



The Value of Words

Focus The words we speak have the power to release either life or death over ourselves and others.

Open Who is your favorite comedian?

Read God created everything by speaking it into existence. As humans we were created in His image, so our words also have power. Some people have exaggerated this concept to mean we can have whatever we speak. The truth is only God can actually *create* with His words. Our words have the power to release life when we agree with God and death when we agree with Satan (Proverbs 18:20–21).

Words connect us to God. Before we were saved, our sin caused a chasm between us and God. God sent His word, Jesus, to be a bridge across that chasm (John 1:1, 14). When we confess with our mouths that we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we cross over that bridge to be saved.

Words reveal what is in our heart (Romans 10:8-10, 13). Jesus spoke to the Pharisees about the unpardonable sin of speaking evil against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-37). This sin revealed a hardened heart that rejected the Holy Spirit. Jesus warned them that a hardened heart would send them to hell. Satan tries to convince us that we've committed the unpardonable sin so we lose hope in seeking God; yet, the Bible says it's never too late to turn to God.

Words connect us to each other. Just as Christ builds up the church with His words, we can build a good marriage by speaking life over our spouses (Ephesians 5:25-26). We can do this by praising them, honoring them in front of others and speaking with gentleness.

If there is a strain or disconnect in a relationship, it's usually because words were exchanged. In the same way relationships are broken by words, they can also be mended through words. Any relationship can be healed by these seven words: "I was wrong. Will you forgive me?"

Talk

1. What stands out to you the most from this message?
2. Can you give a personal example of when someone's words released life?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How does the practice of these actions connect us to God? Why does the Apostle Paul instruct us to speak these things "always," "continually" and "in all circumstances"?
4. On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate yourself in speaking life over the people you love?
One = It's very difficult; I don't do it often enough.
Ten = It comes easily; I speak life-giving words often.
5. Spend a few minutes jotting down some words of life you need to say to your family and friends. Be specific. Think about ways you can honor them and the potential you see in them. Consider including a Bible verse.

Live

Is there someone in your life you have damaged with your words? Pray for that person. Ask God to show you the right time to ask their forgiveness.

Pray

Lord, thank you for giving me the power to release life over myself and others. I praise you, Father, for sending Jesus, your Word, to cleanse me and give me life. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14).