**The power of the tongue**

***Proverbs 18: 20 – 21(NLT)***

Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction.

The tongue can bring death or life. Those who love to talk will reap the consequences (good or bad).

Foundation Scriptures

Proverbs 18: 20 – 21

Death and life are in the ***power of the tongue*** and those that love it shall eat the ***fruit*** thereof (produce or reward).

* ***Power*** means – in the hand.
* The word of God we plant in our heart (andspeak) is more important than the food we eat.

Matthew 4: 3 – 4 (We don’t ***live*** by bread alone but by ever word of God).

***Deuteronomy 8: 3***

Jesus was quoting the Word.

Deuteronomy 30: 19 – 20 (NLT).

The key to a long and prosperous life in the earth is ***daily choices.***

* Choosing ***life*** has a generational impact (*Abraham, Isaac, Jacob*).
	+ Love the Lord your God.
	+ Obey him.
	+ Commit yourself firmly to him.

The Bible has much to say about the power of words. In fact, the worlds were created by the word of God (Hebrews 11: 3) and all things are upheld by the word of His power (Hebrews 1: 3).

***Gen 1: 26-28***

And God created man in his own image.

God blessed by ***saying*** (v28).

***Image*** means – Likeness.

***Genesis 2: 7*** ‘***Breath’***

Living soul or speaking spirit. Intelligent speech elevates us above animal life.

-*Ability*

*-Responsibility*

Using our words in service to God.

(John 20: 22).

Breathed has same meaning as in Genesis.

***James 2: 26*** – spirit means ‘***breath***’.

***1 Thess 5: 23***

Three part being – spirit, soul and body

***Hebrews 1:3***

(Message Bible)

He holds everything together by what he says – powerful words.

In the first chapter of Genesis alone, *“…..****and* *God said***” appears 11 times.

* Jesus is the Word of God (John 1: 1)
* 1 John 5: 7 – For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.
* Revelation 19: 13 (His name is called the Word of God).

**So why are words so powerful?**

Our words are building blocks which construct our lives and future. Our words set the cornerstone of our lives, and therefore we live within the confines of that boundary created by our own words (Matthew 18: 18 – 20).

***Youngs Literal Translation (Matthew 18: 18)***

Whatever things you may bind upon the earth shall be, having been bound in the heavens. And whatever things you may loose on the earth shall be, having been loosed in the heavens.

We are saved by words (Romans 10: 8 – 10).

We are protected by words (Psalm 91: 1 – 2).

* ***Refuge*** - shelter or trust.
* ***Fortress*** – defence or a stronghold.

When Jesus taught his disciples how to exercise their faith, he told them to ***speak***, ***believe*** and ***receive***. You can have what you say (faith filled words).

Mark 11: 23 – 24

* One of the greatest principles of faith ever taught.
* Firstly, have faith in God.
* Jesus never looked at the fig tree once he spoke to it. It dried up from the roots.
* The process of faith works from the inside out. That’s why we can’t evaluate its effectiveness by what we see or feel in this natural world.
* Consider Thomas (John 20: 24 – 25).

**The ministry of Jesus was characterised by spoken words.**

***Matthew 26: 53***

Jesus could have prayed to the Father for twelve legions of angels when He was arrested. But scripture would not have be fulfilled.

***Mark 15: 2 - 5***

Jesus never answered a word to Pilate when He was on trial.

John 5: 19 & 30 (What I see and what I hear).

John 6: 63

And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 12: 49 (NLT)

I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what I say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.

***willing***:

Determined, to take delight in or to desire

* Mark 1: 39 – If you are ***willing***, you ***can*** make me clean.
* As soon as he had ***spoken***, the leprosy departed from him (to go off).

John 14: 10 (NLT)

Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

Jesus spoke with power and authority:

The word ***power*** has the same meaning as ***authority***. Same Greek work ‘Exousia’.

* He taught with ***authority*** (Matthew 7: 28 – 29).
* They were astonished (amazed) at his doctrine (Luke 4: 31 - 32).
* Luke 5: 17 – The power (Dynamis) was present to heal them.
* Never a man spoke like this man (John 7: 45 - 46).

***Void*** means:

empty, without cause or in vain.

Yet Jesus was a man of few words when it came to exercising spiritual authority. He knew God’s word would ***never return void*** (Isaiah 55: 11).

