# Taming the Tongue(Sermon Notes)**Ps. Mike Connell**

## Power of Words (1 of 12)

Words have the power to change lives. You can empower people through words you speak, or you can cut them down. You can cause them to live, or to wither and die. Don't let your mouth be full of negative talk, but rather practice and make it a habit, a lifestyle of speaking words that build.

1. Introduction:
· Joshua 3:5 - “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you”.
· People of God needed to be positioned to receive their promised inheritance.
· God required them to “sanctify yourselves” – preparing your heart/life so you are positioned to receive.
*· Sanctify = 6942 = to prepare, dedicate, set apart.*· One area must face: Tongue – negativity.
· Ephesians 4:29 - No corrupt communication – do not grieve the Holy Spirit.
*· Corrupt = 4550 = rotten, corrupted by age, no longer fit for use.*
· Words we speak impact relationships and impact presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
*· Grieve = 3076 = to make sorrowful, affect with sadness, put into sorrow.*

2. The Power of your Words:
· The words we agree with in our heart and the words we speak shape our present and create our future.
· Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit”.
· Words we speak can impart death to ourselves and others or impart life.
· Words we speak:
i) Reveal who we are - Matthew 12:34
ii) Flow out from what is in the heart - Matthew 12:30
iii) Shape and create our environment - Proverbs 18:21
- atmosphere
- relationships
· Words have a ‘spirit quality’ that shapes our world.
- ‘Angry words’ – fill the atmosphere with ‘tension’ – the demonic present.
- ‘Encouraging words’ impart life to ourselves and others.
· “Fruit” = the consequence of the “word seeds” we have sown.

3. Bible Pictures of Negative Words:
i) Words are like cancer/gangrene:
· 2 Timothy 2:17 - “…their word does eat like a cancer…”
· Cancer is like a deadly cell that spreads and invades the body destroying it.
· Gangrene – dead flesh that spreads and kills without amputation.

ii) Words are like rust:
· James 3:8 - “ The tongue no man can tame – it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”.
· Poison = 2447 = Rust
· Words can eat out and destroy relationships like rust eats out metal.’

iii) Words are like snake venom:
· James 3:8 - “But the tongue no man can tame, it is an unruly evil full of deadly poison”.
· Poison = 2447 = snake venom.
· Snake venom:
i) Paralyses the nervous system leading to suffocation.
ii) Kills tissue and spreads through the body like gangrene.
· Deadly = 2287 = death-bearing.

iv) Words are like fire:
· James 3:5-6 - “…the tongue is a fire …and it is set on fire by hell”.
· A very small fire can cause destruction of unstable areas of property, endanger and destroys lives.
· The tongue sets on fire “the course of nature” i.e. an career, life course.
· The tongue is set on fire by hell = a spiritual power.

v) Words are like arrows:
· Psalm 64:3 - “… their tongues like a sword and bend their bows and shoot their arrows, even bitter words”.
· Arrows penetrate a person’s body destroying organs, poisoning.
· Words spoken can penetrate and wound like an arrow.
· Even words spoken in humor can be like arrows – Proverbs 26:18.

vi) Words are like wounds:
· Proverbs 18:8 - “The words of a tale bearer are as wounds, they go into the innermost parts of the belly”.
· Words spoken can deeply wound people – impact their spirit.
· Wound = 3859 = to burn, cause bitter irritation.
Root – Latin = little snake, festering sore.

4. Words Shape and Create our Destiny:
· James 3:3-5 - “the tongue – like a horses bridle , a ships rudder.
- the tongue can direct life like a horse’s bridle or a ship’s rudder.
- By agreeing and speaking we release:
i) Spirit of God
ii) Demons

a) Agreement:
· Agree = to give consent to, harmonize with, come into one mind with.
· E.g. Genesis 3:1-5 - “Eve came into agreement with devils words.
· E.g. 2 Samuel 15:3-4/11 - People came into agreement with Absolom’s words.
· The words they agreed with => actions => destiny.
· What words are you coming into agreement with?
E.g. Words of rejection / shame / fear / self-pity / unbelief?
E.g. Words of criticism / gossip?

b) Speaking:
· To utter aloud what is in our heart.
· Numbers 13:30-32 - Israel / Caleb spoke words.
· Numbers 14:26-28 - The words they spoke determines their future.
· Genesis 17:5 - Abraham – ‘Your name shall be Abraham’, father of nations.
God put before Abraham a vision of his descendants – sand, stars.
Everybody spoke his name, they spoke his destiny.
· The words we agree with and speak shape or present and determine our future. Diseases of the Tongue (2 of 12)

When the tongue is not controlled then it has all kinds of dramatic and serious consequences in people's lives, but when the tongue is controlled, when we begin to yield our tongue and master the words we speak and begin to learn how to speak words that are God-given words, if we get into agreement with God and begin to speak the things God is saying about our life, our circumstances, our condition, our future, then we make way for God to move in those situations.

1. Introduction:
· Joshua 3:5 - “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you”.
· Sanctify = to separate, make clean, set apart for divine purpose.
· Wonders = things beyond natural ability, supernatural release of miracles.
· People of God called to position themselves for increase of the Supernatural.
· Joshua 6:10 - “… no word proceed out of your mouth until the day I say to you ‘Shout!’”.
1st miracle of possessing Jericho required mastery of tongue.
1st sign of Holy Spirit filling in NT – Spoke in tongues – praised God.

2. Your Words can Shape your Future:
· Words we agree with in heart and words we speak create our future.
· Psalm 34:11-13 - “Who is man that loves life…keep your tongue from evil”.
· Word pictures of tongue: Gangrene, Rust, Snake Venom, Fire, Arrows, and Wounds.
· Fear of the Lord that leads to life and prosperity seen in how we speak.
· We cannot have a good life if we cannot control our tongue.
· The words we speak either nurture or destroy relationships around us.
· Proverbs 21:23 - “Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles”.
· Proverbs 15:4 - “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life – but perverseness with it breaks the spirit”.
Wholesome = healing - the tongue has power to bring healing, encouragement.
Perverseness = distortion, crashed dealing – tongue has power to wound
and hurt.

3. The Root of the Issues of the Heart
· Proverbs 27:19 - “As a water face reflects face so a man’s heart reveals the man”.
- Water act as a mirror that reveals what we look like.
- What is in your heart reveals what kind of person you are.
- The overflow of the heart is the mouth – your words reveal who you are.
· Matthew 12:33-37 - “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”.
- Abundance = to overflow with what fills the heart.
- Treasure = things that you value, long for, hold onto, think on, store up.
- Whatever your heart holds and values will overflow out through words.
- Our words are so important that we are required to give account for them.
- Our words give expression to the life within and create our future.
· Proverbs 22:11 - “He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the King will be his friend”.
- Purity of heart overflows in grace – empowering words that strengthen and build.
- Our relationship With Jesus – the King of Kings is impacted by our words.

