or any other toxic emotion, refrain from speaking about others. Your goal should be for the person's well being. Even if it is the truth, we should speak the truth in

love.

Another justifiable motive for sharing unpleasant information about others is that you are giving the information to protect other people ' s lives. You can ' t cover one person at the detriment of the well being of others. If someone will be harmed or destroyed because you are covering up for another person, you are an accessory to whatever crime occurs because your silence aided the wrongdoer.

6.

The law of honesty or truth

In speaking about others, you must speak only the truth. You can ' t exaggerate or add to the facts. You have to specify whether you witnessed it first hand or got your information from a secondary source. If you misrepresent facts, you can get the person to receive more punishment than they deserve, if it happens to be an instance where someone is acting on your information to mete out consequences. People have lost jobs, opportunities, and even lives because of an exaggerated or embellished report which misstated the facts. Speaking lies creates faulty perceptions, triggering a response not commensurate to the issue at hand.

7.

The law of respect and politeness

Generally, we should honour and respect all individuals, even when expressing unpleasant thoughts to or about them. This becomes even more important when interacting with authorities, dignitaries, and elders.

Being respectful and courteous while speaking candidly is a skill everyone must master when dealing with certain individuals, including parents, kings, pastors, bosses, and others in authority. What you say is not as important as how you say it.

Sometimes, an inappropriate tone and poor word choice can undermine all the good you intended to convey. It's possible to express something correctly yet evoke the wrong response through careless speaking. For example, you don ' t command or criticise authority; instead, you appeal to it.

Wives have lost their husbands' favour because they didn ' t lace their words with respect. Children have incited the anger of their parents by

speaking rudely. People have lost high-profile clients due to disrespectful communication, and some have even been fired for their manner of speaking to employers.

8.

The law of no option

Consider speaking to another person about someone only after you have exhausted All possible means should be employed to correct the issue; otherwise, continued secrecy can become more counterproductive than redemptive. In other words, share unpleasant truths about someone only as a last resort, after exhausting all other options.

This principle also applies when you need to disclose information to protect someone from the individual you are speaking about. Ideally, strive to find a way to shield them from that person without having to say anything negative. Only when this fails should you consider revealing unpleasant information about them.

9.

The law of consequences or punishment

Whenever you are giving the information ensure you don't cause the person more punishment or damage than they deserve because of how you presented the facts. This will make you fall into God's divine justice. There is some information you can give that will attract consequences which harm the person even more than what you were trying to correct. For this reason, it is recommended that you reveal only enough information necessary to bring adequate correction. For example, in reporting children's wrongdoing to their parents after trying to correct them privately has failed, you do not have to list the entire list of every single wrong they have done. You can mention just one or two things that will convince the parents enough to draw their attention towards looking more thoroughly into their children's lives. Then they can implement just the right disciplinary measures to discourage future bad behaviour.

Furthermore, if you think that by divulging information, the person will be harmed or punished way more than what they deserve, keep it to yourself. An example in the bible is Sarah keeping the truth that Abraham was her husband so that he wouldn't be killed in a strange land by men

who coveted her beauty and wanted to have her for themselves. (*Genesis 20:11-13.*)

Another example is Rahab hiding the spies who came to gather information about Jericho. (*Joshua 2:4-6*). While untrue, this kind of speaking does not carry the same weight as an actual lie. The primary distinction is that they spoke to save lives and not to harm them; they also spoke against unjust systems that wanted to harm those they covered up for.

10. The law of Greater Good

Sometimes speaking unpleasantly is the only solution to a bad situation. One must measure the effect those words will have and make the tough choice to say them nonetheless, no matter how well they are received, if those words will lead to greater good.

An example is confronting a bad situation within an organization that has hindered its progress. I am not speaking of merely criticizing the organization. One of the things we have already discussed is that you are not to speak in anyway that will damage someone source of income, except the business is something ungodly that is destroying peoples lives.

What I am referring to is having the hard conversations and confronting the brutal facts that will allow certain things to be ironed out leading to progress and development of relationships and organizations. Such discussions may be unpleasant, but the outcome can be highly profitable. However, it must still be done as respectfully as possible without unnecessarily maligning anyone or their reputation.

Seven Conditions when you Must Speak Up

I will conclude this chapter by emphasizing seven situations where it is necessary to speak up for good. In these instances, being privy to certain information and keeping silent is equivalent to encouraging evil or allowing the negative situation to continue. In such scenarios, we are expected to speak truthfully and dispassionately with no ulterior motive whatsoever.

These conditions are:

- a.
When confronting someone of their wrongdoing or evil deeds.
- b.
When sharing information for hiring purposes, leadership decisions, marital choices or medical diagnosis or treatment
- c.
When sharing accurate information about products and services that can influence the decision or well-being of consumers
- d.
When giving, reports, feedback and appraisals in an organization
- e.
When sharing relevant information with others who can help a person such as doctors, pastors, parents etc.
- f.
When speaking up will protect the lives and well-being of others within a community
- g.
When carrying out your duties as a person in authority who is responsible for others such as parents, pastors, government officials, etc.

Chapter 12

The Law of Disclosure

In this chapter, we are going to explore the laws that guide the disclosure of sensitive information that people would rather remain secret or undisclosed.

While I have previously emphasized the need for confidentiality in keeping secrets and concealing sensitive information, there are certain conditions under which it could be counterproductive or even destructive not to reveal sensitive or relevant information. Such scenarios require disclosing information for the wellbeing of all involved.

Let's now explore several reasons why disclosure of sensitive information may be necessary

1.

To destroy the power of sin.

Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

In dealing with sin, there is something very important you must understand. The power of sin and evil is secrecy. Evil and all moral vices thrive in the environment of secrecy and privacy, while righteousness,

holiness, justice, truth and moral values thrive in the environment of openness and transparency.

Where only secrecy is practiced and disclosure of information under the right circumstances is discouraged, evil remains unchecked and may even spread. Removed from openness and accountability, human beings have the tendency to manifest the worst version of themselves when no one is looking. The kingdom of Satan is referred to in scripture as the Kingdom of darkness; this implies an environment where there is absence of light, which in this context represents the light of knowledge that shines to expose what is hidden.

Where darkness reigns things are kept hidden and concealed but light exposes it. To deal with sin, one must first expose it through disclosure. Consider carefully the scripture below:

Ephesians 5:11-14 (NLT)

Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

We are encouraged not to partake in “worthless deeds of darkness” but rather, expose them; one of the ways we can do that is by disclosing them. Disclosure allows people to be confronted for their wrongdoing, providing them with an opportunity to take responsibility and make amends, leading to progress. You don’t make progress where people cover and hide iniquity. You only create an environment where iniquity keeps multiplying.

Sin undisclosed and unfronted spreads like a cancer and brings destruction. The practice of healthy disclosure discourages evil from thriving.

2.

To Maintain Law and Order

The second reason for disclosure is to maintain law and order. You

can ' t maintain law and order where everything is kept secret all the time and wrongdoing has no way of being brought to the light. When illegality is committed in any organization or society there is a need to penalize offenders commensurately. This discourages and deters others from treading the same path.

Penalties cannot be meted out on criminals until the crime is discovered. This is why some of the deadliest criminal organizations thrive by observing a “ code of silence ” where criminal counterparts are sworn to secrecy and forbidden from disclosing illegal activity. The same principle of secrecy also strengthens evil organizations such as secret cults, and occultic fraternities. Where there is no room for disclosure, wrongdoing becomes undiscovered and can never be checked.

3.

To help in building Strong and intimate relationships.

The sharing of personal information with others is part of how we build relationships with them. The more intimate the details we share with others, the deeper the intimacy created between them and the stronger the bond established. Take marriages for instance: a couple cannot have a good marriage if they are living like strangers in the same house, unknown to each other. It takes more than sexual intercourse to build intimacy. One cannot really know the other intimately if their relationship is shrouded in secrecy and they never confide in each other. Similarly, close relationships are preserved when those in that relationship are open and transparent with each other.

4.

To enable Parents to raise children properly.

When certain facts are brought to light about character defects in the lives of children, parents can be more intentional about directly addressing those issues. This ensures that their children don't carry those vices into adulthood. There are certain cases where people are tasked with looking after children in the absence of their parents. Such people, such as teachers need to partner with parents in raising the children by sharing information relevant to their well being and overall development. Also, when children

are too secretive and don't disclose their personal challenges to their parents as much as possible, they miss opportunities to secure the proper guidance needed to deal with life challenges. A culture of secrecy can expose them to wrong influences and counsel, which could cause them to derail from sound behaviour.

5.

To Help in making right decisions

In scenario where decisions need to be made, the quality of decisions made is dependent on the quality of information available to the decision maker. Decisions made from ignorance can be disastrous. Until certain information is disclosed, the decision maker will make decisions based on inadequate information. The consequences will always manifest eventually.

This is highly applicable in organizational leadership. A leader at the top of the hierarchy may not always have a full grasp of the issues at the bottom. For the most part, he is highly dependent on his assistants and lieutenants to supply him with crucial and relevant information that will help him make key decisions. If he is surrounded by sycophants and yes-men who withhold pertinent facts and only tell him what he wants to hear, chances are that he will make wrong decisions. This will end up affecting the organization negatively

It is the same reason why a patient must be honest in disclosing intimate medical details to a doctor, irrespective of how uncomfortable and demeaning it may feel to do so. Withholding details can lead to a misdiagnosis, resulting in further complications or a prolongment of the patient's illness.

There are seven types of disclosure revealed in Scripture. Let's delve into them

a.

PERSONAL DISCLOSURE

This is when an individual discloses private personal information about themselves to another person. This disclosure by the individual is usually done with a positive goal in mind. Instances where this can be practiced

includes disclosure when you have sinned and are trying to make gain freedom from or make amends for sin, when receiving counsel, while preaching publicly and while sharing personal testimonies of past challenges, growth and victory over those challenges.

When it comes to applying personal disclosure by confession of sin, there are three guidelines to consider.

a.

Confess your sins and faults to God. The first person that we must acknowledge sin before and make confession to is God. Apart from the fact that we can't hide anything from God, confessing our sin is part of the way we maintain a tender conscience and unburden guilt. Thankfully God is always willing and ready to forgive because He has already made provision for our forgiveness through Jesus who died as penalty for our sin.

1st John 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

b.

You discuss it with a person or few people who you trust that can keep your confidence.

It is not everyone you are meant to freely open to. You are vulnerable to whom you confide in. Being careless with your secrets can cost you greatly. People must prove themselves trustworthy before you open to them about sensitive information. The bible refers to them as those of "a faithful spirit".

Proverbs 11:13

A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

c.

Disclose to someone who has integrity and capacity to help you and hold you accountable.

It is important that you select people who are godly and have the competence to help you. After you disclose your faults to another, there is usually a follow up process that helps to eradicate that fault. Sometimes it may require being accountable to someone that can pray for you, check up on you, request feedback, encourage you if you feel weak and counsel you if the need arises

There are some other factors one should also consider in personal disclosure to maximize its result.

1.

You don't disclose to the public sensitive personal issues that you haven't conquered.

Sometimes, when speaking to the public, there might be need to share personal challenges with them to be more relatable. However, when doing so, it is better to share faults from your past with them that you have already overcome. This way, they can learn and grow from it and know how to come out of it just as you did. Revealing an issue that you are still battling with may discourage other people who are going through similar situations. Your disclosure may weaken their faith to believe they can be free from the same thing.

2.

