

BY YOUR WORDS

When I was a teenager I remember being asked what I would like as an epitaph on my gravestone. At the time, I couldn't think of a thing. But there's been a whole lot of water pass under the bridge since then; and I've learned some things. Now I can answer that question. Three little words would give those strolling through the cemetery a precious piece of advice...

"BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE"

We take so many blessings for granted: the ability to take breath, our sight, the freedom to go outside to enjoy the sunshine, being able to walk, and so much more. The things we should cherish the most, we never give a thought to; that is, until we lose one of them. I thank my Heavenly Father that He has ordained circumstances in my life to make me appreciate blessings I once would not give a passing glance.

One of these special blessings is the ability to speak words. I have a little dog; a faithful and obedient friend. We read each other very well. Sometimes he will look at me in a way that I know he'd give half his tail to be able to say what's on his mind. I can do that whenever I choose. But this ability is a two-edged sword... rather like a box of matches. One match can light my fireplace; another can cook my food; another can illuminate my room; but any one of them can burn down my house.

The Bible has much to say about this special ability to speak words. Oddly, in fifty years of being churched, I don't remember hearing anything much at all from a pulpit about it. I say "oddly" because this is one of the most important, life-affecting things in the Book. Here's one thing the Bible has to say about it. This should be posted on your bathroom mirror...

"A man's belly (his life) shall be satisfied (filled)
with the fruit of his mouth (his words); and with the
increase of his lips (the things his words bring him)
SHALL HE BE FILLED. DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER
OF THE TONGUE: and they that love it (indulge it) shall
eat the fruit thereof (bitter or sweet)."
(Proverbs 18:20,21 K.J.V.)

The wisest man on the planet, King Solomon, wrote these words. He knew the terrible power of spoken words. It was solely by speaking words that the Creator made all that exists ("God SAID... and it WAS"). Likewise, it is by speaking words that we create our life's reality; but few of us realize it. I find it interesting that Solomon wrote "death and life" rather than "life and death". I hold a theory as to why. The negative side of the card is the natural tendency of the flesh-man. The unbridled tongue will spill words of death rather than words of life, every time. I believe Solomon's choice of word order was on purpose. You see, like the match which can keep you from freezing, or burn you to death, your words can uplift your soul, and that of another; or they can destroy your life, and cripple another's...

"He that keepeth his mouth (under control) keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips (with no control) SHALL HAVE DESTRUCTION."
(Proverbs 13:3 K.J.V.)

We see here a duality in the tongue. It can create, it can destroy. The difference, according to this Scripture, is in the "keeping", or the control exercised over the tongue. Here's just a tiny example of the two sides of the tongue card. First, the controlled tongue...

"The tongue of the just is as choice silver..."
(Proverbs 10:20 K.J.V.)

"But the tongue of the wise is health (to body and spirit)."
(Proverbs 12:18 K.J.V.)

"The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright..."
(Proverbs 15:2 K.J.V.)

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life..."
(Proverbs 15:4 K.J.V.)

Now the other side of the card... the uncontrolled tongue...

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members (the parts of our body), that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell."
(James 3:6 K.J.V.)

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."
(James 3:8 K.J.V.)

So we see that this blessing from God, the ability to speak words, referred to in the Bible as "tongue", "mouth", and "lips", can be a tree of life, give us health, and allow us to use our knowledge correctly. It can also defile our whole body, destroy the course of nature, and spread deadly poison. Quite a little piece of flesh, isn't it?

I have a unique perspective regarding words. I have seen from my childhood, on a daily basis, the two sides of the tongue... the "death and life" reality Solomon warned of regarding words. My Dad and my Mum exemplified this. A disclaimer... normally I would not bring specific people into my writing, especially to make one look good or bad. YaHWeH knows my heart, and that I have great love for both my parents; and I believe He has given me the green light to speak of this. My Dad was a man of few words, and his words were carefully chosen. Most of his family was the same. My Mum was a person of countless words, endless talking, with no control whatsoever over what she would say. And most of her side of the family was the same. So, as a very quiet and observant child, God put shoe-leather reality to this vital matter. It is precisely because of this daily experience that I know whereof I speak.

