

Qualities of a Kingdom People - The Tongue

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Scriptures: [James 3:3-6](#), [Matthew 12:33-37](#), [Malachi 3:16](#), [Ecc 5:1-3](#), [Prov 18:21](#)

Intro

One of the **qualities** of kingdom people is they know the **power** of their **words**. The tongue is a **fire**, so kingdom people **guard** their tongue. Their words are **few**. Their tongues are **disciplined**. They speak **spiritually** discerned things that the Holy Spirit can say, "Amen!" to. They speak with gentleness and authority. Words of **love**, seasoned with **salt**, **flow** from their lips. Rather than being an **anchor** that ties them to this **world**, the tongue becomes the **propulsion** that **moves** kingdom people into the **purposes** of God. Their words become **seeds** of **life** sown into the **situations** around them.

We Must Discipline the Tongue

James says some pretty strong things regarding the tongue in his letter.

This is [James 3:3-6](#) (NASB 20),

3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their whole body as well.

4 Look at the ships too: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are nevertheless directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot determines.

5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our body's parts as that which defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

How much of our **sin** could be stopped at the **gate** of our mouth if we could just **control** our tongue?

How many **mistakes** would be **avoided** if the rudder of our mouth was **disciplined**?

How many **relationships** would be **preserved** if our tongue was under the **control** of the Holy Spirit?

How much **life** and **increase** could we see around us if we knew the **creative** power of our words?

Point #1 - Our words declare the thoughts of our heart

Jesus say this to the Pharisees in **Matthew 12**,

33 ...a tree is known by its fruit.

(How many of us think the **fruit** of our lives is what we DO?

Scriptures shows us that the fruit of our lives is **also** evidenced by what we SAY)

34 You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak any good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks

35 The good person brings out of his good treasure good things; and the evil person brings out of his evil treasure evil things.

36 But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. ^^ (More on that in a minute) ^^

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

The kind of **tree** we are is demonstrated by the **fruit** of what comes out of our **mouths**. We think that what we **do** defines who we **are**. Jesus teaches that what we **say** defines who we **are**. Of course, what we do **matters** as well...but kingdom people **understand** the **place** that their **words** have in **confirming** what **kind** of tree they are. A tree is **known** by its fruit, and our **words** are the **audible** expression of the **song** our hearts are **singing**. Words are the **fruit** of the heart. The mouth **announces** what the heart already **believes**.

Thoughts

What about our thoughts? What do I do when I have a bad thought?

A thought is only a **thought**...until I give **language** to it. When I **speak** my thoughts, those thoughts take **shape**...they become **alive**...they enter into **time** and **space** with authority and life and power. In fact, when I **speak** out my thought and give **language** to it, it becomes **recorded** in the books of heaven as the **fruit** of my heart,

“Those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and meditate on His name” (**Malachi 3:16**).

You see the **connection** between what we **meditate** on and what comes **out** of our mouths? While those who feared Him **meditated** on His name, there was **nothing** to record in the **books** of heaven. But when they came together and SPOKE to one another, the Lord **listened** and took some **notes**.

What are we saying when we come **together**?

What are we declaring at our **dinner** tables?

What are we saying to our **children** and our **spouses**?

What are we declaring over our **city** and our **nation**?

What are we speaking about the **Bride** of Christ?

Heaven is listening.

A thought is **just** a thought, **until** I give **birth** to it with my mouth.

Renewed Minds

We are to be **transformed** by the **renewing** of our minds (**Romans 12:2**),

We are to be **renewed** in the **spirit** of our mind (**Ephesians 4:23**).

My **mind** is the place where **transformation**, **renewal**, and **maturity** takes place.

It's the **lab** where **ideas** about God are **experimented** on.

It's the **crucible** where **thoughts** about **eternity** are **forged**.

And the **mouth** is where the final product is **released**.

Paul writes in [2 Corinthians 4:13](#),

“...We *believe* and therefore we speak.”

His thoughts became convictions and convictions became words. And for Paul, those words sometimes became Scripture.

Before I **speak** it out, I **meditate** on the thought, **measuring** it against the **truth** of God’s word. I’m not **responsible** for that thought, because it’s going through a **process** of **renewal**. The minute that **thought** leaves my **tongue** as a word, I’m **responsible** for it. It’s the **finished** product of my internal wrestlings. I’ve **released** it into the **atmosphere** as a living **flame**. That word is now **part** of my **testimony**; for good or for bad, it’s on **record**.