Confess to man if confession to God has not led to true repentance

In dealing with habitual sin, repentance is not merely an apology or expressing remorse over wrongdoing. Until there is a definite change of thinking and behaviour, one cannot truly say they have repented. Sometimes people spend years confessing the same sin repeatedly, without stopping it. They are remorseful but cannot break away from the cycle of sin. In most cases such people have shrouded these parts of their life in secrecy and no one else knows about it. Persistent sins are like wounds. A standard practice of treatment is that the wound must be exposed to be properly treated. There is need for undressing for spiritual circumcision so that what is causing the sinful habit can be cut off. If you have confessed something to God repeatedly and still haven't been able to repent from it,

open to someone else and get them to pray with you. While confessing to God secures forgiveness, confessing to men and having them pray for you breaks the cycle of sin as seen in the scripture below:

James 5:16 (NKJV)

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

3.

In disclosure do not lie

In disclosure, do not tell lies to the person you are disclosing to. Sometimes we might be tempted to withhold or sugarcoat certain details especially if we think what we are about to disclose puts us in a light that we don't want others to see us in. However, lying to the person you are meant to confide in can cause the person to misdiagnose your problem and recommend the wrong remedies. I often say that there are three people one should not lie to: Your doctor, your lawyer and your priest. Lying to your doctor won't supply him with crucial information he needs for proper diagnosis. There is no effective treatment without accurate diagnosis and facts are necessary for proper diagnosis. Lying to your lawyer may leave him inadequately prepared to defend your case effectively in the courtroom because what he doesn't know can be used by the prosecution to blindside him. Lastly, lying to your priest could mislead them into giving you wrong counsel instead of addressing the real root of the issues. However, the need for honesty does not just apply in these three instances alone but in every other instance where disclosure is necessary.

4.

In some Sensitive issues disclosure to opposite sex is discouraged

Disclosure gives people access into your life, privacy and secrecy. This could result to feelings of empathy, vulnerability, bonding and intimacy. Once you start sharing intimately with someone, you automatically find yourselves drawn to them and a deeper level of relationship is based on trust. For this reason, certain sensitive issues like sexual matters shouldn't

be disclosed with the opposite sex. In such matters, males should counsel males and females should counsel females. Counselling can be a gateway and a trap for immorality when it is done between opposite sex. Consequently, it is advised that certain depths of personal disclosure on personal matters should be done across same sex relationships.

5.

When the problem persists practice disclosure

Disclosure is meant to be redemptive and corrective in nature. After disclosure, it is expected that things should be in a better state than they were before disclosure was practised. In matters of physical, emotional and spiritual healing, deliverance and transformation, long-term resistance to change despite efforts of the individual reveals a need for disclosure. Disclosure helps in identifying the root of the problem. Prayer sometimes doesn't work until there has been full disclosure. Treating symptoms is not what cures diseases. When disclosure hasn't been practiced one may find oneself dealing with surficial issues while the real issue remains undetected. Healing cannot happen until what is being covered up has been exposed.

2. PRIVATE DISCLOSURE

Private disclosure is the kind of disclosure that is practiced in resolving conflicts or disagreements with another person. This involves going **PRIVATELY** to the person that has offended you to express your displeasure. This is done with the hope of reconciling with him or her without getting anyone else involved.

Jesus, in teaching about conflict resolution, emphasized that at this stage of disclosure, only the person you are offended with should know about the offence.

Matthew 18:15 (NKJV)

“ Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

From the above scripture, Jesus instructed that when the issue is raised, it should be done where no one else is present. Jesus did not encourage

disclosing a disagreement you have with someone to others before the person has heard about it. A lot of times when this is done, the offender is cast in a bad light, altering the way they are perceived.

Let us consider another scripture.

Leviticus 19:16-18

You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbour: I am the Lord. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbour and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

Here God was laying down guidelines on how he expected His covenant people to treat one another. These same principles apply to us even today. He prohibits us from peddling gossip or carrying tales about each other. He warns us against plotting evil or championing any cause that will bring harm or risk the life of others.

He also warns us to guard against harbouring hate against one another. Words and actions are an overflow of what we carry in our hearts, as we will discuss in greater detail in some other part of this book. The issue of hating our “brothers” is so serious that the scripture even likened it to murder.

1st John 3:15 (Amplified Version)

15 Everyone who hates (works against) his brother [in Christ] is [at heart] a murderer [by God’s standards]; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

However, He also instructed us to “**rebuke our neighbours and not bear sin because of them**”. This implies that even though we are encouraged to confront those that offend us face to face we must not allow our emotions lead us to sin in the process of trying to resolve conflicts.

When people are confronted privately, they have a better disposition to correction. In the spotlight, they are less likely to respond to correction as they tend to focus more on the embarrassment of being called out in public

than the actual correction being given. If the offender responds positively to private disclosure and reconciliation is successful, a third party should never hear about the issue again. However, it is possible that the issue could remain unresolved after private disclosure. If that happens, then we should consider the next level of disclosure.

3. Public Disclosure

Matthew 18:17-18 (Amplified) But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, so that every word may be confirmed and upheld by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he pays no attention to them [refusing to listen and obey], tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector.

Public disclosure is the kind of disclosure you practice when you exhaust all means to deal with issues privately with a person who has refused to accept wrongdoing and make amends.

The first stage of this, according to Jesus' teachings is to bring in a neutral party or parties to judge the case objectively. If the offender sees reason, accepts wrongdoing at this point and makes amends then there is no need for further escalation. But if the person doesn't respond positively, the case should be brought to the awareness of Church Leadership. They are authorized to speak decisively in judgment over church related issues. If the offender resists their authority and judgment over the issue, from that point on, they should not be regarded as true believers, and no one should relate with them as such.

This system of conflict resolution is binding to believers in Christ and anyone who truly refers to themselves as Christians. Many Christians don't practice this but rather resort to carnal and worldly measures in settling disputes. Are you aware that the bible frowns severely at believers taking legal action against other believers and involving the court of law, without exhausting all the types of disclosure taught by Jesus?

Consider the scripture below:

1st Corinthians 6:1-8 (NLT)

When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file

a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! Don ' t you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can ' t you decide even these little things among yourselves? Don ' t you realize that we will judge angels?

So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? I am saying this to shame you. Isn ' t there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? But instead, one believer sues another — right in front of unbelievers! Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.

From the above scripture, it speaks to our shame as the Body of Christ when the church washes her dirty linen in public. Matters between fellow believers should be resolved privately or in-house away from the prying eyes and criticizing tongues of public opinion. A lot of times, God ' s name is blasphemed, and the image of the church is maligned because two believers did not handle private disputes wisely. We must not pursue our selfish desires to resolve disputes at the expense of tarnishing the image of Jesus' Bride, the Church.

This is why I recommend that every local church and God's people should have a mechanism in place for conflict resolution. Wherever people converge, conflicts are an inevitability. As Jesus said, “ **offences must come** ”. The church should have an established alternative to worldly measures of legal resolution. I suggest a judiciary and disciplinary committee constituting of a few elders who have a reputation of being wise, just and discerning and authorized to pass judgment on domestic issues. This team should comprise people who are well versed in knowledge of God ' s word and the laws of the land. Hence lawyers in the church, who are also mature, true believers, should be greatly considered for membership of such committees. Believers who have issues with other believers should be encouraged to take matters to them when they have

disputes. But this must only be done after being unable to resolve it privately and after implementing the first stage of public disclosure (two or more witnesses).

Publicly rebuking Elders

1st Timothy 5:19-21 (NLT)

Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses. Those who sin should be reprimanded in front of the whole church; this will serve as a strong warning to others.

I solemnly command you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the highest angels to obey these instructions without taking sides or showing favouritism to anyone.

There is another form of public disclosure taught in scripture that is very important to note. It involves publicly rebuking elders or leaders in the presence of the rest of the congregation. This is necessary to create deterrents in the system that will prevent others from copying their wrong examples. When people in authority sin it has a way of corrupting the entire group and congregation. Public rebuke clearly establishes that such behaviour is frowned upon, unacceptable and will not be tolerated in that organization. To protect evil from spreading, this must be done without sentiment, especially when others within the congregation have become aware of the ungodly actions of the leader. Where there is no deterrent against evil, it spreads.

However, it is important to note that before this is done, thorough investigation must have been carried out. This is to verify that whatever accusation has been brought concerning the leader is valid. It is also recommended that in a case where his misdeed is not yet known, private rebuke, correction and discipline should be implemented before taking the public route. If that leader fails to respond when confronted privately then public rebuke is highly recommended

4. Prophetic Disclosure

Titus 2:15

Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Prophetic disclosure refers to disclosure done inspired by the anointing of the Holy Spirit during ministry, especially ministry involving prophesying and teaching. God delegates authority to His servants, ministers of the gospel to deal with issues in the lives of individuals, society and nations using the power of the spoken word and sometimes those words could be prophetic or revelatory in nature, revealing things that aren't necessary public knowledge. A prophetic ministry should not address individual's shortcomings in public without approaching them privately first. It is a redemptive ministry that saves people so it shouldn't be done in a way that embarrasses them or tears them down but rather in a way that builds them up.

In recent times, there has been a worrying increase in the distortion of the prophetic ministry. While a very valid and relevant ministry in the body of Christ, charlatans and false prophets are on the increase engaged in misrepresentation of the prophetic office. The prophetic office is not a platform to glorify oneself, make money or become a seer for hire, telling people whatever they want to hear to gain their influence and followership. Every minister of the gospel or prophet is meant to serve as a "watchman", watching over the souls of those they minister to. Let's take a closer look at who a watchman is and what he is meant to do.

The Ministry of a watchman

Ezekiel 3:17-21

“ Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, ‘ You shall surely die, ’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. “ Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your

hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul. ”

A watchman is one who is divinely appointed by God to watch over people's souls, to warn them and save them from coming disaster or impending judgment as a consequence of unrepented sin. It is powered by the warning ministry of the Holy Spirit.

From the above scripture we see God saying some very serious things to Prophet Ezekiel. God did not only charge him to warn the wicked of the consequences of their sin so they could be given a chance to repent. He also warned him that he would be held accountable for the blood of those sinners if he refused to warn them, and they perished in their sin.

God is merciful and kind. He doesn't judge people until He has warned them. He doesn't delight in the death of evil men so He will always give them a chance to repent; part of the way He does this is by inspiring His servants to preach repentance and warn against the consequences of continuing in sin. It is when they fail to heed it that judgment comes. People should not perceive this dimension of the prophetic ministry as something working against them to antagonize them but as a deterrent to shield them from the consequence of wrong actions. The acid test of authentic ministry is the ability of that ministry to turn people away from their evil ways. A genuine man of God tells you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear.

Would you appreciate a sign on the highway warning you of a ditch in the middle of the road while you were driving at high speed? The sign may interrupt the scenery, but it is extremely important for your safety. This is exactly what the prophetic ministry is meant to do for your life and destiny. A wise person receives the confrontation of a minister as an act of love and responds to it with repentance and change

The Challenge of the Watchman

Being an effective watchman is not an easy task. Those involved in this ministry face two major challenges:

a.

The risk of incurring the anger and disfavour of men by telling them the truth.

b.

The risk of inciting the anger and judgment of God for not telling people the truth and confronting their sin.

To be an effective watchman, one can't be a people pleaser. He must prioritize doing God's will above securing the favour of men. The land comes under a curse when the iniquity of its inhabitants increases. But iniquity runs rampant when there are no watchmen to sound the trumpet against the wickedness of men.

In the below scripture, we see the prophet Jeremiah in deep sorrow as he gave a prophetic word concerning the state of the spiritual leaders in the land, their negative impact on the society and God's response to their wickedness. The scripture is kind of long, but it is important you read it to understand just how seriously God takes this issue. I have brought out the most salient parts but also recommend that you read the entire chapter in your bible:

Jeremiah 23:9-18, 22, 30-32

9. My heart is broken because of the false prophets, and my bones tremble. I stagger like a drunkard, like someone overcome by wine, because of the holy words the Lord has spoken against them.