This paper deals with the critical need to control the tongue. Why would I bother to attempt this when the Apostle James said, as I quoted, "but the tongue can no man tame"? Good question. The key lies in the difference between "tame" and "control", or "bridle". An animal which has been tamed, can be trusted. "Tame" means it has lost its wild nature. An animal which cannot be tamed MUST be controlled; it can't be trusted to run loose. If we could tame our tongue, we could relax, and give it its freedom. But we can never do that. This animal has a wild and destructive nature, and you dare not turn your back to it.

Here's a popular Scripture which is much misunderstood...

"For verily I say unto you (the Messiah speaking), That whosoever shall say to 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."
(Mark 11:23 K.J.V.)

So is this suggesting that whatever a person says, if they say it enough, it will happen? Boy, does this apply to a million bucks? Well, let's see. The Messiah is teaching His disciples here, about how to pray in faith. The word "mountain" used here is referring to "that which rises up before you", or "an obstacle". And indeed, if you combine the two ingredients: spoken words, and faith (not doubting in your heart), He says you will have it. I've been in churches where this would be the point where everyone would jump and shout. More Mercedes-Benz's would be spoken out than you could shake a stick at. Did they show up in the driveway? No. So what are we to make of this? Is it "yea" or "nay"? Well, it needs proper proving; neutral and Scripture-backed examination.

I've learned over the years that most divisive issues, like this "say to the mountain" one, contain a little (usually invisible) key. The key to this is understanding the nature of "speaking" and "faith". Both of these things are completely neutral. Both speaking and faith are nothing more than vehicles; means of transportation. It matters not what kind of delivery van you drive; only what you are delivering in it counts. We see the same mix-up with prayer. Prayer is just a vehicle, completely neutral. The same van can deliver trust in the Word of God, or doubt, unbelief and worry. So "speaking" is just the delivery van. The "words" you pack it with have the power. Likewise, "faith" is only the vehicle. That vehicle can deliver faith in Almighty YahWeH, faith in a statue of the virgin Mary, faith in the Buddha, faith in the Pope, faith in your favourite TV evangelist, even faith in yourself and your ability to work it out. And the other thing we don't realize is the faith of choice today... "FEAR". Fear is every bit as much true faith, as anything else you trust. Mark 11:23 (above) defines "faith" very neatly... "and shall not doubt in his heart". Those who live in fear have no doubt in their heart that something bad is on the way. They are most definitely people of faith. Why? Because their vehicle, their faith-van, is just as full as the next guy's.

So why am I emphasizing the neutrality of both of the ingredients: speaking and faith? Because we have been conditioned to automatically see the "have what you say" promise in a positive light. Here's what I mean. I've been up to my eyeballs in the "name it and claim it" fiasco, so I know how it goes. The standard line is, if you don't get your Mercedes, you didn't have enough faith. The only down-side ever spoken of is simply not getting the desired toy... disappointing, yes; but of no real danger. But the true downside of this spiritual law is "destruction" (Proverbs 13:3). Why? Because it IS a spiritual law. This means it works every time. Well, isn't that good? Only if the speaking vehicle, and the faith vehicle, are delivering the right contents. If they aren't, your belly will be eating the bitter fruit of the mouth.

So what makes the difference? Your "words". Most people never think about where their words come from. Someone told me that they just say whatever pops into their mind. But that's not what the Bible says...

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh..."
(Matthew 12:34 K.J.V.)

If you read a little further in Matthew 12, and do a word study, you'll find that this "abundance" of the heart is a "treasure chest", or a heart "bank". The words that our mouth speaks are actually withdrawals from this heart-bank. But like any bank, we can only withdraw from what has been deposited there. And how do we make deposits into this bank? With our words. This is a circular banking system. When we speak words, they are withdrawals from our account. Our mind triggers the transaction, and the withdrawal is paid out in word currency. And whether those words are "a tree of life", or "deadly poison" depends solely upon the nature of our life-long deposits into the heart-bank. I said we make our deposits with words. This is how. Words are not just sounds we make. They are power bursts... either tools of creation, or weapons of destruction. And when you speak them from your mouth, you actually send them into reality. Sometimes others will hear them; and they can receive them, they can ignore them, or they can reject them. But who ALWAYS hears your words?... YOU! And who ALWAYS receives your words?... YOU! And who ALWAYS believes your words?... YOU! And whose heart-bank is filled by your words?... YOURS! Behold the circle. You get your power-filled words from your heart-bank; and you fill your heart-bank with your power-filled words. And this entire circle works because of your FAITH (the neutral vehicle). You do not doubt in your heart what your words say; so this spiritual law is unleashed. Therefore, "you shall have whatsoever you saith". Remember, there are two ingredients in this recipe. If you've ever used two-part epoxy you'll understand. It comes in two separate containers; like the two vehicles: speaking and faith. But once you mix the two parts together, in equal quantities, this slurry will quickly harden into the strongest bonding agent possible. And it will happen every time they are mixed. So if you want something bonded, mix on purpose; but if you don't, keep your mouth shut.