4. Diseases of the Tongue:
· Note: Problems in your body – Doctor looks at tongue (poor diet, infection)
i) Lying:
· Proverbs 6:16-19 - These things the Lord hates – Lying tongue.
· Lying = deliberately alters facts to misrepresent truth.
= withhold part of truth to create a false impression and deceive.
· Example: Genesis 20:1-12 - Abraham lied about his wife Sarah – created false impression.
· Heart issue: Fear; Hate (Proverbs 26:26-28); Hidden motive.
· Proverbs 12:27 - “lying lips are an abolishment to the Lord”.
· Jeremiah 9:6 - “Through deceit they refuse to know me”.

ii) Gossip / Slander:
· Psalm 15:1-3 - “… does not backbite with tongue,…take up a reproach”.
· Gossip = talk about someone else’s personal affairs.
- As the story is shared it is ‘colored’ by the person’s attitude.
- Those listening hear the words and pick up the heart attitude.
· Slander = False and malicious statements about someone.
- Words falsely spoken that misrepresent the person and damage their reputation or impart offence to the hearer.
· Proverbs 11:13 - “A talebearer reveals secrets but he who is of faithful spirit conceals a matter (doesn’t gossip or slander)”.
· Proverbs 6:19 - “Lord hates – false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren”.
· Example: Numbers 12:1-9 – Miriam.
· Heart issue: Bitterness; Pride; Envy; Rebellion
Ephesians 4:25 - “Putting away lying speech”.
· Proverbs 12:19 - ‘lip of truth shall be established forever but the lying tongue is but for a moment”.

iii) Flattery:
· Proverbs 26:28 - “a flattery mouth works ruin”.
· Flattery = excessive or insincere praise – often with hidden agenda.
- Person showers positive compliments but with hidden motives: ask for favor; obtain information.
· Proverbs 29:5 - “A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet”.
· 2 Samuel 15-16 - Absolom.
· Heart issue: seeking approval, seeking recognition, hidden agenda.
· Isaiah 6:5-7 - “Isaiah’s lips cleansed through confession and encounter with God => empowered to represent God.

Empty Words (3 of 12)

Words are containers – they carry a ‘spirit’ content. They are living seeds that produce fruit when spoken. The words we speak impacts our relationships, our personal health and destiny. What words are you releasing into the world around? Empty words include: flattery; religious Words; lame excuses; insincere commitments. God speaks words that create, impart life, and release spiritual authority. We are called to imitate god.

1. Introduction:
· James 3:3-8 - The tongue directs the course of our life like a bridle or a rudder.
· The words we speaks impacts our relationships, our personal health and destiny.
· The words we agree with in our hearts and speak with our mouth shape our present and determine our future.
· Words are containers – they carry a ‘spirit’ content.
Words are seeds – they are living seeds that produce fruit when spoken.
What words are you releasing into the world around.

2. Devine Design:
We are designed to be ambassadors of the Kingdom, speak and act on behalf of God.
Ephesians 5:1 - “be followers of God as dear children”.
- Follower = 3402 = imitate, mimic, to speak and act like another.
- We are called to imitate our Heavenly Father – to speak and act like Him, represent Him.

How God uses Words - God speaks:

1. Words that Create:
· Hebrews 11:3 - “By faith we understand the words were formed by the word of God”.
· Framed = 2675 = to put in order, arrange, make what ought to be, completely finished.
· The first recorded use of words = words used to create something visible.
· Jesus did exactly this when He blessed the loaves and fish – Mark 6:41
· He spoke creatively into them and released a creative miracle into the earth.

2. Words that Impart Life:
· John 6:63 - “The words I speak to you are spirit, they are life.
· Words are containers for what is in our spirit.
· When words are spoken their spirit content is felt – creates and impression.
· God uses words to nurture the spirit of people and to impart supernatural life.
· Jesus did this when He spoke to the man with the withered hand – Mark 3:5.
· He also did it when He spoke to discouraged disciples – Luke 4:32.

3. Words that Release Spiritual Authority:
· Luke 4:36 - “What a word is this, for with authority power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out”.
· Jesus spoke with authority – there was a weight, force behind His words.
· Jesus words released spiritual power that demons obeyed.
· Jesus spoke words to trees, storms, sickness, demons, dead men.
· His words carried a spiritual substance that altered the world around Him.
· He spoke words that He heard from His Father with faith they would work.

· We are called to imitate God:
- John 14:12 - He that believes in Me – the works that I do, he will do also”.
- Mark 1:22 - Have the faith of God – Who ever says to this mountain “Be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart….”
- God fully stands behind the words He speaks.
- We are designed to use words to create, impart life, release Spirit Power and Authority.

3. Don’t Speak Empty Words:
· We have looked at:
i) Lying Words ii) Gossip Words iii) Put Down Words
· These release a spirit of murder and death that impacts people.
· Matthew 12:34-37 - “Every idle word that men speak, they will give account”.
- Words we speak reveal who we are – “As good as his word”.
- Words we speak are noted, recorded and have significance in the spirit world.
· “Idle” = 692 = without work, barren, yielding no return.
- words that we spoke but did not mean it.
- Words that we spoke but did not intend to fulfil.
- Words that were insincere, not genuine.
- Empty words – without significance or substance or content.

Examples of ‘Empty Words’ – they release a Spirit of Death:
Death = distance, separation, coldness, distrust.

i) Flattery:
· Flattery = excessive or insincere praise.
= positive words spoken that conceal a hidden agenda.
· Agenda is usually to gain favour, gain knowledge, impress, please, placate.
· Proverbs 29:5 - “Men who flatters their neighbour spreads a net for feet”.

ii) Religious Words:
· Matthew 15:8 - Honour me with their lips but their heart is far from me”.
· Religious words – “sound nice”, “sound plausible” but have no spirit life.
· Saying the ‘right thing”.

iii) Lame excuses:
· 1 Samuel 15:24,25,30
· Lame excuse = failure to take responsibility and empty words to cover failure.
· Lame excuses for not coming to work, doing job, completing responsibility.

iv) Insincere Commitments:
· A commitment is a undertaking to fulfil some responsibility.
· E.g. Well meaning - meant to do it but forgot
\* Vague - commitment lacks clarity
\* Punctuality - commitment to be at place on time
\* Reluctant - commitment under pressure – please
\* Insincere - said to please person or get these ‘off my back’ (said ‘Yes’ but really meant ‘No’)

4. Words Impact our World:
Numbers 23:19 - “God is not a man that He should lie...has He said, and will He not do? Has He spoken and will He not make it good?”.
Words:
\* Establish your credibility
\* Establish your character
\* Establish your testimony as ambassador
\* Establish standing before God

· Start small – repent of empty words – keep your word in small matters.
Psalm 15:1-4 - Keep your commitments, honor your words.