10. For the land is full of adultery, and it lies under a curse. The land itself is in mourning — its wilderness pastures are dried up. For they all do evil and abuse what power they have.

11. “ Even the priests and prophets are ungodly, wicked men. I have seen their despicable acts right here in my own temple, ” says the Lord.

13. “ I saw that the prophets of Samaria were terribly evil, for they prophesied in the name of Baal and led my people of Israel into sin.

14. But now I see that the prophets of Jerusalem are even worse! They commit adultery and love dishonesty. They encourage those who are doing evil so that no one turns away from their sins. These prophets are as wicked as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah once were. ”

15. Therefore, this is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says

concerning the prophets: “ I will feed them with bitterness and give them poison to drink. For it is because of Jerusalem ’ s prophets that wickedness has filled this land. ”

16. This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says to his people: “ Do not listen to these prophets when they prophesy to you, filling you with futile hopes. They are making up everything they say. They do not speak for the Lord!

17. They keep saying to those who despise my word, ‘ Don’t worry! The Lord says you will have peace! “And to those who stubbornly follow their own desires, they say, ‘No harm will come your way!’

18. Have any of these prophets been in the Lord ’ s presence to hear what he is really saying? Has even one of them cared enough to listen?

22. If they had stood before me and listened to me, they would have spoken my words, and they would have turned my people from their evil ways and deeds.

30. “Therefore,” says the Lord, “I am against these prophets who steal messages from each other and claim they are from me.

31. I am against these smooth-tongued prophets who say, “This prophecy is from the Lord! ’

32. I am against these false prophets. Their imaginary dreams are flagrant lies that lead my people into sin. I did not send or appoint them, and they have no message at all for my people. I, the Lord, have spoken!

Throughout scripture, we see examples of faithful watchmen who boldly confronted certain people in their wickedness leading to the repentance of those they confronted. They serve as an example to those who will function in this office. I recommend that at this point, you pick up a bible and read them up even as I highlight them here. Some good examples of those who ministered as watchmen include:

a.

Nathan who confronted David for the sin of murder and Adultery.
2nd Samuel 12:1-15

b.

Elijah confronted Ahab for his evil ways **1st Kings 21:1-28**

c.

Jonah confronts Nineveh and warns them of impending Judgment.

Jonah 3:1-10

There is the prophetic application of scripture to encourage right living and deter people from wrongdoing. This function isn't restricted to prophets alone. Those put in charge over others and responsible for their wellbeing are to practice prophetic disclosure, using the word of God as a tool to shape people's character. A Pastor is meant to be a watchman over the church; Parents watchmen over their children; and teachers, watchmen over their students.

6.

Angelic disclosure

The principles we are given to practice on earth first existed in heaven even before we became aware of it. God's word is settled forever. This is why Our Lord's prayer includes ***"let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*** Anything that operates as a principle here on earth has its parallel principle in heaven. In the same way humans are required to disclose certain crucial information for the right reasons, Angels are also required to do the same. As a matter of fact, Angels are mandated by law to disclose everything that happens amongst angels and men to God's throne and records are kept diligently. Anyone who withholds what they ought to disclose are punished as collaborators.

In the below scripture we see an example where angels were gathered before God, including fallen angels to give account of their activities to God who demanded feedback. Further discussions also revealed that God was aware of men's activities on earth, specifically Job, and that the fact was also known to Satan in particular!

Job 1:6-11

One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.

"Where have you come from? " the Lord asked Satan. Satan answered the Lord, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on. "

Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant, Job? He is

the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless — a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil. ” Satan replied to the Lord, “ Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God.

You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is!

But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face! ”

To understand this further, here are some facts you need to know about heaven

a. There is perfect law and order in heaven and no backbiting, slander, gossip or evil speaking. Because heaven is a kingdom of light, evil cannot survive there. The law of disclosure and transparency is in full operation, and nothing is hidden that ought to be revealed.

Mark 4:22

For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light

b. As seen already in **Job 6:11**, at intervals, the angels of God appear before Him to give feedback and account of their works and activities on the earth.

c. Angels who erred will be judged by the saints at the end of the age

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

Don ’ t you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can ’ t you decide even these little things among yourselves?

d. God doesn't trust men to always do what is right based on their own initiative alone, because he knows they are fallible; it is the same with angels. For this reason, there are laws governing them in heaven just as we are governed on earth.

Job 4:17-19.

Can a mortal be innocent before God? Can anyone be pure before the

Creator? ' If God does not trust his own angels and has charged his messengers with foolishness, how much less will he trust people made of clay! They are made of dust, crushed as easily as a moth.

e. In heaven, records and documents are diligently kept by angels. These records include the deeds of men on earth which forms the basis on which all man is judged

Revelation 20:12 (NLT)

I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God ' s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.

f. All Angels are required to disclose the activities carried out on earth and nothing is to be concealed, whether good or evil.

Let me show you something interesting from the Book of Jubilees. Please take note that this is an authorized book contained in the orthodox bible; the same bible read by the early Church

Book of Jubilees 4:2-6

And in the first (year) of the third jubilee [99-105 A.M.], Cain slew Abel because (God) accepted the sacrifice of Abel, and did not accept the offering of Cain.

And he slew him in the field: and his blood cried from the ground to heaven, complaining because he had slain him.

And the Lord reprov'd Cain because of Abel, because he had slain him, and he made him a fugitive on the earth because of the blood of his brother, and he cursed him upon the earth.

And on this account it is written on the heavenly tables, 'Cursed is, he who smites his neighbour treacherously, and let all who have seen and heard say, So be it; and the man who has seen and not declared (it), let him be accursed as the other.'

And for this reason we announce when we come before the Lord our God all the sin which is committed in heaven and on earth, and in light and in darkness, and everywhere.

We see from the above account, that a charge was given in heaven that

every witness to crimes on earth must report it. Failure to do so would attract a curse similar to the one pronounced upon whoever committed the sin.

This same principle is echoed in the book of Leviticus 5:1

Leviticus 5:1 (NLT)

“ If you are called to testify about something you have seen or that you know about, it is sinful to refuse to testify, and you will be punished for your sin.

We see here that covering sin is considered sin and attracts punishment.

6. Legal disclosure

This is the kind of disclosure that is practised when one is summoned to a law court to act as a witness for the prosecution or defence. Testimonies from witnesses are meant to be true and bearing false witness is highly discouraged. This is why witnesses are sworn to oaths, based on their belief systems, before they start speaking; they are charged to speak nothing but the truth. Lying in a court is so severe that it is seen as a crime called perjury which is punishable. This is because false testimonies can lead to the miscarriage of Justice which could lead to punishing the innocent, acquitting the guilty or meting out greater or lesser sentences than the actual crime deserves. A Christian must never give false testimony under oath.

7.

Demonic or evil disclosure

This kind of disclosure is inspired by Satan, and it manifests as breaching trust through revealing intimate secrets spoken confidentially. It also involves accusing, or speaking negatively about the brethren, using information one may have about them or sometimes even fabricating false information, thereby damaging their public image. It is done with the malignant intent to destroy the person being attacked. The aim is to demote, destroy, cause the person to lose favour, sow seeds of enmity and all other kinds of harm.

An evil disclosure is usually done out of envy, strife, revenge or other harmful intentions. It could manifest as slander, criticism, backbiting,

gossip, defamation, false accusation and all other kinds of evil speaking that affects others negatively. Anyone you see that is in the business of slandering others is under the influence of Satan and is being sponsored by Hell. Many people have been weaponized by Satan unwittingly to destroy others. If you are reading this book and you find that you are involved in the business of evil disclosure repent immediately. It is impossible to experience your best life while being used as a tool in Satan ' s hands.

Chapter 13

Benefits of Speaking Rightly

In this chapter, we will explore the benefits of speaking properly. There are tremendous blessings that we experience when we become deliberate about speaking rightly, every time we open our mouths. When we speak rightly, it benefits us personally, benefits those around us, and positively impacts our environment.

1. Speaking Rightly Communicates Instruction and Wisdom

Speaking rightly allows us to share wisdom, benefiting those who listen. Wisdom, in all its dimensions, is primarily transmitted through communication.

The scriptures contain God's wisdom, crystallized into biblical principles and instructions. Speaking rightly also means aligning our words with God's Word. This allows us to educate others in biblical instruction, giving them the opportunity to prosper as they practice what they hear.

Proverbs 10:31

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out.

From the above, we see that our mouths are meant to be instruments that declare God's wisdom to all who listen. And in Proverbs 16:23, the emphasis is on the role the heart plays in guiding the speaking of the tongue. When the heart is good, wisdom is found on the lips of a wise man.

Proverbs 16:23

The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.

2. Speaking Rightly Brings Encouragement and Comfort

Isaiah 50:4

The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning; He awakens my ear to hear as the learned.

A learned tongue, as seeing in the scripture above, is descriptive of a mouth that has been influenced by God and trained to speak according to his will. When we speak positively, we become agents of comfort and encouragement to those who are downcast or filled with despair. God expects us to be dispensers of hope.

There are times when people grow weary due to challenges, and all they need is a word to receive strength. The learned tongue knows what to say to the weary and how to say it. Encouragement provides the much-needed motivation to continue and not give up, even when situations seem overwhelmingly difficult. Also, in times of crisis, words rightly spoken can become the comfort needed to endure stormy times.

Proverbs 15:23

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

The scripture above makes us understand that what we do with our mouths can affect the joy of others. When we say the right things to people at the right time, we trigger joy in them.

Amazingly, this also applies to the speaker. It is possible to encourage yourself with positive words when things are not going the way you'd prefer. Saying things like, "I can do this," "It is well," "I won't give up," and "The Lord is with me" can give you the much-needed boost to prevail despite adverse circumstances.

3. Speaking Rightly Facilitates Healing and Preserves Health

Proverbs 10:11

The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

A mouth properly used is referred to above as a well of life. The same way water from a well refreshes the thirst and revives them, so does a mouth used properly refresh and revive the soul. When we speak rightly, we speak life and our health is positively impacted.

Negative words can cause distress, impacting both our mental and physical well-being negatively, as well as that of our listeners. However, speaking rightly releases positive energy, which has a beneficial psychological and physical impact on both the speaker and the hearers.

Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

This scripture tells us that pleasant words are like honey and medicine. Honey, apart from being sweet to the taste, is known for its numerous health benefits and healing properties. Even God uses His Word as a primary strategy for bringing healing. When Jesus walked the earth, He healed many simply by speaking words to them.

Psalm 107:20 (NLT)

He sent out His word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death.

In the same way, there is power in our mouths to heal. This is why we should be careful with the kind of things we say. Many people spend a fortune on drugs and pharmaceutical products year after year. Some pay millions for the services of doctors and other health professionals because they understand how important health is. Yet they are careless with their words, not understanding that God gave us our mouths to enjoy free medication and immunization against illness.

Proverbs 15:4

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

As already discussed previously, using our mouths properly can make

people whole. Many people are wounded emotionally, even though they appear physically fine.

By learning to speak rightly, we become God's instruments of healing in a broken world. We must never use our tongue to attack others and harm them. Rather, we should preserve their health with our speech.

Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.

4. Speaking Rightly Provides Direction for Ourselves and Others

Many times, we find ourselves in situations where we are unsure about what to do or the next step to take in the journey of life. We may be uncertain about our next steps. Speaking rightly can help steer our lives in the right direction and guide others as well.