Point #1 - Our words declare the thoughts of our **heart**, the convictions of our **soul**, and the final result of our **internal** wrestlings.

Point #2 - We will be **judged** by every word we speak

Jesus said in [v37](#) that we will give an **account** for every idle/careless/lazy word that we speak.

Kingdom people understand the **lifespan** of their words. We don’t just say something **once**, our words will be spoken at least **twice**; in this age, AND when those words are **repeated** back to us on the day of **judgement**.

Watchman Nee writes this,

“Every idle word which we speak will be repeated verbatim in the day of judgment. On that day, you shall discover how many idle words you have spoken, and you will be justified or condemned by your words. None of us can afford to speak carelessly.”

We must **discipline** our speech. Knowing the **power** of our words, we must **choose** them **wisely**. This is sobering.

Listen to what Solomon writes in **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**,

1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God, and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know that they are doing evil.

2 Do not be quick with your mouth and let not your heart speak anything impulsive before God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

3 For the dream comes through much effort, and the voice of a fool is known through his many words.

Let your words be **few**.

A couple of **Proverbs** on this point:

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,
But he who restrains his lips is wise (**Proverbs 10:19**).

He who guards his words preserves his life,
But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction (**Proverbs 13:3**).

Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace;
When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive (**Proverbs 17:27**).

Do you see a man quick with his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him (**Proverbs 29:20**).

Point #1 - Our words declare the thoughts of our heart

Point #2 - We will be **judged** by every word we speak, so let your words be few

Point #3 - Our words have the power to either **create** or **destroy**

The Power of the Tongue

Proverbs 18:21 says,

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

Our words are either **creating** or **destroying**. We understand the principle of **sowing** and **reaping** when it comes to finances, but do we **understand** the principle when it comes to our **words**?

Bill Johnson said this,

“I would never say that when you and I have difficulties or troubles that we brought it on ourselves. Because that wouldn't be true. We live in a world where there's conflict. But I have watched people who suffer season after season after season knowing they're just eating the fruit of their own words. And they've not yet learned the power of sowing and reaping.”

When we speak, are we **partnering** with the **accuser** of the brethren, **cursing** ourselves and others by what we say, **diluting** faith with words of **doubt**, proclaiming **uncertainty** and **confusion** over our situations? Or are we speaking **life** into our **situations**, building up faith in **ourselves** and those around **us**, proclaiming God's **word** over **circumstances**?

Ephesians 4:29-31,

"Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but only such a word as is good for building up according to the need of the moment so that it would give grace to those who hear."

We can speak words that tear **down** or we can speak words that build **up**.

We can talk to be **heard** or we can talk to **redeem**.

We can speak to **vent** our **feelings** or we can declare words of **life** that **shape** our world.

Proverbs 29:11 says,

“A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back.”

“This is just the way I **feel**, brother.” I don’t **want** you to tell me how you **feel**...tell me what you **believe**. Because you telling us what you **feel** is not **wise**. Let’s not give **account** for **feelings** on the day of **judgement**. Let’s give account for **convictions**.

Calling that which does not exist

Paul writes in Romans 4:17 that God,

“Gives life to the dead and calls into being those things which do not exist as though they did.”

God stands in front of **situations** of death and famine and barrenness and hopelessness and SPEAKS **life** into that circumstance.

“Lazarus, come forth...leper, be healed...waves, be still...ocean, this far and no further...let there be light.”

When He speaks He **creates**. We **partner** with what God is **doing** in the **earth** when we do the **same**. We take the **truth** of what God has **already** said in His **word** and we **baptize** our **circumstance** in His word. By faith, we, too, **proclaim** things that are not yet seen as though they were.

Don’t **confuse** this with calling things that ARE as though they were NOT. That would be **using** out words to **tear** down. God **intends** us to use words to **build** up. The enemy **kills**, God **creates**. We don’t **speak** to the **rent** payment and tell it to go **away**, we speak to the **business** idea and tell it to **live**. We do not **deny** the problem. We are not **delusional**. We create the **solution** where currently one does not **exist**;

He gives life to the dead things and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

We don’t deny **sickness**, we deny its right to **exist** in our bodies. (Charles Capps)

We don’t deny **empty** bank accounts, we deny **poverty** the right to overtake us.

We don’t deny **prodigal** children, we deny the **enemy** the right to keep them.

We don’t deny **suffering**, we deny suffering the right to destroy our **faith** and **redefine** God.

We don’t deny **reality**, we deny reality the right to **contradict** the word of God.

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Closing

Psalm 19:14,

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.