Dealing with Put-Downs (4 of 12)

The Tall Poppy Syndrome is the words and behaviours intended to cut people down who are achievers, or excellent in their field, in some way. It originated as a reaction in New Zealand and Australia to the class system of England, and the first place the tall poppy syndrome really began to express itself, was against people who thought they were more important or better than anyone else, or carried on like they were, or projected I'm better than you. It started off as a reaction against the class system; but now it's evolved. Now it's a reaction usually rooted in envy against anyone who shows excellence or achievement or gets ahead in a field. It's envy. The root behind it is envy - bitterness and envy.

1. Introduction:
· The words we agree with in our hearts and speak with our mouth shape our future.
· James 3:2-5 - “We put bits in horses mouths, that they may obey us”.

The tongue is like:
1) Bit in horse’s mouth.
2) Rudder on a ship.

The words we speak forth control the direction our life takes.
· E.g. Numbers 14:28 - “…just as you have spoken in my hearing, I will do to you”.
· Note:
i) Joshua 6:10 - Israel forbidden to speak (negatively) prior to miracle.
ii) Luke 1:18-20 - Zechariah forbidden to speak prior to birth of John the Baptist.

2. There is Power in Your Words:
a) Proverbs 18:21 - “death and life is in the power of the tongue”.
· Your ability to speak is part of the nature of God.
· Your words carry power – to destroy or to build.
· E.g. Mark 11:21 - Jesus spoke words to a fig tree – he cursed it, and it withered and died.

b) John 6:63 - “The words I speak have spirit and they have life”.
· Words that are spoken from the heart release “spiritual energy” into the atmosphere.
· Words we speak can attracted the presence of demons or angels.
· Words spoke create a spiritual atmosphere that motives are polluted.
· Words are seldom “neutral” – they impart the ‘spirit’ of the person speaking.
· E.g. Deuteronomy 1:28 - “Our brethren have discouraged our hearts”.
- Words spoken surface and reinforce issues people have in their heart.
- E.g. offence, negativity, unbelief, gossip, slander.

3. The Spiritual dynamic of “Put Downs”
· “Put Down” = a remark or act intended to humiliate or embarrass another person.
· Humiliate = to cause a person painful loss of dignity, personal value, so they feel shame, embarrassment or self-conscious.
· A major issue in NZ culture is “Put Downs”.
· Put Downs can take many forms but all have similar character.
i) Words are spoken – spiritually empowered by the heart of the speaker.
ii) A spirit of murder / death is released against the person being put down.

· Psalm 55:21 - “Words of mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart his words were softer than oil, yet they are drawn swords”.
· Psalm 64:3 - “ Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows – bitter words”.
· The roots behind put downs are bitterness, hatred and envy.
· Hate is the root of murder – to deprive a person of life in any manner.
i) Put downs are a form of cursing.
ii) Put downs are an attack upon a person’s identity, to shame them.
· People who have been put down - tend to put others down (cycle of cursing)

4. Three Common Sources of Put Downs:
i) Family Dynamics:
· Some families and cultures is filled with ‘Put Downs’.
· Men put down woman, woman put down men, adults put down children.
· Name calling.
· Nicknames – especially if the person is gifted or different.
· Abusive words.
· Genesis 37:4-5 - Josephs brothers hated him, could not speak peacefully to him.
· 1 Samuel 17:28 - David’s brothers ‘put him down’ for coming to the battle.
· Some cultures are filled with ‘violent’ put downs.
· Put downs are a form of control.

ii) Bitter Humour:
· Joy is one of the characteristics of the Kingdom of Heaven
– Romans 14:17
· Humor = ability to see the funny aspect of a situation.
· Humor can become ‘dark’ when used as a form of put down.
· Nehemiah 2:19 - “They laughed as to scorn and despised us”.
· Ridicule = to make fun of a person with the intention of humiliating them.
· Mocking humor or humor with a bitter edge “put people down”.
· Luke 8:53 - They ridiculed Jesus, knowing she was dead.
· Jesus’ response: “put them all out” – protected the environment so that the miracle of resurrection can happen.

iii) Tall Poppy Syndrome:
· Tall Poppy is a successful person or achiever.
· Tall Poppy Syndrome = Lords or nations that put down or equalize them into who stand out above others because of excellence or achievement.
Origin – reaction to British class distinction, reaction to people who project an ego, self-importance or desire to impress others.
· Evolved – reaction to any person who stands out from others as excellent or achieving in their field.
· TPS is a manifestation of bitterness and envy.
· Berry Franklin = “You cannot strengthen one by weakening another. You cannot add to the statue of a dwarf by cutting of the leg of a giant”.
· Envy = longing to possess what belongs to another.
· Jealousy – feeling of resentment that someone else has gained something you feel entitled to.
· Mark 15:10 - Pharisees manifested - TPS – envy of Jesus.
· TPS manifest when another person :
i) gets a new car
ii) gets promotion
iii) succeeds
iv) gets recognition
Who does he thing he is? Probably cheated.
· James 3:14 - Bitter envying and selfish ambition => TPS.
· 1 Corinthians 12:26 - One member is honored, all members rejoiced with it.

5. Dealing with Put Downs:
Psalm 18:14 - “The spirit of a man sustains his infirmity, but a broken spirit who can fear?”
· “Put Downs” impart a spirit of murder that:
i) Wounds the persons spirit.
ii) Imparts shame – loss of value and esteem.
iii) Destroys initiative and excellence.
iv) Removes people from God’s positioning and shuts down their gifts.

· How you respond? – determines the course of your life.
· Two Options:

i) Receive the words / spirit of put down, agree with them.
‘I’m of no value’.
‘I never do anything right’.
Once a person agrees with the Put Down words they come into agreement with the demons behind them.
· They interpret all life / relationships through wrong belief.
· Innocent comments, actions are interpreted as Put Downs.
· Honest feedback is interpreted as Put Downs.
· Person is in agreement with the “Shame Message”.
· Need to:
- Repent of Agreement.
- Forgive and Bless those who cursed.
- Establish boundaries to Put Downs.
- Meditate on God’s Word.

ii) Reject the Words / Spirit of Put Down:
· E.g. David; Jesus; Nehemiah.
· Agree with God’s Words – encouraged.
· Minimize exposure to people who Put Down.
· Establish supportive relationships.

Philemon 6 - I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.

Dealing with Put-Downs (5 of 12)

If you connect with Jesus Christ and begin to listen to His dreams for your life, He will want you to stand up and become a tall poppy. He wants you to be one. You're called to represent heaven. You're called to stand out and be different. You're called to stand up and bring something of God into the earth.

Romans 5:17 - Those who receive abundance of grace, and the gift of righteousness, will reign in life.

* You are wired to win, when you get connected to Jesus Christ.
* He implants His spirit, His DNA in us
* His plan is that in every arena of life, you succeed

Those who receive… the gift of righteousness = those who by faith have embraced Jesus Christ
(and come into a place of right standing with Him).

Righteousness = I am in right standing with God, no sin issues in the way.
I'm accepted, loved, valued. I'm positioned for winning in life.

First, I've got to be in connection.
Second, I've got to learn how to draw from God what I need to cope with, handle, and overcome things in life.