When it comes to the navigation of our own lives, we have already discussed the ability of our tongues to control our entire body, just as the bridle and bit controls the horse. Similarly, we have also seen its ability to steer our lives and destinies, even as a rudder steers an entire ship (**James 3:2-4**). The mastery of proper speech will enable us to navigate our lives into the glorious destinies that God has ordained for us

Our words can also help provide a road map, guiding people on how to behave and what to do. Firstly, just by speaking correctly we set an example for others on the proper way to speak. Additionally, the counsel we give will inevitably aid them in making better life decisions resulting in more favourable outcomes. Just as it is written in Proverbs 19:20 which says, ***“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.”***

5. Speaking Rightly Creates the Realities We Desire

Proverbs 18:20

A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

Words are seeds. We have stressed this enough. We will always harvest

in our life what we planted with our mouths. Just as the world we live in was framed by the words of God, we can also frame the realities we experience by the speaking of our mouth. As already established, our words have creative energy that manifests tangible realities.

The implication of this is that we can manifest our desired quality of life by deliberately choosing to speak only those words that can give birth to desired realities. When we speak positively, we align ourselves with God to ensure that creation delivers to us, only those things that he intended us to have and experience.

We impregnate the cosmos with unseen words that birth tangible experiences. Assuming you don't like your present experiences, things are not going to change just because you feel sad about it and complain. God has given you the power to change what you are seeing by changing what you are saying.

6. Speaking Rightly Strengthens and Preserves Relationships

Communication is the lifeblood of every relationship. Not only does it preserve good relationships, but it can also repair broken ones and de-escalate conflicts that arise to scatter relationships.

Proverbs 22:11

He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend.

We see from the above scriptures that the quality of our relationships cannot exceed the quality of our speech. To have great people as your friend you must learn to speak gracefully. Any time you speak to people, what you are saying is either cementing bonds between you or separating them from you.

Our relationships with our family members, spouses, colleagues in the workplace, superiors and subordinates are managed by our words. Later in this book we will discuss in greater detail how words affect relationships but suffice it to say that good relationships are impossible without speaking rightly.

Proverbs 27:17

'As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

What iron does to a blade is what we do to our companions when we use our mouths rightly to relate with them properly. Mastering the art of right speaking will make you a better friend to others and someone who adds tangible value to every single person you are in a relationship with thereby increasing your worth exponentially.

7. Speaking rightly can make us more pleasing and attractive to others.

Proverbs 15:26.

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, But the words of the pure are pleasant.

To succeed in this life, it is extremely important that you find favour before men. As far as this earth is concerned, most blessings, opportunities and wonderful experiences you will enjoy will come through men. For you to benefit from them, it is important they look favorably towards you. Learning to speak rightly can make your company pleasant while speaking wrongly and negatively can repel people away from you. No one wants to be around someone who lies, grumbles, complains, backbites, lashes out in anger and quarrels all the time as well as every other kind of negative speaking. It drains energy and saps joy out of people's lives. Knowing what to say, how to say it and when to say it is a very attractive feature that makes people more appealing to those around them.

Proverbs 10:32.

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

If you are a lady reading this, let me speak directly to you a little. It is true that men are moved by what they see, and that physical beauty attracts. But no matter how beautiful a woman is, not knowing how to speak can make her appear ugly and distasteful. It takes more than your physical appearance to keep a good man and keep him interested in you. No man

remembers how pretty a woman is when she is nagging or speaking rashly in an unseemly manner. One of the marks of a virtuous and godly woman who is of great worth in the sight of God and men of substance can be found in the scripture below.

Proverbs 31:26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.

Learning to speak properly, either as a male or female, will greatly enhance your worth and sense of appeal. It will create more fruitful opportunities for you and new possibilities for a better life.

8. Speaking rightly guarantees victory in spiritual warfare

The battle of life is the battle of words. In the realm of the Spirit, words count as weapons of spiritual warfare. Victory over the forces of darkness is guaranteed for all of God's children if only we could all learn to use our words correctly. Jesus said in Matthew 12:37, **“by your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemned.”** The issue of justification is crucial to victory in spiritual warfare. Justification simply means that you are in right standing with God and He has nothing against you. This is a non-negotiable factor to consider when confronting evil spiritual forces because if God isn't on your side, then the battle is lost already. But our words determine this: that tells you that your words matter. What you say can either make or mar you. Knowing this encourages you to be mindful of your speech.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon fashioned against you shall prosper. Every tongue that rises against you in judgment, thou shalt condemn. For this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord

Note that The Bible said, **“thou shalt condemn”**. It didn't say God will condemn them for you. This means that you share responsibility with God in enforcing the victory he has given you and one of the ways you do this is by speaking the right words. In Battles, God fights with and for us.

However, he expects us to speak properly before he can exert His power to your advantage. When God wants to work on your behalf, you must give Him the raw material to work with; they are called WORDS.

When David confronted Goliath, there was a spiritual dimension to that battle that may not be obvious to people. The battle didn't begin when Goliath ran towards him and David hurled the stone from his sling: It started with the exchange of words between them. The outcome was decided before the first action was taken. Goliath spoke to David, cursing him in the name of his god. He also made attempts to intimidate him, promising to destroy him and feed his flesh to the birds of the air. But David, understanding what was at stake and the rules of engagement, did not remain silent; he fired back with a declaration of his own: “ ***This very day, the whole world will know that God doesn't need weapons to deliver. When I am through with you, I will take your flesh and feed it to the birds.*** ” (1st Samuel 17:43-47) David decreed exactly what would happen to Goliath. The outcome of the battle mirrored exactly what he spoke!

If David had instead cried out, “ Oh Lord, why have you abandoned me? ” or he had given into fear and accepted or echoed Goliath's words — he would have lost the battle before it even began. That's where many people fail. They don't understand the laws of spiritual warfare. Instead of using their words to fight the enemy, they use their mouths against themselves by speaking negative words.

The complete experience of your freedom and victory in Christ is guaranteed when you learn how to use your tongue correctly. Remember there are unseen forces responding to the things you say. What moves angels into action are your words and what also moves demons into action are your words. If you can control what you say about your life, there will be no space left for the devil to operate in your life.

9. Speaking Rightly Edifies Others and Builds Society

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

We are admonished in the scripture above to comfort and edify each other. To edify means to “build up”. Our words have the power to shape people and society for the better. When we speak correctly, we counteract the devil’s agenda and help build up those around us.

According to John 10:10, Satan's agenda is crystal clear, he is committed to stealing, killing, and destroying. However, when we learn to speak correctly, our words activate a positive, constructive force that counteracts the devil’s activities in the lives of individuals and society at large.

By speaking rightly, we become fellow builders with God, advancing His agenda and purposes on earth. Those who hear us will be significantly transformed, becoming better versions of themselves. On the other hand, when most of the population are careless with their words, it creates a tense and hostile climate, which is counterproductive to national development and progress.

Speaking correctly has the power to heal this negative atmosphere, dispel bad energy, and set the stage for national transformation. The more the citizens of a nation speak positively, the more the nation aligns with God's purposes and flourishes.

10. Speaking Rightly Prolongs Life

Speaking rightly elongates our life and the lives of others.

Proverbs 3:1-2 (NIV)

"My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity."

The tongue has the power to activate either life or death, depending on how we use it. When we speak rightly, life is released. Words are the vehicle that transmits life-giving energy. However, the first person to benefit from this energy is the one who generates it by speaking rightly.

Words of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, kindness, compassion, encouragement, and other types of positive speech have a high spiritual impact in sustaining and preserving life. On the other hand, evil speaking

can shorten one's life.

Psalms 34:12-13 (NIV)

"Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies."

Even salvation, what we refer to as the New Birth, cannot happen without the proper preaching of the gospel. Likewise, new life in Christ is sustained through the continuous teaching of God's Word. Those who endure in the faith are those who feed on the good words of Scripture, and those who produce lasting believers must also teach the same to others.

11. Speaking Rightly Changes Negative Situations

Romans 4:17 (NIV)

"As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not."

Look at the description of God above. He calls things into manifestation. But it is not only God who possesses this ability. Anyone created in the image of God has the power to call things into existence, just as God does.

When what we see does not align with what we desire, we must recognize that words spoken in the past have shaped the present circumstances. Words planted like seeds have produced the harvests we see today. However, if we do not like the current harvest, we have the authority to uproot it and plant new seeds, new words, that will produce a different harvest. This is the principle we apply with our words when confronting negative situations even as God asked the Prophet Ezekiel to do

Ezekiel 37:4-5, 7 (NIV)

"[4] Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!"

[5] This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life."

[7] So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to

bone."

The prophet Ezekiel witnessed firsthand the power of speaking rightly and how it can impact impossible situations. In the beginning, he saw a valley of dry bones scattered across the land. By the end, through speaking as God commanded, those dry bones had transformed into a mighty army of living, breathing men.

Likewise, I see every dead thing in your life coming alive and every impossible situation being reversed as you apply this principle. No matter how difficult things may seem in your health, finances, marriage, relationships, family, or any other area your words have the power to change them.

Many have turned failing businesses around, restored broken marriages, and even reversed barrenness and infertility by applying this principle. A Jewish rabbi once documented over 300 testimonies from people who made a commitment to quit evil speaking and dedicate their lives to speaking only good words. Their lives were transformed. This can also be your experience if you commit to learning and practicing how to speak rightly. You are next in line for a testimony!

12. Speaking Rightly Heals Interpersonal, Societal, National, and International Conflicts

Proverbs 15:1

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

Almost all conflicts begin with negative words. Where there is friction, hostility, tension, and bitterness between opposing parties, speaking rightly can de-escalate tensions and pave the way for resolution of disputes and disagreements.

Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

From the above scripture, we are called to be peacemakers, using our words to heal relationships. We will also be extremely blessed when we do so. It takes wisdom to speak in a way that diffuses anger and encourages

reasoned action, rather than fueling emotional and sentimental reactions. Unfortunately, many people allow their words to be driven by emotions and sentiments when they are offended. However, speaking rightly is a skill that can be learned.

Those who master the art of proper speech become instrumental in dispute resolution, guiding affected parties toward peaceful and positive outcomes. They repair broken relationships, foster harmony, and create an atmosphere where progress and prosperity thrive.

Speaking rightly is not just a personal discipline; it is a tool for national and global transformation. Let us commit to using our words to heal, uplift, and build a better world.

Chapter 14

The Effect of Emotions on our speech

The Connection Between Emotion and Speech

The way we speak is deeply influenced by our emotions. Whether we realise it or not, every word we say carries an emotional weight. The tone, pitch, volume, and choice of words in our speech all reflect the emotions we are experiencing at the moment. A person speaking in anger sounds different from someone speaking with joy. A fearful speaker hesitates, while a confident one speaks with clarity and strength.

Understanding how emotions shape speech is essential for effective communication. Whether in personal conversations, professional settings, or public speaking, mastering the connection between emotion and speech can help us become better communicators, avoid misunderstandings, and build stronger relationships.

How Emotions Shape the Way We Speak

Every conversation we have is influenced by emotions, whether we recognize it or not. Below are some common emotions and how they affect speech:

- **Joy and Excitement:** Speech is more energetic, expressive, and engaging. People tend to smile while speaking, making their voices

sound warmer and more inviting.

-

Love and Compassion: Speech becomes gentle, patient, and reassuring. The tone is soothing, and the words are chosen with care.

-

Fear and Anxiety: Speech may become hesitant, shaky, or rushed. There may be a tendency to stutter or use filler words like "um" and "uh."

-

Anger and Frustration: Speech becomes louder, more forceful, and sometimes aggressive. The tone can be sharp, and words may be harsh or critical.