* “*Lazarus come forth*” (John 11: 41 - 46). Jesus had confidence in the Father, knowing that he always heard him (1 John 5: 14 – 15).
* Peter walked on the water with the word ‘*Come*’ (Matthew 14: 29- 32).

***Rebuke***: to admonish or forbit.

* Jesus cast out a demon with one word “*Go*” (Matthew 8: 32).
* Jesus healed a leper “*I will,* *be thou clean*” (Mark 1: 40 - 42).
* Calmed the sea by saying “*Peace be still*” (Mark 4: 35 - 41).

**Connection between the heart of man and words.**

***Hebrews 4: 12***

The word of God divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart.

***NLT*** – It exposes our inner most thoughts and desires.

Words of the kingdom or words of the world

-Faith system

-Fear system

Matthew 12: 33 – 37 (consider the words of Jesus).

* Your belief system is like a tree which produces fruit.
* When you ***say***, you ***sow***. Which kingdom are you sowing into?

***Abundance*** – overflow of the heart.

You can be a good person and speak evil

***Heart*** – The centre of your spiritual being. That’s where the Holy Spirit

makes his home. It is the recreated human spirit from the new birth.

* 1 Peter 3: 4 (the hidden man of the heart).

If it’s not coming out our mouth, it’s not in our heart to begin with.

* 2 Corinthians 4: 16 (inward man renewed day by day).
* Colossians 3: 9 – 10 (put off the old and put on the new).
* Ephesians 3: 16 (strengthened with might in the inner man).
* Ephesians 4: 22 – 32 (NLT). Word can give place to the devil.

All the fruit of the spirit come from the heart, the inner man, and they start with love (Galatians 5: 22).

Don’t say what you don’t want sown, for that is the way of the kingdom ***(Matt 13: 18 - 19)***

There ***must*** be a sowing before a reaping.

***Treasure*** - a deposit or storehouse.

***Idle*** – ineffective, inoperative or unproductive. Lazy, useless, barren or slow.

Matthew 15: 10 – 20 (NLT)

* It’s not what goes in that defiles you but what comes out of the heart.
* Negative people are never in faith. Faith is always positive ***and*** speaks.
* Misery always likes company. Remember, two in agreement is powerful.

***Defile*** – call common, pollute or make unclean.

Matthew 4: 1 – 4 (it is written).

* Jesus walked the earth in power and authority because he spoke words authorised by the Father.

Psalm 141: 3 (NLT).

* Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips.

James 1: 26 (NLT)

* If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

Proverbs 30: 32 (shut your mouth)

***Hosea 4: 6***

My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.

***Proverbs 29: 18***

No vision, people perish.

***Vision*** means dream or revelation.

* The Lord works with our words – ***so does the devil***.
* What we say, can and will be used against us. Don’t use the phrase **“*I’m just saying*”**. By our words we are justified and by our words we are condemned.
* Our words should always be going somewhere and doing something (not idle or unproductive). Compare with Isaiah 55: 11.
* Empty words spoken are missed opportunities to change circumstances.
* We are to speak to the mountain (Mark 11: 23).
* Your future is always contained in your seed. Words are seed.
* Remember, the enemy is after your mouth.
* Sin make mankind a ***worker***. Grace made man a ***truster***.
* Faith always rests in the finished works of Jesus at Calvary.
* Few understand the full power of redemption and what it has made available to the church.

***Ambassador***

“An accredited diplomat sent by a state as its permanent representative in a foreign country”

* That power resides in you and me today.

**Unauthorised words** (void of power and authority)

Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 20 NLT)

* Ambassadors only speak the ‘authorised words’ of those who send them – the head of state.
* Our message is the gospel of the kingdom – “Come back to God”.
* When we speak authorised words, we have ***diplomatic immunity*** spiritually speaking, in a world that is hostile toward God and cursed.

***1 John 5: 18***

He that is begotten of God ***keeps*** (guards) himself, and that wicked one touches him not.

Note: proverbs 4: 23 – We must guard our hearts.

The accuser of the brethren always wants to bring a charge against us. We submit to God, resist the devil and he ***will*** flee.

* John 12: 49 – 50

Be cautious around those that want to downplay the power and authority of God’s Word. His word ***is*** his will “period”. Any attempt to discredit the Word is Satanic.

Jesus only spoke what was given to him from the Father.

* 1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 5

Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

If we are preaching the law we are preaching the curse and out of favour with God.

Preaching the law today is unauthorised and powerless.