Put-downs: intention is that you will be humiliated, your esteem will be lowered, you'll feel ashamed, embarrassed, you'll be put down

Tall Poppy Syndrome - the tendency in our culture to cut down anyone who excels or rises up, or stands out in any kind of way.

If you connect with Jesus Christ and begin to listen to His dreams for your life, He will want you to stand up and become a Tall Poppy.

Genesis 37:4-8 - When his brothers saw their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and couldn't speak peaceably to him, kept putting him down. And he had a dream, and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him even more, because of the God-given dream in his life. And his brothers said to him, shall you reign over us? Or have dominion over us? They hated him even more because of his dreams and the words he spoke.

You weren't designed by God to just flow with the crowd. You're designed to stand up and be different. You've got to choose to embrace what God says, who you are, and what you can do, and not let the world push you down and say you're nobody. You're destined to rule, designed by God to rule.

Put-downs come from 3 sources:

#1. Devil = one who launches violent abusive attacks against you. Bellow, to violently hurl fiery darts against you.

Rev. 12:10 – the devil is the accuser of the brethren.

The word devil also means, to slander, or to run you down in your character and your reputation, by making false accusations against you. The devil wants you to live accused and ashamed, God wants you to live in glory.

The righteous, those who have no shame in the presence of God, are bold as a lion,

Boldness is not something you feel. It comes out of knowing where you stand with God, and living in His presence, feeling that I'm clothed with glory, knowing that His glory is over my life, that I carry His nature, His divine presence. I'm His representative.

#2 People will try and put you down. When Jesus was being tempted in the wilderness, the devil said: if you're the son of God, why don't you prove it? Why don't you do something? People will do it too. People will reflect the kingdom that rules in their heart, so if people are ruled by shame, or ruled by being put down, or ruled by demonic spirits, they will naturally reflect out of them what is in their heart.

It's a tendency in people to put us down, and it's rooted in envy, and it's rooted in the desire to control people, to hold them down so we're on top of them, or to pull them down so we feel better about ourselves.

To Jeremiah: before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and I ordained and prepared that you would be a prophet to nations.

His response: I'm only a child, I'm only young, I'm too young for this stuff.

God said to him: don't talk like that. He stopped him giving voice to attitudes and a mindset inside

God to Gideon - Gideon, you mighty man of valour.
Gideon said: what? Me? I'm the youngest in the family. Gideon!
God: You will deliver this nation!. Don't you think it's time that you aligned your thinking inside about what God says about you?

Proverbs 23:7 - as a man thinks in his heart, so he is.

Matthew 4:4, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that God is speaking.
- The revelatory words of God is how we live our life

Your spirit gets wounded when people put you down. Shame comes on people. The essence of a put down is your identity is attacked, Message of shame is, something is wrong with me. It shuts down your giftings.

Jesus – this is just the carpenter’s son… they put Him down, they shut His gifts down, no gifts operated.

You'd be amazed how much criticism comes when you try to do something great for God.

Choose you're going to be a builder of lives, not a tearer-down. You build people up, you will become a leader, you'll have genuine, authentic friends…and you'll experience a lot more put downs, because there's something about doing that, that really gets people upset and wound up. Even Saul, when he saw that people were complimenting David, he had to put David down.

Jepthah was in an environment where everyone put him down, because he was a half-breed illegitimate son of a prostitute. Everyone put him down, but he became the one God used to change a nation. The Bible says he fled, so one option is that you leave the environment. I've deliberately disconnected from people that I would share with and talk with, who were scorners and putters down.

People who put you down are releasing a spirit of murder and cursing you. You have to do something with curses. Forgive and bless, release it, pray for them and begin to fill your life with what God says about you.

It's not the put downs so much outside you, it's the ones inside you that are the problem..

Nehemiah - they said to him: come on down, talk and reason with us. He said no, I've got a big dream in here, I'm going to fulfil my dream. I'm much too busy to come down and reason and talk and argue with unbelievers and scoffers. I'm focussed on a vision and a dream that God has given me! There's no way I'm being diverted and distracted. You've got to think that way.

If you don't come to Christ, the source of life, you can hardly ever get over your put downs. Be grafted into the king of kings and Lord of Lords, a royal family and become a royal person!

You need to forgive, and to bless the people that have spoken those words over your life. Then we need to repent, need to break the agreement with it. I need to change my agreement with put downs.

Jesus: the words I speak are spirit and life.
Let God start to talk to you, either through direct encounter, or by reading the word of God and meditating it.
Take some scriptures and begin to meditate on them, and confess them, make them personal

Praise and thanksgiving - let us magnify the Lord with thanksgiving, so God becomes bigger in your life. Become very grateful for what you have, instead of focussing on what you don't have.

Power Of Agreement (6 of 12)

The words that we come into agreement with, and then begin to speak forth, create and shape our future and our destiny. Who are we agreeing with?

2 Corinthians 11 - I'm really concerned that you lose the simplicity of just a passionate devotion to Jesus.

You just love Him. He's not an intellectual God, He's a personal God.

Luke 10 – Jesus rejoiced. He leapt and twirled!

John the Baptist - leapt while he was in his mother's womb, just hearing the prophetic word - got him all excited

Genesis 1:26 - “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle of the earth, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image. In the image of God He created Him, male and female, He created them.”

God has made us to be spirit beings, and assigned us a purpose in the earth, to bring something into the earth. He's called us to be His ambassadors, to represent Him in the earth, and to bring something from heaven into the earth that will change, and form, and shape the world around us. We're made in the image of God. We're a spirit being, with access to the realm of the spirit, and we have also the capacity to live in a physical world, and to begin to shape it. God's plan is not that you just get born and have a life, but rather through relationship with Him, you shape the world around you. You don't just let it be the way you found it, but you enter it, with a desire to bring dominion.

The spirit of God was moving, and then God spoke the word, and things were created. We are able to create and shape what's happening around us, by coming into agreement with what God says, and beginning to give voice to it, and live it out in the earth.

Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those that love it will eat the fruit of it”

Matthew 12:33-34 – “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”

Proverbs 4:23 – “Guard your heart (diligently watch over your heart), because out of what's in your heart, are all the rivers or expressions of your life.

Hebrews 3:1 – “Jesus, the high priest of my confession” (what I'm agreeing with God about).
Confession = to speak the same as what God is saying. When I speak the same as what God is saying about sin and salvation, then power is released that changes my destiny.

Isaiah 28:15 – “because you have said, we have made a covenant with death and with hell we're in agreement, when the overflowing scourge, or when judgement comes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.”
\* Instead of embracing the truth, people found refuge and comfort in a lie.
\* They embraced a lie about their circumstance.

The devil is the ‘father of lies’. Words will hurt, but when you agree with them, they find a resting place.
\* I’m a failure (not possible, failure is an event, I’m made in the image of God)
\* self-pity
\* rejection

Your mandate is to express God's dominion, the kingdom of God in the earth, but to express that, I have to agree with Him. When I agree with the words of God, the spirit of God is able to find an expression through my life, but if I agree with the words of a demon, then the demon can find it's expression through my life.