-

Sadness and Grief: Speech is slower, softer, and sometimes monotone. Sentences may be shorter, and there may be more pauses.

Each emotion affects not only how we speak but also how our message is received. For example, if someone speaks in an angry tone, the listener may become defensive, making productive communication difficult.

Recognizing how emotions shape speech allows us to adjust our communication style depending on the situation. This helps in avoiding unnecessary conflicts, improving relationships, and ensuring our words have the intended impact.

Why Emotional Awareness Is Key to Effective Speaking

Since emotions naturally influence speech, being aware of our emotional state before speaking is crucial. Emotional awareness allows us to:

-

Control our reactions: Instead of reacting impulsively based on emotion, we can take a moment to respond thoughtfully.

-

Adapt our tone: Recognizing our emotional state helps us adjust our tone to suit the situation.

-

Enhance message clarity: When emotions are managed well, speech becomes clearer, more structured, and more persuasive.

•

Improve relationships: People respond better to those who speak with emotional intelligence, leading to stronger personal and professional relationships.

A key aspect of emotional awareness is self-regulation -- the ability to manage our emotions before they influence our words. A person who feels angry but takes a deep breath before responding is practicing self-regulation. Similarly, someone who is nervous but reminds themselves to speak slowly and clearly is using emotional awareness to improve communication.

Practical Steps to Align Emotion and Speech

Developing control over how emotions influence speech takes practice. Below are some techniques to help align emotions with effective speaking:

•

Pause Before Speaking: When emotions are strong, take a few seconds to breathe and collect your thoughts before responding. This prevents impulsive speech.

•

Monitor Your Tone: Pay attention to how you sound when speaking. If you detect anger, frustration, or nervousness, adjust your tone to be calmer and more measured.

•

Practice Emotional Vocabulary: Instead of reacting emotionally, try to verbalize what you feel. For example, saying, "I feel frustrated because..." rather than raising your voice in frustration.

•

Use Positive Body Language: Your posture, facial expressions, and gestures also convey emotion. A relaxed and open posture enhances positive communication.

•

Engage in Active Listening: Listening attentively before responding helps you assess the emotional tone of a conversation and

respond appropriately.

-

Reflect on Past Conversations: After speaking, take time to reflect on how your emotions influenced your words. Were you too aggressive? Too hesitant? Learning from past experiences helps in future communication.

These steps help in mastering emotional control in speech, leading to better personal interactions, stronger leadership skills, and more impactful public speaking.

Make Words Effective and Meaningful.

Emotions and speech are inseparable. Every word spoken carries an emotional undertone, whether subtle or obvious. By understanding how emotions shape speech, we can develop greater control over how we communicate, ensuring that our words are both effective and meaningful.

The Impact of Positive Emotions on Speech

Positive emotions such as joy, love, gratitude, and confidence have a powerful effect on the way we speak. When we feel happy and inspired, our words become more engaging, our tone becomes more inviting, and our speech carries greater influence. Whether in personal conversations, professional interactions, or public speaking, positive emotions help us connect with others, persuade effectively, and leave a lasting impact.

The Power of Joy in Speech

Joy is one of the most noticeable emotions in speech. When we are happy, it naturally affects the way we talk:

-

Tone and Pitch: Joyful speech tends to be more animated, with a higher pitch and varied intonations. This makes conversations more engaging and pleasant.

-

Facial Expressions and Body Language: A smile while speaking enhances warmth and sincerity, even when talking on the

phone.

-

Word Choice: Happiness encourages the use of positive, uplifting words, making the speaker sound more optimistic and confident.

A joyful speaker naturally draws people in, creating an atmosphere of warmth and enthusiasm. This is why joyful speech is often more persuasive and memorable. People are drawn to those who speak with energy and excitement because it makes them feel good in return.

Love and Compassion: Speaking with Warmth and Care

Love and compassion influence speech by making it more patient, gentle, and understanding. This is especially important in relationships, leadership, and counseling.

-

Tone: Love is expressed in a soft, warm, and reassuring tone. A compassionate speaker is careful to avoid sounding harsh or critical.

-

Pacing: When speaking with love, words are delivered thoughtfully rather than rushed, allowing the listener to feel valued.

-

Choice of Words: Instead of using negative or judgmental language, a compassionate speaker chooses words that uplift and encourage.

Love-driven speech helps in conflict resolution, making apologies, offering comfort, and expressing appreciation. When people feel that the words spoken to them come from a place of love, they are more likely to listen and respond positively.

Confidence: The Key to Persuasive Speech

Confidence is one of the most powerful elements of effective speaking. It determines whether people take a speaker seriously and trust their words. When someone speaks with confidence, they:

- **Project a Steady Tone:** A confident speaker speaks with clarity and authority, avoiding an unsure or hesitant tone.

- **Maintain Good Posture:** Confidence is reflected in body language - standing tall, making eye contact, and using purposeful gestures.

- **Use Clear and Direct Language:** Instead of weak or uncertain phrases like “I think” or “maybe,” confident speakers use decisive language like “I know” and “I believe.”

Confidence is not about arrogance; it is about believing in what you are saying. A confident speaker captures attention, earns trust, and inspires action.

Gratitude: The Language of Appreciation

Gratitude transforms speech into something powerful and uplifting. A person who speaks with gratitude tends to:

- **Acknowledge Others:** Expressing appreciation for someone’s efforts or contributions strengthens relationships.

- **Use Positive Words:** Grateful people focus on the good, reinforcing positivity in their conversations.

- **Create a Welcoming Atmosphere:** A person who speaks with gratitude makes others feel valued, which enhances cooperation and mutual respect.

Speaking with gratitude is especially important in leadership, customer relations, and personal relationships. When people feel appreciated, they are more likely to respond with kindness and generosity.

Enthusiasm: How Energy Transforms Speech

Enthusiasm is an emotion that instantly elevates speech, making it more

compelling and persuasive. It is particularly valuable in teaching, sales, leadership, and public speaking.

- **Higher Energy:** Enthusiastic speakers naturally engage their audience because their energy is contagious.

- **Varied Pitch and Intonation:** Enthusiasm prevents speech from sounding monotonous, making it more dynamic and interesting.

- **Stronger Connection with the Audience:** An enthusiastic speaker creates excitement in listeners, making them more likely to absorb and act on the message.

However, enthusiasm must be genuine. Forced excitement can come across as insincere. The key is to tap into a real passion for the topic or message being delivered.

How Positive Emotions Strengthen Communication

When positive emotions are present in speech, the following benefits occur:

1.

Better Listener Engagement: People are naturally drawn to positivity and are more likely to pay attention.

2.

Increased Persuasiveness: Messages delivered with confidence and enthusiasm are more likely to be convincing.

3.

Stronger Relationships: Speaking with love, gratitude, and compassion fosters trust and connection.

4.

Improved Problem-Solving: Positive emotions facilitate resolving conflicts and finding solutions rather than escalating issues.

5.

Greater Influence: Leaders, mentors, and public speakers who use positive emotions inspire and motivate others effectively.

Positive emotions are not just about feeling good; they are a powerful tool for improving the way we communicate.

Practical Ways to Cultivate Positive Emotions Before Speaking

Since emotions influence speech, it is helpful to intentionally cultivate positive emotions before important conversations or presentations. Here are some techniques:

- **Smile Before Speaking:** Smiling helps create a warmer tone and a more relaxed speaking style.
- **Practice Gratitude:** Reflecting on what you appreciate can instantly shift your emotional state.
- **Take Deep Breaths:** Deep breathing calms nerves and prepares the mind for clear, confident speech.
- **Visualize a Positive Outcome:** Imagine the conversation or speech going well, which helps reduce anxiety and increase enthusiasm.
- **Listen to Uplifting Music:** Music can quickly elevate mood and energize speech.
- **Use Positive Affirmations:** Saying things like “I am confident and articulate” helps program the mind for effective speaking.

By practicing these techniques, we can ensure that our words carry the power of positive emotion, making us more influential and effective communicators.

Make Your Speech More Effective

Positive emotions like joy, love, confidence, gratitude, and enthusiasm make speech more effective, engaging, and impactful. Whether in personal conversations, leadership roles, or public speaking, cultivating and expressing these emotions leads to better communication and stronger

connections with others.

The Impact of Negative Emotions on Speech

Just as positive emotions enhance the effectiveness of speech, negative emotions can weaken it. Fear, anger, frustration, anxiety, and sadness can distort our words, making communication less clear, less persuasive, and sometimes even harmful. When we speak under the influence of negative emotions, our tone may become harsh, our words may lack coherence, and our message may be misunderstood.

Fear: The Silent Enemy of Effective Speech

Fear is one of the biggest obstacles to clear and confident speech. Whether it's fear of public speaking, fear of confrontation, or fear of being judged, this emotion can:

- **Cause Hesitation:** Fearful speakers tend to stammer, use filler words (“um,” “uh”), or pause too frequently.
- **Lower Volume and Clarity:** A fearful person often speaks too softly or mumbles, making it difficult for others to understand.
- **Result in Unclear Messages:** Fear can make speakers second-guess their words, leading to vague or confusing statements.

When fear dominates speech, the speaker may fail to convey their intended message, and listeners may perceive them as uncertain or untrustworthy. Overcoming fear requires preparation, practice, and mindset shifts, which will be discussed later in this chapter.

Anger: The Destructive Force in Communication

Anger can be one of the most damaging emotions in speech. When a person speaks while angry, they often:

-

Use a Harsh Tone: Raised voices, sharp words, or an aggressive tone can make listeners defensive.

•

Lose Control of Word Choice: Anger can lead to speaking impulsively, and saying things that may later be regretted.

•

Damage Relationships: Harsh or aggressive speech can hurt others, causing long-term damage to personal and professional relationships.

While anger is a natural emotion, speaking while angry is rarely productive. It often leads to misunderstandings, arguments, and a loss of credibility. Learning to pause before speaking and cooling down before responding can help prevent anger from negatively affecting communication.

Frustration: When Impatience Weakens Speech

Frustration often arises when expectations are not met, leading to impatient or irritated speech. This can cause:

•

A Rushed or Abrupt Tone: Frustrated speakers may talk too fast or sound dismissive.

•

Negative or Critical Language: Expressions of frustration often contain complaints, blame, or negativity.

•

Reduced Listener Engagement: People tend to tune out when they sense irritation or impatience in the speaker.

Frustration can make it difficult to communicate effectively because the focus shifts from solving the problem to venting emotions. Learning to take deep breaths, adjust expectations, and practice patience can help keep frustration from taking over speech.

Anxiety: The Hidden Disruptor of Clear Speech

Anxiety, especially social or performance-related anxiety, can make

speech ineffective by:

- **Causing Nervousness:** A shaky voice, excessive fidgeting, or sweating can distract from the message.
- **Reducing Clarity:** Anxious speakers may ramble, go off-topic, or struggle to articulate their thoughts.
- **Making Speech Less Engaging:** A monotone voice or lack of eye contact can make a speaker seem disengaged.

Managing anxiety before speaking - through preparation, deep breathing, and visualization - can help create a more confident and composed delivery.

Sadness: How Low Emotions Weaken Speech

Sadness has a dampening effect on speech, making it:

- **Less Energetic:** A dull or monotonous tone can make speech unengaging.
- **Less Persuasive:** A person speaking while sad may struggle to convey confidence or inspire others.
- **Harder to Follow:** A melancholic mindset may lead to slower speech and difficulty organizing thoughts.

While sadness is a natural emotion, it's important to recognize when it's affecting speech and to find ways to uplift one's mood before important conversations or presentations.