Something I have seen, first-hand, more times than I can count is this...

well-meaning and sincere people will kill one set of words with another. Let me explain. Suppose you have a great need: freedom from debt, for example. You might pray, and perhaps many times, "Please Father God, please help me to get out of debt somehow." Your mouth speaks the right words, perhaps lengthy and tearful words of prayer. Then you meet a friend on the street, and he asks how things are going. You reply, "Oh, don't ask. I'm up to my ears in debt and there's not a thing I can do about it. The only hope is bankruptcy, and we'll lose the house and everything we've worked so hard for. Well, that's the way it goes for me; if it could get any worse, it will." This example isn't as far-fetched as you might think. I know many people who speak like this all the time.

So we have two sets of spoken words: the ones you pray, and the ones you say to anybody who gives an ear... the "Murphy's Law" words. They are opposite words, so only one set can win the day. Which do you think will be victorious? The doom and gloom words will, every time. Why? Because both sets of words are like the "A" bottle of the two-part epoxy. And because your faith vehicle is transporting trust in the "death" side of the card, the "fear" faith, you have just mixed the "B" bottle with Murphy. Once the bottles are mixed, they cannot be separated; so the law is unleashed, and your financial demise is on its way, thanks to your tongue...

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it (indulge it) shall eat the
fruit thereof (bitter or sweet)."
(Proverbs 18:21 K.J.V.)

Just how volatile is this recipe? Can you destroy years of positive with one negative slip under pressure? Good question. Common sense is needed. As humans, we are complex machines. We're not just a bunch of components held in an earth-suit. Any competent Doctor realizes today that he has to treat the whole person: mind, body, emotions, will; or no help will be achieved. Spiritually it's the same... belief and doubt - faith and fear - humility and pride - trust and worry - self-control and carnality - obedience and transgression... all these and more are interconnected just like the parts of your body. Our journey through this physical plane is a journey of refinement and perfection. There will be ups and downs; victories and defeats. And this is precisely why it is so vitally important to grasp the need to "BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE"... nothing, nothing morphs from an inadvertent "slip" into an involuntary "pattern" more quickly and easily than your speech. We all know nice people who used an expletive when they got hurt, or were angry. How long did it take for that expletive to become a part of every sentence they utter? Why is this? And it's like quitting smoking to try to break this kind of speech pattern. It's because Satan knows well the power of the tongue to destroy. He knows that spoken words are the power-bursts of creation for our Father, so he wants to use them as the power-bursts of destruction from His children. He works hard to pry death-words from us. They will very quickly become the standard "fruit of our mouth". He pries these words primarily through fear, worry, doubt, anger, and negative thought wallowing. I tell you truly, if you knew that you are working in a nitro-glycerine factory,

you would become very, very careful; very, very quickly. What do I mean by "a nitro-glycerine factory"?...

"But I (the Messiah) say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. FOR BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE JUSTIFIED, AND BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE CONDEMNED."
(Matthew 12:36,37 K.J.V.)

I know that our Saviour was speaking here to the "sons of your father the devil"; but what He said was a spiritual law for all men. This is another study completely, but for the offspring of Almighty YaHWeH, "the day of judgment" is here on the "trial-field", the refiner's fire, planet earth. So it is here, today, that our words will be our justification, or our condemnation. The laws of YaHWeH are immutable...

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
(Galatians 6:7 K.J.V.)

KHARMA!... You shall reap what you sow!

"... and shall not doubt in his heart (faith or fear), but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."
(Mark 11:23 K.J.V.)

KHARMA!... You shall have what you believe and say!

"But I say unto you, That every idle words that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shall be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."
(Matthew 12;36,37 K.J.V.)

KHARMA!... The nitro-glycerine factory!

The best advice I could give to those who stroll through the cemetery, and pass my gravestone is "BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE".

"BY YOUR WORDS" - JUSTIFICATION

"BY YOUR WORDS" - CONDEMNATION

It's your choice.