Knowing the scripture is one thing. Having the scripture living in your heart, and you're in agreement with, is another.

Hebrews 11:32 - Men of faith, who saw the promises of God from far off. They were persuaded that what God said, He was able to do, and they embraced what God said.
They confessed, and they began to “homologeo” - speak the same thing as God about themselves, and then they began to walk it out in their life. That's the process of faith: Faith always speaks!.

Jesus said: repent, so the benefits, privileges, experiences of the kingdom can be yours, and find expression through you. So what do you believe about yourself?

If you had an area of your life that was a stronghold or a block for you, affecting everything that was happening in your life, all your relationships, everything you did, would it not be worth it taking that on, until you can break through it, and all the rest of your life would be changed? If it was a week, or two weeks, or three weeks, or six months, wouldn't it be worth breaking through it, so that all the rest of your life would be different?

Hasty Words (7 of 12)

Hasty words always have bad consequences. Words spoken out of inflamed emotions. Have you ever found afterwards you've had to say I wish I hadn't said that? When our emotions are stirred, we get angry, we get wound up on the inside, we say and do things we later regret. Anger is a strong, violent feeling. It is the seed that gives rise to murder. Be angry but do not sin. It becomes sin when we don't resolve it.

1. Introduction:
· James 3:2-8 - “The tongue is a fire..”
· Our words and speech are containers – they release death or life wherever we direct them.
· People ‘hear’ the words but are ‘impacted’ by the spirit they are spoken in.
· Our body, soul and spirit are all impacted by spoken words.
· Previously: Lying words, Gossip, Put Down words, Empty words.
· Today: “Hasty Words” – “I wish I had never said that!”
· Hasty = irritated, impatient, thoughtless, rash, done quickly without thought of impact.
· Proverbs 29:20 - “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool that him”.

2. Hasty Words Have Bad Consequences:
Proverbs 14:17 – “A quick tempered man acts foolishly”.
Proverbs 14:29 - “He that is slow to wrath has great understanding but he that is hasty of spirit exalts folly”.
When people are angry – they are prone to speak and act foolishly.
When people are angry – then their IQ drops – no longer think through the consequences.
E.g. Psalm 106:32-33 - Moses got angry with Israel and spoke and acted foolishly.
Moses’s hasty words and actions cost him his leadership opportunity.
E.g. 2 Chronicles 26:18-19 - Uzziah became very angry when his goal was blocked.
His failure to respond properly cost him his physical health.
Ecclesiastes 7:9 - “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the heart of fools”.

3. Unresolved Anger Opens the Door to Demons:
· Ephesians 4:26-27 - “Be angry but do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, neither give place to the devil”.
- anger is a strong emotion – It is ok to feel angry.
- Anger that is not resolved properly leads to sin.
- Anger needs to be dealt with the same day – before going to sleep.
- Anger unresolved will create a door for demons.
· Proverbs 25:28 - “He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down”.
· Genesis 4:4-8 - Cain was very angry and his fell.
- Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
· Cain had strong unresolved feelings of anger.
· Cain was warned that sin would come as a result of unresolved anger.
· Proverbs 29:22 - “an angry man stirs up strive and a furious man abounds in transgression (to rebel and react”).

Anger = strong violent feelings of reaction at some perceived injustice.
Anger has various levels of intensity.
i) Resentment:
· Smouldering, brooding on injustice.
= often appears as a dark scowl on face, moodiness, sulking.

ii) Wrath:
· Anger that seeks revenge or punishment – lashes out to hurt or wound.

iii) Rage:
· Intense explosive reaction, destructive expressions.

· Examples: Tantrums, shouting, stomp feet, slam door, yell, phone hung up.
Throw things, break things, hissy fit”, hit things, bad tempered.
· Response: People tend to “accept it” …. “Just me” (minimize it)
People tend to “excuse it” …. “Not my fault, can’t help it”.
People tend to “deny” ….”I am not angry”.

4. Unrestrained Anger releases a Spirit of Murder and Death:
Matthew 5:21-27 - “Whoever is angry with his brother is a murderer”.
Old Testament standard for living – “Thou shalt not murder…”
The intent of the law is that we live under the law of love.
New Testament standard of living – “Anger is a root from which murder flows”.
Wrath = anger that seeks revenge, punishment, retaliation, lashes out and seeks to hurt or wound”.
How many murders was the result of anger?
Explosive anger => hate => murder - 1 John 3:15
Unresolved anger opens a door to judgment in the spirit world against us.

The Root of Anger:
Anger arises when we feel our “personal rights have been violated”.
i) Blocked Goal - I have a right to get my way, what I want.
ii) Badly Treated - I have a right to be treated fairly.
iii) Injustice - I have a right to just treatment.

When anger is out of proportion to the event there is probably many
unresolved ‘injustices” that have accumulated.

5. How to Handle your Anger:
· The example of Jesus:
- 1 Peter 2:21-23 - He committed himself to him who judges right.
- 1 Peter 4:19 - commit your souls to Him in doing good.
· Key issue is one of ownership and personal rights.
· Practical:
1) Admit the feelings 2) Create space to process
3) Let – energy out constructively 4) Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal root
5) Surrender rights to God 6) Look for constructive ways to
Address issues – Do Good!

How to Handle Angry People:
· Don’t feed of their anger or react to it.
i) Speak quietly, touch arm.
Proverbs 15:1
Ecclesiastes 10:4
ii) Ask questions to understand the person.
James 1:19
iii) Withdraw – boundary abusive controlling behaviour.
iv) Confront at appropriate time to obtain changes in the behaviour.

Verbal Abuse (8 of 12)

How many know we live in a culture that really puts people down? If we don't break out of things which are spoken against us, then those negative words spoken in our life which we agree with will soon speak… and begin to set the course of our destiny.

1. Introduction:
· Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue…”.
· People are spirit beings – the words we speak are containers that carry spirit content.
· We use words to express ourselves – to express what is harbored in our inner man.
· Words we speak have power to impart death or life – to change the course of our world.
· James 3:3-5 - The tongue – like a bridle or rudder – steers the course of our life.
· This week: Shaping the Inner World by the Word of God.

2. Changing the Way You Speak:
· Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for edification that it might impart grace to the hearers”.
· The person you hear the most is yourself!
· Every person has an ongoing self-talk – 150-300 words p/min.
· Much of it is just about daily activities but can be negative/destructive e.g. “I’ll never be able to do that!”
· Ongoing self –talk that is negative creates “ruts in the mind” (neural pathways) and forms inner beliefs about life that can be hugely restrict or release.
e.g. Insurance Salesmen, athletes – formation of inner life key to top performance.
· “Impart Grace” = to supply something that is needed to build and
strengthen.
= the super natural ability and life and favour of God.
· “Hearer” = one who listens attentively and receives what is spoken.
· Most people are unaware of what they are saying to themselves and its negative impact – complaining, self-pity, bitter, harsh, putdown.
· You can break negative patterns that ‘corrupt’ your inner world. You can speak God’s Word to yourself and impart grace.
· Isaiah 55:8-9 -“My thoughts are higher than my thoughts”, of Greater Value!
· John 6:63 - “The words I speak to you – they are spirit and life”.
· To change Inner World – do it the same way it was formed = by Words!