The Consequences of Speaking Under the Influence of Negative Emotions

Speaking while overwhelmed by negative emotions can lead to several problems:

1.
Miscommunication: Negative emotions distort the intended message, leading to misunderstandings.
2.
Damaged Relationships: Harsh words spoken in anger or frustration can create lasting wounds.
3.
Loss of Credibility: Fearful, anxious, or hesitant speech can make a speaker seem unconfident or untrustworthy.
4.
Reduced Persuasiveness: People are less likely to be influenced by someone who speaks with a negative emotional tone.

Understanding these consequences helps us become more mindful of our emotional state before speaking.

Practical Strategies for Managing Negative Emotions Before Speaking

Since emotions influence speech, learning to regulate them before important conversations or public speaking engagements is essential. Here are some effective techniques:

- **Pause Before Speaking:** Taking a deep breath and waiting a few seconds before responding can prevent emotional outbursts.
- **Practice Self-Awareness:** Recognizing when emotions are high allows us to adjust before speaking.
- **Use Neutral or Positive Language:** Even in difficult situations, choosing words carefully can prevent unnecessary conflict.
- **Engage in Physical Relaxation Techniques:** Stretching, deep breathing, or even a short walk can help reduce emotional intensity.
- **Reframe the Situation:** Looking at a stressful situation from a different perspective can reduce emotional reactivity.

By mastering these techniques, we can ensure that our words reflect wisdom and intentionality rather than uncontrolled emotion.

Learn To Manage Your Emotions

Negative emotions such as fear, anger, frustration, anxiety, and sadness can significantly weaken speech, making it less clear, less persuasive, and potentially damaging to relationships. While it's natural to experience these emotions, learning to manage them before speaking is crucial for effective communication.

Emotional Intelligence and Effective Speaking

Emotional intelligence (EQ) plays a crucial role in how we communicate. It is the ability to recognize, understand, and manage our own emotions while also being aware of and influencing the emotions of others. A high level of emotional intelligence enhances our speaking skills, making us more persuasive, relatable, and effective in conversations, speeches, and debates.

What is Emotional Intelligence?

Emotional intelligence is often divided into five key components, each of which affects how we speak and interact with others:

1.
Self-awareness: Recognizing our own emotions and how they influence our speech.
2.
Self-regulation: Managing our emotions to ensure they don't negatively impact our communication.
3.
Motivation: Using emotions positively to drive passion and enthusiasm in speech.
4.
Empathy: Understanding and responding to the emotions of others while speaking.
- 5.

Social skills: Navigating conversations effectively, building rapport, and inspiring others.

When these elements are well-developed, our speech becomes more intentional, engaging, and impactful.

The Role of Self-Awareness in Speaking

Self-awareness is the foundation of emotional intelligence. It allows us to recognize how our emotions affect the way we speak and how we are perceived by others.

- A person who lacks self-awareness may unknowingly sound aggressive, anxious, or indifferent.
- A self-aware speaker, on the other hand, can detect emotional shifts and adjust their tone, words, and delivery accordingly.

For example, if someone realizes they are feeling frustrated before a conversation, they can take a moment to calm themselves before speaking, preventing their frustration from affecting their message.

Self-Regulation: Controlling Emotions to Improve Speech

Self-regulation is the ability to manage emotional impulses, ensuring that our emotions do not take control of our speech.

When a speaker lacks self-regulation:

- They may lash out in anger, damaging relationships.
- They may allow fear to make them hesitant or unclear.
- They may struggle with frustration, leading to impatient or dismissive language.

Techniques for improving self-regulation in speech include:

- **Taking a Pause:** Before responding emotionally, take a deep breath and collect your thoughts.

- **Reframing Situations:** Instead of seeing an audience as judgmental, view them as supportive.

- **Practicing Mindfulness:** Being present in the moment prevents emotions from controlling speech.

Speakers who master self-regulation communicate with clarity, confidence, and poise.

Motivation: Harnessing Positive Emotions for Powerful Speech

Emotionally intelligent individuals use emotions to drive passion and enthusiasm in their speech.

- A speaker with high motivation conveys energy and conviction, making their message compelling.

- A lack of motivation results in dull, uninspiring speech that fails to engage an audience.

Ways to harness motivation in speech include:

- Speaking about topics that genuinely excite you.

- Focus on the positive impact your words can have.

- Using uplifting language and a confident tone.

Passion is contagious - when a speaker is motivated, the audience feels it, too.

The Power of Empathy in Speaking

Empathy is the ability to understand and respond to the emotions of others. It is one of the most powerful tools for effective communication.

- An empathetic speaker listens actively and adjusts their words to connect with their audience.
- They recognize the emotions behind questions or objections and respond with sensitivity.
- They avoid dismissing or invalidating the feelings of others.

For example, a leader addressing a team after a difficult project failure should acknowledge their frustration and disappointment before offering encouragement. Empathy builds trust and strengthens communication.

Social Skills: Mastering the Art of Conversational Flow

Social skills in emotional intelligence enable speakers to navigate conversations smoothly, engage audiences, and enhance meaningful connections.

Key social skills that enhance speech include:

- **Active listening:** Paying close attention to others before responding.
- **Adaptability:** Adjusting speech based on the audience's mood and reactions.
- **Conflict resolution:** Using words to calm tensions rather than escalate them.

Developing strong social skills allows speakers to communicate effectively in both personal and professional settings.

Practical Steps to Enhance Emotional Intelligence in Speech

To integrate emotional intelligence into speech, practice the following strategies:

1.

Develop Self-Awareness: Keep a journal of how emotions influence your speech patterns.

2.

Practice Emotional Regulation: Engage in deep breathing or visualization before speaking in stressful situations.

3.

Cultivate Empathy: Before responding, consider how the listener might feel.

4.

Refine Social Skills: Observe and learn from great communicators who balance logic and emotion effectively.

5.

Stay Motivated: Remind yourself of the purpose behind your words to maintain enthusiasm.

Improving emotional intelligence is an ongoing process, but each step brings greater mastery over the way we speak.

Transform the Way You Communicate

Emotional intelligence is a crucial factor in effective speaking. By developing self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills, we can transform the way we communicate. Our words will carry greater clarity, persuasion, and emotional depth.

Chapter 15

How to Heal and Control Your Tongue

Having seen that the words you speak are a function of the content of your heart, you need to make sure that your heart is properly aligned and that your mouth only speaks the right words, to produce the right realities that you want to see. If you have made a habit of speaking the wrong words, then you need to learn to control your tongue, and heal your mouth from the disease of evil speaking that has infected it.

Psalm 19:14 KJV

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

The following steps will help you secure a permanent cure to the mouth disease;

Acknowledge Your Wrongdoing for What It Is: Sin.

Honesty is crucial for progress. We won't see change until we stop using euphemisms and face our issues directly. God helps those who are truthful about their sin. Excuses hinder His intervention. Be honest with yourself and with God; this is the essential first step. Recognize your problem as sin.

Sometimes we say, "God, why don't you help me?" God replies (though often unspoken), "I'm waiting for you to be honest; honest with yourself and honest with Me." That is the first and the most important step. Once you take that step, you are well on the way to the following steps. Call your problem by its right name: sin. Religious people have many different ways of excusing or glossing over the misuse of their tongues. They think it does not matter much what they say, but God says it makes all the difference. As a matter of fact, you settle your destiny by what you say.

Matthew 12:37

"By your words you shall be justified, by your words you shall be condemned".

It is a serious matter. Do not trifle with it. Come to the moment of truth and say, "I have a problem: it is sin." When you get there, you are ready to take the next step.

Confess Your Sin to Receive Forgiveness and Cleansing

1 John 1:7-9 (NAS)

If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Again, we see the importance of being honest. The blood of Jesus does not cleanse in the dark. Only when we come to the light can we receive the cleansing of the blood of Jesus. If we are walking in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ continually cleanses us and keeps us pure from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, which I have pointed out to be the real problem, we are deceiving ourselves, the truth is not in us and we are not in the light. We are still in the dark where God's provision does not work. If we confess our sins, come to the light, and acknowledge the real nature and the seriousness of our problem, then God ***"is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** Two words are used, "faithful" and "righteous." God is faithful because He has promised, and He will keep His promise. God is righteous or just because Jesus has already paid the penalty for our sins; therefore, He can forgive us without compromising His justice. If we confess our sins, the guarantee of Scripture is that God in faithfulness and in justice, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God not only forgives, but even more important, He cleanses. Once our hearts are cleansed, we do not go on committing the same sins. This is because because the heart is the wellspring of life. If you believe that your sins are forgiven but you find experientially that you have not been cleansed, I would like to question whether you have really been forgiven. The same God who forgives also cleanses. The same Scripture that promises forgiveness also promises

cleansing. God never stops halfway. If we meet the conditions, we get the whole package. If we do not meet the conditions, we do not get half, we get nothing. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Once our hearts are cleansed, then the problem will not be there. Remember, the condition of the heart determines what comes out of the mouth. A clean heart cannot produce unclean utterances. Unclean utterances indicate an unclean heart. First, if we come to the light, confess, and turn to God with the problem, then God is faithful and righteous to forgive. The record of the past is blotted out, and all those things you wish you had never said are blotted out. Secondly, God cleanses your heart. Then, out of a clean, pure heart, what comes through your lips will be clean and pure. If your heart glorifies God, then your lips will glorify God. God solves the problems of the tongue and the lips by addressing the condition of the heart. Below are a few examples from scripture, where we see this happen.

The Cleansing of Prophet Isaiah's Tongue

Isaiah 6:5-7 KJV

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

David's Supplication

Psalm 19:14 KJV

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 51:10 KJV

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 141:3-4 KJV

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works with men

that work iniquity: And let me not eat of their dainties.

Reject Sin and Embrace God

These are two sides of the same coin, requiring a dual commitment. Simply refusing sin leaves a void that will likely be filled again. The only true escape from sin is to actively yield to God.

Romans 6:12-14 (MSG)

That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

When sin attacks, fight back with a firm "No! I will not surrender to you, and most certainly not my tongue, the source of so much trouble." Then, in prayer, offer your tongue to God: "Lord, I relinquish control of my tongue to You. Please master this unruly part of me." Let us look at what James says.

James 3:7-8 (AMPC)

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea animal, can be tamed and has been tamed by human genius (nature). But the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is a restless (undisciplined, irreconcilable) evil, full of deadly poison.

Understand that taming your tongue is beyond your own ability. Only the power of God, working through the Holy Spirit, can effectively control it for good. When sin tempts you to speak wrongly after you've been forgiven, resist by saying, "Sin, my tongue is not yours." Then, surrender to the Holy Spirit with the prayer, "Holy Spirit, I yield my tongue to Your control. I am incapable of managing it myself; please take charge." The process involves three key steps: acknowledging your problem as sin, confessing and receiving cleansing, and crucially, refusing to give in to sin while choosing to yield to God; specifically entrusting your uncontrollable tongue to the Holy Spirit.

How To Control Your Tongue

1.

Control your heart; constantly deal with matters of the heart; practicing forgiveness, getting rid of bitterness, envy, jealousy, malice, strife, competitive spirit, etc. Bad words will not come if bad thoughts are not there. The mouth cannot be clean if the heart is dirty and the mouth cannot be dirty if the heart is clean.

2.

Guard Your Heart to protect it from dirt. Be mindful of what you allow into your heart, as it shapes your words:

-

Guard your ear gate: Be selective about what you listen to.

-

Guard your eye gate: Be mindful of what you watch.

-

Guard your thoughts: What you meditate on determines the words you speak.

3.

Maintain a spirit-filled life.

The infilling of the Holy Spirit provides a driver for the rudder of the tongue. Maintaining a spirit-filled life is the key to maintaining control of the tongue. If you do, the Holy Spirit will take control of your tongue and express Himself through it.

