



The Power of the Tongue
Sunday February 04, 2024

When God created the world and human life, He also set certain things in place. We could refer to these as spirituals laws or spiritual principles. He has revealed these to us in His Word, so that we can live by them.

One such spiritual principle that we find in Scripture, revealed in both the Old and New Testament, is the power of the words we speak. We are going to spend some time reading and examining what God teaches us in His Word about the power of our tongue.

We begin by considering a few Scriptures from Proverbs.

PROVERBS ON THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Proverbs 12:18

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

Words can pierce like a sword or words can heal and promote health. It depends on how we use them. Word spoken from a heart of wisdom, wise words can heal, make whole and promote another person's well-being.

Proverbs 15:4

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

A tree of life is a symbol of health and healing to people (see Revelation 22:2).

Proverbs 15:4 (TPT)

When you speak healing words, you offer others fruit from the tree of life. But unhealthy, negative words do nothing but crush their hopes.

Proverbs 18:21

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

Our words have powerful effect on us and others.



We will reap the consequences (“eat its fruit”) of the words we keep speaking (“those who love it”, that is talking).

Proverbs 21:23

Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 21:23 (TPT)

Watch your words and be careful what you say, and you’ll be surprised how few troubles you’ll have.

Words determine our experiences in life. Words can keep you out of trouble or cause trouble to come to us.

Proverbs 25:15

By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

A gentle tongue can overcome the strongest resistance.

Now let’s consider two passages from the New Testament.

THE TONGUE IS A FIRE!

James 3:1-12

1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

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.

3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

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.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.



9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

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

11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

This passage presents to us the power of our tongue, that is the power of the words we speak and the influence our words have on our own lives.

James compares the tongue to the bit in a horses' mouth, the rudder in a ship, and a forest fire.

The bit and rudder, control and direct. Our words are powerful. They control and direct our lives.

The problem is many of us do not take this seriously. We cannot imagine that our words could have such a great influence on our lives. The bit in the horses' mouth or the rudder in the ship – can go unnoticed. Yet the bit is used to control the horse which is a strong animal. The bit is also used to direct the horse, moving it to the left or right. Similarly with the rudder that directs the ship even in the middle of difficult storms.

Fire in this context is powerful and destructive in its influence. James compares our words to a forest fire.

3:6 James is speaking of an evil tongue, a tongue that is sinful. A tongue that speaks wrong, evil, sinful words. This evil tongue is “set on fire by hell” or is influenced or inflamed by hell itself. Such a tongue defiles the whole body. And it extends its influence on the course of one's entire life.

Consider how the Good New Bible renders this verse:

James 3:6 (Good News Bible)

And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of wrong, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading evil through our whole being. It sets on fire the entire course of our existence with the fire that comes to it from hell itself.



Now, the opposite is true for a good, clean, godly tongue. A godly tongue will be set on fire, that is influenced by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. We could re-word James 3:6 and state it like this for a godly tongue:

And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of blessing, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading blessing through our whole being. It sets on fire the entire course of our existence with the blessing that comes from the Word of God itself.

We must understand the influence our words have on our lives and then determine to use our words to our advantage.

And we need to stay consistent with our words. Speak good words consistently. Don't release fresh water and bitter water!

A GOOD DEPOSIT

Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Either **make the tree good and its fruit good,** or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

34 **Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

35 **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.**

36 **But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**

37 **For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

A good tree bears good fruit.

In this case, the Lord is referring to the "speaking good things".

Our mouth speaks what our heart is full of.

Vs 35 For what has been stored up in your hearts will be heard in the overflow of your words! (TPT)

Not only are our words determined by what we have stored in our hearts – everything else is also determined by this.

The deposit in our heart (the good treasure) will ensure that we "bring forth good things".



So we must deposit God's Word and speak aligned to God's Word. We will expand on this principle next week.

How important are our words?

Jesus taught us that on judgment day, we will be held accountable for the words we have spoken. And we will be justified or condemned by our words!

ACTION

Understand the power of the tongue – the influence the tongue has on your own life, and on those around you.

Choose to use your words carefully.

Use words wisely, intentionally, and constructively.

Speak good into your own life.

Don't tear down your life. Instead build it up by speaking right words.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



The Power of the Tongue Sunday February 04, 2024

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Proverbs 18:21; James 3:1-12; Matthew 12:33-37*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, *Based on Proverbs 18:21 discuss the power of our words.*

2, *Based on James 3:1-12, the bit, the rudder and the fire - what do these teach us about the influence of the tongue (our words) on our own lives?*

3, *Based on Matthew 12:33-37 what can we do practically to ensure we speak wholesome, edifying, good words?*



If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



The Power of the Tongue Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

When God created the world and human life, He also set spiritual laws or spiritual principles. He has revealed these to us in His Word, so that we can live by them. One such spiritual principle that we find in Scripture, revealed in both the Old and New Testament, is the power of the words we speak, or the power of the tongue. This sermon draws our attention to Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments teaching us about the power of the tongue. We also consider the instruction Jesus gave us to ensure we bring “good fruit” and good things in our lives.

KEYWORDS

Power of words, power of the tongue, words we speak, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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The Power of the Tongue Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

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