3. Changing Your Inner World:
a) Defining “Inner World”:
· Proverbs 23:7 - “As he thinks in his heart, so he is”.
· The Bible refers to your inner world as “the heart” or the “inner man”.
· Your inner man is made up of your soul and spirit.
· Matthew 12:34-35 - “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”.
· Your words are the overflow of what you have stored/treasured in your heart.
· E.g. Beliefs – something accepted as true.
Agreements – something have come into one mind, harmony with.
- get along with our contention.
· Mindsets – Habits of the mind, fixed ways of thinking or attitude.
· Expectations – things you look forward to and anticipate will happen.
· Judgments – things you have formed a decision or verdict about.
· These things can be ungodly/negative and impact the course of your life.
· These things can be shaped – formed, moulded or given new direction.

b) You must Identify the Issues:
· A broken relationship to be resolved by forgiveness and blessing.
· A grief – painful experience to be faced.
· Bitter judgment made out of disappointment and hurt.
· Words that you have come into agreement with e.g. names you call yourself.
· Beliefs that you have formed that limit you e.g. “I’m no good at….”
· Mindsets that have formed that prevent growth.

· Key issues of all – living a life without God!
· John 10:10 - “Jesus came to give us life…more abundantly”.
· That life requires we change in the inner man = Choice.
· God imparts His Spirit into our spirit so that we have the power to change.

4. Key Steps to Change Your Inner World:
i) Personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 - “He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him”.

ii) Identify and resolve the relational issues e.g. broken relationships/grief/ judgment.
- Mark 11:25 -“When you stand praying, forgive”.

iii) Speak out and break agreements with negative words and demonic
spirits.
- Luke 10:19 - “I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions
and all the power of the enemy”.
- Matthew 16:19 - “I will give you keys of the Kingdom of heaven…”.

iv) Search out and embrace what God’s Word says about you.
- Embrace = to clasp another person in the arms in welcome and
affection”.
- Jeremiah 5:16 - “Your words were found and I did eat them and your word was to me joy and rejoicing of my heart”.

v) Declare strongly God’s Word over your life as an affirmation.
- Philemon 6 - Communication of faith is effectual as acknowledge every good thing in you in Christ.
- Romans 4:17 - “Calling those things that be not as though they are”.
- Scriptural affirmations – short – present tense – personal – positive.

vi) Meditate in what God says about you.
- Joshua 1:8 - “You shall meditate in it day and night that you may observe to do….for then you shall make you way prosperous.
- Meditate – turn over and over in the mind – picture it – imagine it.
- What does it look like? What does it feel like?

Power of the Tongue (9 of 12)

One of the biggest difficulties all marriages and families struggle with is the failure of men to actually speak words that give value, identity, purpose and encouragement to their wife and their children. Marriages languish for lack of words like plants languish for lack of water. Relationships languish for lack of words. They just wither. Use words to build relationships.

1. Introduction:
· Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue”.
· Words we speak are containers – the carry a ‘spirit content’.
· Words we speak impact our life, relationships and future.
· We looked at the impact of Lying, Gossip, Flattery, Empty Words, Put Down Words, Angry Words.
· Now – the power use of the tongue – as God designed us.

2. How God uses Words:
· Law of 1st mention – Genesis outlines the pattern and designs.
· God used Words:
1) To Create by Releasing:
· Genesis 1:1-4 - “And God said let there be light …it was good”.
· The first recorded use of words in the Bible, the creation of the natural realm.
· Words have power to create when spoken with faith – they release Power.
· Hebrews 11:3 - “By faith we understand the world we framed by the Word of God”.
· The created world was made out of things not visible, no seen.
· “Framed” = 2675 = to put together, put in order or arrange, make what ought to be.

2) To Establish, Nurture and Protect Relationship:
· Genesis 1:26 - “Let us make man in our image according to our likeness and let them have dominion”.
· God established man for relationships with Him by the use of words.
· God established a purpose and design for that relationship with words – Genesis 3:8.
· God protected the relationship by setting boundaries and speaking truth.
· Note: Eve fell into sin by listening to words.
Adam came into agreement with those words.
Adam failed to speak words to protect their relationship.
· Ephesians 5:1 - “We are called to be imitators of God – as His children”.

3. Your Tongue is your Glory:
· Why has God designed you with a tongue? What did He intent?
· Psalm 16:8-9 - “My heart is glad and my glory rejoices”.
· Acts 2:25-26 - “My heart rejoiced and my tongue was glad”.
· The tongue distinguishes man above all other living creatures.
· Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost interprets
– Psalm 16:9 - “My tongue is my glory”.
· Psalm 30:12 - “My glory may sing praise to you” – your tongue is your glory.
· Glory = 3519 = kabad = weight, honour.
Rt = to honour, to bring honour to, to gain value, to impart value, honour.
· The words you release:
i) Reveal your heart.
ii) Can impart value and honour.
· Note: The first use of words in the Bible – was to create value, produce new things in the visible realm.
· The first use of Words after the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost:
i) Honour God the Source – Acts 2:11 and Acts 10:46.
ii) Speak and Act as His representative and create new life.
- Acts 2:4 - Peter standing up with the eleven raised his voice.
- Acts 2:40-41 - Those who gladly received his words were baptised.
- Acts 3:6 - In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.

4. God’s Design – Life Giving Words:
· John 6:63 - “The words I speak are spirit and life”.
Jesus is the model – He is the example to shape and build life upon.

· Two key purposes for our tongue:
i) Honour God – our Creator and Source:
a) Thanks Giving:
· Psalm 69:30 - “I will magnify Him with thanksgiving”.
b) Praise:
· Psalm 50:23 - “Whoever offers praise magnifies Me”.

· Thanksgiving and praise create an atmosphere that God indwells.
· God delights in thanksgiving and praise – Hebrews 13:15-16
· Using our tongue to honour and express gratitude nurtures our relationships with Him – Romans 1:21

ii) Speak and Act as God’s Personal Representative:
· How do we use words to act as God’s representative?
a) Fulfil Commitments we make:
· Psalm 15:14 - “Swears to his own heart it does not change”.
· God is a covenant keeping God who watches over His words and reputation.
· When we keep our word – we act as God’s representative.

b) Use words to Establish, Nurture and Protect Relationships:
· Proverbs 15:23 - “A word spoken in season, how good it is”
- Isaiah 50:4
· Proverbs 15:4 - “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life”.
· Ephesians 4:29 - “No corrupt word – good for edifying that might impart grace”.
· Ephesians 4:15 - “Speaking the truth, in love we grow”

c) Use words to release the Supernatural Power of God:
· Faith Confession – Hebrews 3:1
· Prophetic Words – 1 Corinthians 14:3
· Faith Commands – Mark 11:22-24
· Prayer – James 5:16

Wise Words (10 of 12)

When God wants to change something in the natural world, He always gets someone to speak, because words are the way the power of God is released from the spirit world into the natural world. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Your tongue has power. With our tongue we express our words, ideas, feelings, and fears. If there's bitterness/anger or doubt/limitation in your heart, you'll express it through your tongue. Change on the inside, then you'll start to see the things change on the outside. Internal shifts first.