Galatians 5:16 AMP

But I say, walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]

4.

Store up God's word in your heart.

The words you store up in your heart are what will come out when you speak. Ps 119:9-11, Rom. 10:8-9, Phil. 4:8. The thoughts you focus on determine the words you speak as well.

Psalm 119:9-11 (KJV)

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Romans 10:8-9 (KJV)

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Philippians 4:8 (KJV)

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.

Your mental attitude, whether positive or negative, determines what and how you speak. God's word reprograms it for good.

Proverbs 23:7 KJV

'For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...

5.

Make a covenant; a commitment and consecration; to never gossip or speak evil about others or say unwholesome things.

Psalm 141:3-4 KJV

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works with men that work iniquity: And let me not eat of their dainties.

Job 31:1 (KJV)

I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Make such a consecration with your tongue never to speak evil and set boundaries to help you keep it.

6.

Reprogram your mind and mental attitudes from being evil to becoming positive. Listen to the right things and the right words and you will become a better person. Develop a possibility mentality.

7.

Guard your Associations. Association is important. Hang around and befriend people who speak well of others. Cut off the relationships of mockers/evil-speakers. A diseased tongue needs a listening ear for the disease to spread. Hang around with visionary people who practice healthy speaking.

8.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you control your tongue

John 14:26 AMP

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

Psalm 141:3-4 KJV

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works with men that work iniquity: And let me not eat of their dainties

Chapter 16

Speak into the Cosmos (How to Rule your world)

Genesis 1:3: Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

From the dawn of creation, the universe has been designed to respond to the seeds sown into it. These seeds are sown in the form of words, actions, and even thoughts. A matter remains personal to you for as long as you choose to carry it in your heart. But as soon as you voice that matter out, and the waves that convey the words enter into the atmosphere, spiritual forces begin to work on those words, causing them to grow whatever you have sown and bring a bountiful harvest back to you, whether you have sown good or evil.

Genesis 1 reveals that God created the world through the power of His spoken word. He said, "Let there be light," and light appeared. This act set a precedent: words are creative forces that birth reality. Just as the earth receives physical seeds and produces fruit, the cosmos is a womb which receives spoken words and returns their corresponding harvest. The cosmos is indeed a fertile ground for word seeds.

This principle is not limited to religious perspectives. Scientists recognize that energy cannot be destroyed but only transformed. Thoughts, words, and actions are all forms of energy that interact with the universe, creating ripples that eventually return to the sender.

The Universal Law of Sowing and Reaping

The law of sowing and reaping is universal, cutting across all aspects of life. In agriculture, a farmer who plants corn expects a harvest of corn, not wheat. Similarly, when words of faith, love, and vision are spoken into a

situation, they produce a harvest of goodness. On the other hand, negative words, deceit, and slander result in destruction, failure, and pain.

Galatians 6:7 states, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that will he also reap."

Proverbs 18:21 declares, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Eastern philosophies emphasize the principle of karma, which holds that every action produces a corresponding reaction.

The reality is simple: No one can escape the harvest of their words and actions.

Words are Seeds That Shape Reality

Words are not mere sounds. They are carriers of power. Every word spoken is a seed sown into the fabric of existence. Leaders shape the destiny of nations through their declarations. Parents chart the course of their children's lives through their words. Individuals determine their future by the words they consistently speak about themselves and their circumstances.

Consider these examples:

- **The Wright Brothers** believed in human flight long before it was a reality. Their words, backed by action, led to the invention of the airplane.

- **Nelson Mandela** repeatedly declared his vision for a free and united South Africa, and despite decades of imprisonment, his words ultimately materialized.

- **Negative declarations** also produce fruit. A generation that repeatedly says, "Nothing good comes out of this country," will subconsciously contribute to its decline.

The Womb of Time: Every Seed Has a Season

Just as physical seeds take time to grow, the seeds of words and behaviors do not always produce immediate results. Some seeds sprout quickly, while others take years or even generations to bear fruit. This principle explains why some families, communities, or nations experience

prosperity decades after their ancestors made wise choices, while others suffer because of negative seeds sown long before.

However, just as a farmer can change his crop by planting new seeds, individuals and societies can reshape their future by consciously sowing positive words and actions.

You Can Take Control of the Future

The womb of the cosmos is always receiving, nurturing, and reproducing the seeds sown into it. With words, every person, family, community, and nation is actively shaping its destiny. By understanding this profound truth and taking control of what we sow, we can ensure that the future is one of abundance, growth, and fulfillment.

The Power of Spoken Declarations

In the beginning, the universe was formless and void until God said, "***Let there be light.***" He declared this, and light appeared (Genesis 1:3). This moment reveals a foundational truth: words are not just sounds or expressions; they are seeds that shape reality. Every word spoken carries power, and once released into the womb of the cosmos, it sets events in motion, eventually producing a harvest - whether good or bad.

Uprooting Bad Seeds and Planting the Right Ones

The harvest of life is not predetermined by fate, it is shaped by the seeds that have been sown over time. Many individuals, families, organizations, and nations find themselves trapped in cycles of failure, poverty, corruption, and stagnation because of the wrong seeds planted in the past. However, the good news is that bad seeds can be uprooted, and new, better seeds can be intentionally planted to change the course of destiny.

Jeremiah 1:9-10

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."

Whenever we set out to control the cosmos, there is a principle that God

taught Jeremiah here. Just like in every reconstruction site, there must be a lot of demolition before rebuilding. Notice that the amount of demolition work involved in birthing restoration was nearly twice as much as the restorative work.

Recognizing the Presence of Bad Seeds

Before uprooting bad seeds, we must first recognize them. Many people suffer from negative cycles without realizing that they are the result of seeds sown in the past—whether by themselves, their families, or previous generations. These seeds manifest as patterns of failure, hardship, or dysfunction that seem to repeat over time.

The first step to change is awareness. Once we recognize the bad seeds, we can begin the process of uprooting them and planting the right ones.

The Power of Uprooting Bad Seeds

Uprooting bad seeds requires both spiritual and practical actions. The womb of the cosmos not only receives new seeds, but it also allows for the removal of old, destructive ones. However, this process must be intentional. Uprooting bad seeds is not easy, but it is necessary. Once the ground has been cleared, the next step is to intentionally plant the right seeds.

Planting the Right Seeds for a Better Future

The process of planting new seeds must be deliberate. Success and transformation do not happen by accident, they are the results of intentional sowing.

One of the most important truths about words is that it is the tool with which we create new realities, call things into being out of nothing, and also change situations and circumstances the same way God did it in the beginning.

The highest and most powerful type of Proper Speech is declaring what God said in His word. God's word declared through your mouth is as powerful as the same words declared through God's mouth. This is because your earthen vessel is now a house in which God lives, and from which He does His work on earth.

This book will be incomplete if it does not teach you how to practically use words to create the things we want, change the things we do not want, and establish God's will and purpose on earth.

In my earlier book - *The Dominion Mandate*, I devoted a chapter to teaching how to use words to create whatsoever you desire, and change whatsoever you do not want to continue. I am reproducing that chapter here to show you how to use your words of authority - Your Proper Speech - to create new realities and rule your world.

The chapter of *The Dominion Mandate* on *Learning To Function Like God* reads as follows:

APPLY COMMANDING PRAYERS

A question was asked in Job 38:12 that relates strongly to our subject matter. It says, ***“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place?”***

What does that question say personally to you? Have you commanded that situation to align in harmony with your destiny? Have you commanded that business to take on a new life and begin to blossom again? Have you commanded that sickness to go and never to come back to trouble you?

God also told us in His word that there are circumstances under which we can issue commands for Him to act.

We find in Isaiah 45:11:

Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands, COMMAND YE ME.

The powers that God has bestowed upon us as His children and His direct representatives on earth are enormous, even overwhelming. But if we fail to utilize those powers, we can be dominated by things we are meant to rule over

Some things should not constitute burdens to us anymore because the power to rule over them has been delivered to us. The way to exercise those powers is through speaking.

You create what you say.

If you fail to say it, you have also failed to create it.
If you do not create it, you will not have it.

For your life to move forward, you must pay close attention to the things you will learn in this book and put them into practical use. One of the best ways you can make use of your ability to speak is to declare the things you want to see. You have to say it and continue to say it until its practical manifestation comes. **“...He will have whatever he says”** (Mark 11:23).

From the portion we read in the book of Job, the writer actually says that we can command the morning and cause the dawn to know its place. In other words, some things should never happen to us, and we can command the day not to allow those things to happen.

Like God, we can, with our words, create what we want to see in the day, week, month, and years ahead. Failure to do so is yielding control to the enemies of our destiny. You have a choice to till your ground and sow in it the crops of your choice. If you fail to do so, your ground will be overtaken by weeds. This phenomenon has played out repeatedly ever since time began.

The Dominion Mandate is about arising and taking up responsibility and control. It is about determining what ought to be in tandem with our inheritance in God and in Christ and insisting that those things come to be. It is about turning the tide against whatever may have been working against us and taking full charge and control. It is about returning to God's people and to the earth whatever was lost when man fell in the Garden of Eden.

The mandate we received is:

Genesis 1:28

"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Follow Up With Corresponding Action

After you have created things in the spirit through prayer, there is a need for you to follow up with corresponding action. You cannot continue to do things the same way you used to and expect practical change to happen. As you proclaim what you want, you create it in the spiritual realm. But you must be able to translate that change into tangible reality. This is where the

insight and revelation you have received through prayer, study, and meditation become vital. Begin immediately to put them to use.

Become innovative and bring another dimension to what you have been doing. There is always something you can do to improve upon the things you have been doing. You may even veer off into an entirely new direction if you have been guided to do so. Every venture you see that has become globally successful was once a mere idea in the head of an individual. It takes focus, courage, and diligent action to accomplish anything great.

Practical Dominion Prayers That Make Things Happen

It is time to put into practice what we have studied so far in this chapter.

Start by identifying those aspects of your life that seem to have been covered by darkness or any other form of limitation. Demand that everything responsible for that failure or problem be lifted right away. Demand that everything that was counted as dead and buried concerning you should take on a new life now and emerge from obscurity.

Note again the words that God used in instructing the earth to bring forth her treasures. They are all commanding words. None of them was a supplication or petition or intercession. These other types of prayer have their place. But in this business of bringing forth the things that are hidden in the invisible realm into practical tangibility, what you should use is “Commanding Prayers”.

You were created in the image and likeness of God. What you should do is to study how your Creator functions. By following His steps, you too will get the same result as He does.

God commanded in Genesis 1:9, ***“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”*** *The Bible says, “And it was so.”*

With fervency, pray the following prayer for yourself and for everyone you hold dear to your heart.

“Everything that is covering my destiny; everything that is covering my gifts and my talents; everything posing as a

restriction or limitation to my glorious manifestation; I command you to break and be rolled away in Jesus' name, Amen.

“I receive guidance and insight now as I command every form of darkness that beclouded my gifts and my destiny to be rolled away in the name of Jesus.

“Now, let my gifts appear; let my talents begin to blossom; let my ministry take on a new, invigorated life; let me become the best I was created to be, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.”

Several multi-talented persons who will read this book are not yet known in their countries. If you happen to be one of such, hear me now, **“Today the end has come to your stagnation and obscurity. Nothing can stop you from becoming what God created you to be in Jesus' name.”**

It is now time to speak to the earth you dwell upon and the earth within you (that is your physical body), concerning what the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:7, **“*But we have this treasure in earthen, vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*”**

Now, speak to the earth and to yourself. Demand emphatically that the treasures buried in your earth by your Creator should come forth now. You need these treasures in this land of the living, not hereafter. Issue commands in the following words and add others you may deem necessary.

Every treasure loaded in the earth for me, and every treasure loaded in the earthen vessel of my body, I command you to come forth now in the name of Jesus.

Bring forth the things in me that will bless the world: knowledge, ideas, wisdom, inventions, innovations, and creativity loaded in me, come forth now and begin to manifest tangibly, in the name of Jesus.

The gifts in me; the talents in me; the books in me; the songs in me; the companies in me; the NGOs in me; the leadership aptitudes in me, come forth now in the name of Jesus.

The movies in me, the radio and television stations in me, the ideas in me, come forth in the name of Jesus.

The businesses in me, I command you to come forth. The wealth that I am carrying, I command you to come forth.

I command the ministries in me to come forth. I also receive the anointing for service in those ministries.

I will not die with my gifts. I will not die with my potential; I will not die with my destiny unaccomplished. I will die empty. I will bless my generation with the gifts, talents, and blessings that have been bestowed upon me in Jesus' name.

Pray these prayers fervently and frequently until the results begin to show practically.

For higher dimensions of manifestations, sustain the prayers, even when you have started to see results.

Also pray using the following Scriptures:

Psalm 67:5-7

Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Demand that the earth yield her increase to you. Command the earth not to hold back any blessing meant for you and your generation. Ask that God's blessing will rest upon your life and make you a blessing to your generation. °

Isaiah 30:23

Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day, your cattle will feed in large pastures.

Demand that the earth release the wealth and prosperity that is meant for you and not withhold it. Request that the rain of the anointing, grace, mercy, and favour of God will come upon your business and every work of your hands. Ask God to move you into a larger field; to take you to a higher level; to enlarge your territory; to expand your business even as He expands

your capacity to handle higher responsibilities.

Command everything that limited you to shatter as you step into a higher level of wealth and prosperity.

Ezekiel 34:27

"Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

Demand that whatever has prevented the earth from yielding her increase to you before now be broken and taken out of the way. Repent before God and obtain forgiveness for any records that may be speaking against you.

Command that the yokes that limited you be destroyed by the anointing in the presence of the Lord.

Isaiah 10:27

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

I also pray for you as I declare in the name of the Holy Son of God, Jesus Christ, that whatever you have decreed in this prayer segment will be established for you. Everything about you that is hidden; any treasure that God has put inside you; your potentials; your talents and your destiny; I command them to emerge in the name of Jesus.

Your generation will discover what you are carrying; they will come for it, and you will prosper as they come in the name of Jesus. Your treasure will not perish inside you. You will go to the grave empty because you would have given the world what God blessed you with.

I also lift a word of appreciation to our Heavenly Father and say, "Thank You, Lord, for what you have done in your people's lives thus far. Grant, oh Lord, that everything you have put in them for their generation shall all be accomplished before they book departs this earth in Jesus' name.

I put an injunction on death over everyone who reads this book. You will completely fulfil your destiny and purpose before death comes near you.

Thank You, Lord. Be thou glorified in Jesus' name. Amen!

Chapter 17

Biblical References on the Power of the Tongue

Power of the Tongue

1. **Proverbs 18:20-21** - "A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."
2. **Proverbs 12:18** - "There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health."
3. **Matthew 12:36-37**—" But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. *For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*"
4. **Jeremiah 1:9-10**—"Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."
5. **Mark 11:23 NKJV** - "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."
6. **James 3:3-6 NLT** - "The tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire."

And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself."

Control and Discipline of the Tongue

7. **James 1:26** - "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless."
8. **James 3:8** - "But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."
9. **Proverbs 21:23** - "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles."
10. **James 3:2** - "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body."

Speaking Wisely and Kindly

11. **Proverbs 15:1 NASB** - "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
12. **Proverbs 25:15** - "By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone." (NASB) or "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone." (NIV)
13. **Proverbs 15:4** - "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."
14. **Proverbs 31:26** - "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness."

Truth and Honesty

15. **Proverbs 12:19** - "The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment."
16. **Proverbs 8:7** - "For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips."
17. **Proverbs 12:22** - "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."
18. **Proverbs 26:28** - "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin."
19. **Proverbs 6:16-17** - "These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood."
20. **Psalms 120:2** - "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue."

Consequences of a Wicked Tongue

21. **Proverbs 10:31** - "The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out."
22. **Matthew 15:11 NLT** - "It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth."
23. **Matthew 15:18 NASB** - "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man."

Speaking with Grace and Encouragement

24. **Colossians 4:6** - "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."
25. **Ephesians 4:29** - "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

26. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."
27. **Proverbs 16:24** - "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." (NIV)

Speaking in Faith and Boldness

28. **Matthew 21:21** - "Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.'"
29. **2 Corinthians 4:13** - "And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak."
30. **Matthew 18:18** - "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
31. **Romans 10:10** - "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (NKJV)

The Danger of Gossip and Slander

32. **Leviticus 19:16** - "You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD."
33. **Proverbs 10:19** - "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise."
34. **1 Peter 3:10-11** - "For 'He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from

speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it."

35. **Proverbs 16:28** - "A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends." (NIV)
36. **Proverbs 18:8** - "The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts." (NIV)

Blessing and Cursing with the Tongue

37. **James 3:9-10** - "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."
38. **Psalms 109:17-19** - "As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; as he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him. As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, so let it enter his body like water, and like oil into his bones. Let it be to him like the garment which covers him, and for a belt with which he girds himself continually."
39. **Matthew 5:44-45** - "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
40. **1 Peter 3:9-10** - "Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For 'He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.'"

The Deceitful Tongue

41. **Psalm 52:4** - "You love all devouring words, you deceitful tongue."
42. **Psalm 109:2** - "For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful have opened against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue."
43. **Proverbs 6:17** - "A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood."
44. **Psalm 34:13 NLT** - "Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies!"

The Tongue and Wisdom

45. **Psalms 49:3** - "My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding."
46. **Proverbs 18:4** - "The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook."
47. **Luke 21:15** - "For I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist."
48. **Proverbs 10:20** - "The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little."
49. **Proverbs 16:1** - "The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord."
50. **Proverbs 17:27** - "He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit."
51. **Proverbs 25:11** - "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."
52. **Proverbs 15:23** - "A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!"

The Perverse and Wicked Tongue (Poisonous Tongue)

53. **Proverbs 17:4** - "An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue."
54. **Psalms 140:3** - "They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; the poison of asps is under their lips."
55. **Psalms 52:2-4** - "Your tongue devises destruction, like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. You love evil more than good, lying rather than speaking righteousness. You love all devouring words, you deceitful tongue."
56. **Romans 3:13** - "Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips."
57. **Jeremiah 9:3** - "And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me, says the LORD."
58. **Psalms 50:19-20** - "You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son."
59. **Psalms 64:3** - "Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words."
60. **Psalms 34:12-13** - "Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit."

Consequences of Speech

61. **Matthew 12:36-37** - "*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of*

judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

62. **Proverbs 18:7** - "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."

Righteous Speech

63. **Psalm 19:14** - "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

64. **Psalm 71:24** - "My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long; for they are confounded, for they are brought to shame who seek my hurt."

65. **Proverbs 10:32** - "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse."

Guidance for Godly Speech

66. **Colossians 3:8** - "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."

67. **Psalm 37:30** - "The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice."

68. **Proverbs 8:7** - "For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips."

Prayer for Control Over the Tongue

69. **Psalm 141:3** - "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."

70. **Psalm 39:1** - "I said, 'I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, while the

wicked are before me."

Impact of Words

71. **Proverbs 11:9** - "The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered."
72. **Proverbs 12:18 NIV** - "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."
73. **Proverbs 25:11 NASB** - "Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances."
74. **Proverbs 25:25 NIV** - "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

Encouragement to Speak Life

75. **Ephesians 5:19** - "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."
76. **1 Thessalonians 5:11** - "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

God's Judgment on the Tongue

77. **Psalms 12:3** - "May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things."
78. **Isaiah 57:4** - "Whom do you ridicule? Against whom do you make a wide mouth and stick out the tongue? Are you not children of transgression, offspring of falsehood?"

Tongue as an Instrument of Praise

79. **Psalm 35:28** - "And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long."
80. **Psalm 126:2** - "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'"
81. **Isaiah 45:23** - "I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath."

Using the Tongue for Truth

82. **Proverbs 12:22** - "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."
83. **Zephaniah 3:13** - "The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth."

The Dangers of an Uncontrolled Tongue

84. **Proverbs 15:2** - "The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."
85. **Job 5:21** - "You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, and you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes."
86. **Jeremiah 18:18** - "Then they said, 'Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come and let us attack him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.'"
87. **Proverbs 29:20 NASB** - "Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

Speaking with Integrity and Grace

- 88. Isaiah 50:4** - "The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary."
- 89. Proverbs 14:7** - "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge."

Guarding Your Tongue

- 90. Proverbs 13:2-3** - "A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence. He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction."
- 91. Proverbs 18:20** - "A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled."
- 92. Psalm 34:13** - "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit."

God's Help with the Tongue

- 93. Exodus 4:10-12** - "Then Moses said to the Lord, 'O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' So the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?'"
- 94. Isaiah 6:7** - "And he touched my mouth with it, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.'"

The Flattery Tongue

- 95. Job 32:21-22** - "Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; nor let me flatter any man. For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away."
- 96. Proverbs 26:28** - "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin."
- 97. Proverbs 29:5** - "A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet."
- 98. Acts 12:21-23** - "So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!' Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died."
- 99. Proverbs 27:14** - "He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him."

The Fool and His Tongue

100.

Proverbs 14:3 - "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them."

101.

Proverbs 18:6 - "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows."

102.

Proverbs 17:28 - "Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive."

103.

Ecclesiastes 10:12 - "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up."



Have you been blessed by this book?



Thank you for taking the time to read this book. I know you were blessed. The good news is that you can actually be a part of what God is doing globally through these books and get even more blessed while doing so. With your partnership, we can reach many more who may not be able to afford it all over the world.

It is a scriptural fact that sharing our blessings with others brings great joy, fulfilment and more blessings to those who are on the giving end (Luke 6:38, Acts 20:35, Phil 4:15,19). When you partner with us to spread God's word through these books you are connecting to the same Grace and Blessing upon this Mandate.

As the scripture says:

**“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves
be refreshed.”**

Proverbs 11:25

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. David Ogbuehi is a Minister of the Gospel, a Social Reformer, and an iconic transformational leader. He has great passion for Personal Transformation and National Transformation which has birthed various initiatives and ministries causing a positive change among the youth, governments, corporate institutions, the media and other stakeholders both

in Africa and globally.

He is a Management and Public Policy Consultant to private & public sector institutions and their leaders. He is a widely read author with over one hundred and fifty books published. A widely sought after clergyman, technocrat and teacher. He has a burning passion for human capital development as a key to nation building; his other interests are social reforms, transformational leadership, and nation transformation.

He is the President of Golden Heart Foundation & National Development Centre set up to train & equip Nigerian & African youths on transformational leadership. He also seats on the board of Institute of National Transformation. He has been honoured by the United Nations, state governments, government agencies, corporate agencies & organisations for his youth development projects especially the annual National Youth Summit that empowers over 50,000 youths annually. He is also a member of National Institute for Public Policy & Strategic Studies, an alumnus of Lagos Business School, an exchange program at IESE Business School in Spain, and ongoing program at the Harvard Business School. He seats on the board of six big organisations with a focus on development & transformation.

His media broadcast reaches seven continents with increasing transformational influence on many lives, communities, cities & nations. He is married to Sarah Ogbueli.