1. Introduction:
· Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue…”.
· We use words to express ourselves – ideas, dreams, desires, fears, pain.
· This ability is exclusive to humans – we are spirit beings able to release spirit life.
· Last week: God used words
i) To Create/ Release Supernatural Power
ii) To Establish, Nurture and Protect relationships
· We are called to act as His ambassadors – speak and act on His behalf.
· This week: “Shaping your World by the Word of God”.

2. The Creative Power of Words of God:
a) Jeremiah:
· Jeremiah 1:9-10 - “Behold I have put my words in your mouth”.
· God has a purpose for Jeremiah’s life – to change the world around him”.
· Verse 5 - Sanctified = set apart for the purpose of God – change the nation.
· Verse 9 - God’s assignment - speak His Word our as His representative.
· Verse 9 - God positions him in a place of spiritual authority.
· By speaking what God gave him, he made way for the Spirit of God to move.

· Note the impact of the Word of God:
i) “Real out, pull down, destroy, throw down” - verse 10
- to exercise dominion over ruling spiritual forces and mentalities and cancel their power.
ii) “To build and to plant”
- to saw seeds of hope for the future, proclaim the promises of God to build and release the nation.

· Before Jeremiah could shape the world outside him he had to change his inner world!
· Verse 6-7 - “Behold, I cannot speak for I am a youth”.
· NB:
i) Stop making excuses – embrace the call/assignment of God - v7
ii) Stop speaking negatively, stop speaking limitations - v7
iii) Don’t be ruled by fear but by faith - v8
iv) Personally connect with God – relationship - v9
v) Embrace, agree with and speak His Words from the heart - v9-10
vi) Expect God to Supernaturally fulfill His way -v11,12
· All that Jeremiah spoke was fulfilled – he changed his words by the Word of God.

b) Mary:
· Luke 1:35-38 - “Let it be according to Your Word”.
· Verse 37 - “For with God nothing is impossible” (NKJV)
· Verse 37 - “For no Word of God shall be void of Power” (ASV)
· Mary heard, embraced and agreed with and spoke the Word of God – heart and mouth!
· Mary expected God to supernaturally fulfill His Word.
· Mary’s faith declaration of what God had said changed her words.

Question: What is shaping your world? The Word of God or the agreement with Demons?

3. Shaping your world by the Word of God:
· Hebrews 11:3 - “By faith we understand that the world were framed by the word of God”.
- Framed = 2675 = to thoroughly complete, put together, put in order, arrange, make what ought to be, to construct.
- Word = Rhema = 4487 = an utterance, spoken word or command. = word spoken out aloud by a living person.
· Notice 3 factors always present in creative activity of the Word of God.
1) Presence of the Holy Spirit Relationship
2) Faith – total confidence, heart.
3) Spoken Word of God – mouth.
· In all of Jesus’ miracles those factors were present.
· We must learn to operate as God operates - Ephesians 5:1

a) Shape Your Inner World:
· The first area to shape is your inner world – thoughts, attitudes, perceptions, beliefs.
· Proverbs 23:7 - “As a man thinks in his heart so he is”.
· Your inner life can be shaped by speaking/declaring the Word of God.
· 1 Corinthians 14:4 - “Speak in tongues – edified himself”.
· 1 Samuel 30:6 - David strengthened himself in the Lord.
· Declare = to state clearly you position in a controversy.

b) Shape Your Outer World:
i) Your Spiritual Atmosphere:
· You can shape/form the supernatural atmosphere around your life by the Word of God.
· Psalm 34:1-3 - David continually shaped the spiritual atmosphere around his life with thanksgiving and praise.
· Psalm 22:3 - “You are holy – enthroned on the praises of your people”.

ii) Your Relationships:
· Your relationships can be shaped by declaring the Word of God.
· Declaring God’s Word, God’s promises over marriage, children, and friendships makes room for the Holy Spirit to work to bring about the Spoken Word.
· 1 Samuel 23:14-18 - David was strengthened by Jonathan’s words. Jonathan spoke words of destiny, commitment, encouragement.
· Relationships are impacted by words!

iii) Your Metron – Realm of Responsibility:
· Metron = sphere of responsibility – 2 Corinthians 10:12-13 = people, work, money, ministry.
· Declaring God’s Word over your metron makes room for the Holy Spirit to act.
· 1 Samuel 17:47-48 - Goliath’s venomous cursing released a spirit of fear. David stood his ground and declared the real outcome based upon his trust in the Lord.

Hebrews 3:1 - Jesus – the Apostle and high priest of our profession.
· Apostle = one who is sent to build, establish.
· High Priest – the one who acts on our behalf before God.
· Profession = homologeo = to speak the same words as God.

Shaping Your Own World (11 of 12)

You know you've heard the old saying: sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me? Not true, because long after the bones have been fixed, the words and names you've been called are still ringing inside you like a message that won't go away, defining who you are. You cannot let what other people say define who you are. Let God define who you are. He's designed you and through relationship with Him, you begin to embrace what He has to say, and your life comes up to a different level.

Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it, shall eat the fruit of it"

James 3:3 - "Now we put a bit in a horse's mouth that it may obey us, and we turn the whole body."

James 3:4 - "Look at ships; though they're so large and driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot wants"

Ephesians 4:29 - "let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth..."

You need to change the way you talk, after you've given your life to Christ. You need to change the way you speak.

The life before Christ, we tend to speak all kinds of negativity, all kinds of things are in our hearts and life, but we come to the Lord and our inner life changes. We're born again inside.

"...but rather speak words which are good for edification (building up)..."

Change from negative talk, critical talk, putting down talk, destructive talk, bitter talk, harsh talk. He says begin to actually start to commit yourself to speak words that are building up words, that acknowledge good things, that honour people, that value people, that appreciate people. Start to speak differently.

“…that they may impart grace to the hearers.”

Impart means: ‘to transfer’, or to put into someone's life, to bring into them something which they need. The word ‘grace’ always in the Bible refers to the power of God - By grace you're saved, in other words the power of God that changes us on the inside, when with faith we respond to Christ.

Speak words that release the life of God to those who hear, or are responding to what you're saying.

I can speak words that impart grace, that empower people, release the life of God.

Silent men - have the power to speak words that could change young people in their thinking, in their outlook, but they don't say anything.

There's a life flow within your words, because you're joined to the Lord. "He that's joined to the Lord is one spirit"

You have the power to speak words of encouragement and strength into yourself.

1 Samuel 36 - David was in this huge problem place, he'd lost everything. In the middle of it all, when everything was disastrous, he ‘strengthened himself’. He must have said something! He spoke words that strengthened himself, in his relationship with God, and in his faith, and it turned that day. In the middle of it, when everyone is talking failure, defeat, grieving, weeping, he spoke differently. He spoke words that strengthened himself in the Lord.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as heaven is higher than the earth, so are My ways of doing things higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

=> a human being without God is limited in their thinking

My ways of doing things have got greater value than your ways.

Proverbs 23:7 - "As a man thinks in his heart, so he is."

Matthew 12:34 "...Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."

Matthew 12:35 "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him"

Inside us, in our heart, are Agreements.

Another thing that gets into our heart and into our mind are Mindsets.

Expectations are a part of our inner life - what we expect, what we're looking forward to, anticipating.

Kinds of things He will help you see:

\* Broken Relationships – pain leads to certain mindsets

\* Grief (or disappoint, loss, family breakup)

\* Bitter judgements

\* Words we’ve come into agreement with

How to shift them?

\* God's words have a power of spirit life. Jesus said: the words I speak are spirit in their life.

\* God's thoughts always are higher than ours,

#1 – Having a relationship with Jesus Christ (respond to God’s love)

1 Corinthians 6:17 – “if you are joined to the Lord, you are one spirit.”

#2 – Identify and resolve the personal issues we have (deal with it – just resolve and forgive – let it go) Jesus said: when you stand praying, if you've got anything against anyone, just forgive them, release them, let it go.

#3 - Practice speaking out and breaking agreements with negative words. Learn how to break agreements with negative words.

#4 - Search out and embrace what God says about you. (He says: I've redeemed you. I love you. I have accepted you. I forgive you. I have a destiny)

Jeremiah 15:16 - I found your words and I ate them. I took them right into my life, and they were the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

=> God's word coming into our life shifts us, and changes us.

#1 - Resolve the conflict.

#2 - Break the agreements with the negative patterns of thinking, as you identify them.

#3 - Declare strongly God's word over your life as an affirmation.

#4 - Meditating: picturing, imagining, visualising, seeing God's word

Joshua 8:1 – “These words that I speak shall be in your mouth, shall not depart our of your mouth, He said, but you'll meditate on them day and night to do them, and then you will make your own way prosperous.

Creative Power of the Tongue (12 of 12)

Atmosphere is the prevailing influence that's around; it can't be seen but it can be felt. An atmosphere can affect your whole life, your quality of life. You can either thrive in it or be destroyed in it. Atmosphere gets polluted, it affects you very, very seriously.

1. Introduction:
· Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue…”.
· People are spirit beings – the words we speak are containers that carry spirit content.
· The words we speak have power to impact life or death – to change the course of our world.
· Ephesians 4:29 - “…that which is good for necessary edification that it might impart grace to the hearers”.
· “Impart grace” = supply something needed to build and to strengthen – life of God.
· This week: “Shaping Your Personal Spiritual Atmosphere”.

2. Atmosphere: What is it?:
a) Definition:
· Root meaning: atmos = vapour; spharia = sphere
· Air surrounding the earth held to it by the force of gravity.
· Surrounding or prevailing mood, influence, environment.
· Distinct tangible quality that surrounds a person.

b) Examples – Different kinds of atmosphere:
\* Polluted \* Grief \* Negativity \* Pessimism
\* Control \* Confusion \* Excitement \* Enthusiasm
\* Confidence \* Romantic \* Joy \* Faith \* Hope

· The atmosphere cannot be seen with the eye, but can be felt.
· The prevailing atmosphere influences people = they thrive or struggle e.g. David’s men were distressed; in dept; discontented (1 Samuel 22:2).
Under the influence of David’s prevailing spiritual atmosphere they were shaped and became “mighty men of valor”.
· The ‘atmosphere’ around a person can be shaped and developed.

3. Spiritual Atmosphere:
a) Definition:
· The prevailing spiritual influence that surrounds a person.
· The Spiritual presence surrounding a person held in place by the life in their inner man.
· The distinctive and tangible spiritual presence surrounding a person.

b) What is Spiritual Atmosphere made of?
i) The Human Spirit - overflowing from a person’s inner-man.

ii) Demonic Spirits - intimidating and oppressing person – like flies.
e.g. 1 Samuel 16:14 - Saul – oppressed
e.g. Acts 13:45 - Jews filled with envy.

iii) The Holy Spirit moving freely within and around a person.
· 1 Corinthians 6:17 - He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
· John 7:38-39 - Out of you inner most being shall flow rivers – Holy Spirit.
· When your spirit flows freely without restraint there is a release of the life of the indwelling Holy Spirit – Comes from intimacy.

c) Charisma:
· Charisma = spiritually imparted gifting or ability.
= spiritual power or authority that gives a person influence.
= ‘presence’
· E.g. Political Leaders: Kennedy = Entertainment; Religious = Luther King.
· Key factors in “personal charisma” = Focus + Sense Responsibility + Vocal Experience.

4. How to Shape Your Personal Spiritual Atmosphere:
· Shape = to create; cause to conform to a particular pattern.
· Key problem = to overcome is passivity!
· “Passive” = not participating readily or actively, inactive.
= submit to something without resistance.
= lacking will or energy, lethargic.
· There is no place for passivity in creating a strong personal spiritual atmosphere where you influence others.
· Matthew 11:12 - “The Kingdom of heaven suffers violence…”
“forceful” e.g. Caleb.
· “Violence” = to use or apply force, act energetically.

· Keys:
i) Take Responsibility for your Personal Spiritual Atmosphere - 2 Corinthians 5:20
· Reject the blame game
· Reject old mindsets – ‘That’s me’.
· Break out of passive mindsets.
· You are an ambassador of heavens.

ii) Develop Stronger Physical Expressions of Praise – Psalm 47:1
· Move body
· Smile
· Clap
· Dance

iii) Develop Stronger Vocal Expressions of Praise – Psalm 100:4; Matthew 18:18
· Speaking in tongues.
· Thanksgiving – Word of God.
· Declaration of the Word of God.
· Praise – Word of God.
· Time in the Presence of God.
· Ephesians 5:18 – Filled with the Holy Spirit – speaking and singing and thanksgiving and praising.

iv) Manage Your Inner World – Your Soul – Proverbs 23:7
· Deal quickly with negative thoughts / feelings – acknowledge and resolve it.
· E.g. Guilt; Hurt; Anger; Offence; Fear - Keep focus on purpose.

v) Manage your Outer World - Psalm 101:3
· Guard what you allow to enter your inner world.
· What you see.
· What you hear.
· Who you fellowship with – resist negativity and unbelief.

vi) Consciously Release the Life of God - John 7:38
\* Smile. \* Speak positively, enthusiastically.
\* Thank \* Fill with your presence.
\* Encourage \* Engage people.