***(2 Cor 3: 13 – 14 NLT).***

Three things that can hinder speaking with authority

1. ***Traditions of men*** (Matthew 15: 1 – 9 NLT)
* Make the commandments of God of ***no effect***.
* Deprived of force & authority. Cancels the word of God.
* Colossians 2: 6 - 8 (Ephesians 4: 11 – 15 NLT)

***Spoil -***Only used once in the New Testament

* The world view must be rejected. The ‘world order’ brings death, not life.
* ***Spoil*** means – to carry one off as captive or to seduce.
* ***Vain deceit*** (NLT) ‘empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense’.
* ***Rudiments***–elements (principles) from the spiritual powers of this world.
1. ***Not knowing the scriptures*** (Matt 22: 23 – 29 NLT).

***2 Timothy 3: 5***

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. From such turn away.

* Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the of the word (Romans 10: 17).
* Not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God leads into error.
* John 5: 31 & 46 - 47
* Luke 16: 29 -31
* Jesus affirmed the Word of God and its integrity.

His words were ***faithless***, having no power and no authority.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

***Mark 6: 1-6***

Carpenter or conqueror.

Natural eyes only.

1. ***Unbelief*** (John 20: 24 – 29)
* Thomas declared, “***I will not believe***”. It’s a choice of the heart.
* The Kingdom of God is not natural (seen). It’s an unseen realm of faith.
* What you believe will determine what you speak.
* What you speak is what you shall have (Mark 11: 23).
* The answer to unbelief = Teach the Word of God and faith will come.

When the church is too close to the world, it is void of power. Jesus was the ‘sample’ son anointed of God (the last Adam). The church is anointed of God to bring Kingdom to earth. Satan is after the anointing (anti-christ). If he can stop the anointing, he can stop the church. ***No anointing = No power*** (Acts 10: 38).

***Christ:*** The

anointed one and His anointing

Consequences of unauthorised words

Two years after Israel departed Egypt, they left the wilderness of Sinai (where the law was given) and arrived at a location know as ***Kadesh-barnea*** in the wilderness of Paran (Numbers 32: 8, Deuteronomy 1: 19 - 22 & Joshua 14: 7)

What did God say (Numbers 13: 2)?

***Luke 12:32***

His good pleasure to give us the kingdom

* Send men that they may search the land of Canaan ***which I have given*** unto the children of Israel.
* Romans 4: 17 – God calls those things which be not, as though they were.

Exodus 3: 8 – 10

* God re-affirmed the promise he made with Moses from the beginning.

God has also promised this land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. However, the promises of God ***must*** be taken by faith (Numbers 32: 11 - 12).

Leadership was key

God commanded that leaders from each tribe of Israel be sent to search the land, which included Joshua and Caleb.

* Moses had already chosen leaders in Exodus 18: 21. The advice given by his father-in-law was to choose leaders with the following qualities:
	+ Capable, honest men that fear God and hate bribes.
	+ Acts 6: 3 (men of honest report and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom).

Numbers 13: 25 - 33

* God likened unauthorised words to an ***’evil report’***.

***Evil report***

Slander, defamation or an unfavourable saying.

* The ten saw God in the light of their circumstances, not in the light of His spoken word, as did Joshua and Caleb.
* Ten said ***NO*,** two said ***GO*** (Joshua and Caleb).
* Unauthorised words are rebellious words.
* This was a leadership failing with significant consequences.
* The words of the leaders melted the hearts of the people.
* The consequence of failing to trust and believe God at his word
	+ No rest (if you don’t rest in faith, you are in bondage to fear and unbelief).
	+ Hebrews 3: 17 - 19
* Our words will frame our image of ourselves and others (Are you a grasshopper in your sight and theirs?).
	+ Does guilt, shame and condemnation hold you back?
	+ Do the opinions of others define who you are?

***Meditate means***.

Murmur, ponder, imagine, mutter, speak, talk or utter.

* + The inhabitants of Canaan feared Israel (Joshua 2: 9 – 11).
	+ Joshua had 40 years to think about the last time he saw the inhabitants of the land they were about to enter.
	+ God told to be strong of a good courage and ***meditate*** on God’s word day and night.

Numbers 14: 1 – 4

* Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov 18: 21). Words matter.
* Their true heart was revealed in Deuteronomy 1: 27 – 32.

Throughout the exodus from Egypt Israel complained to God and Moses.

* + They said, “because the Lord hated us”.
	+ The leaders ***discouraged*** (melted) their hearts.
	+ Even after seeing the delivering power of God, they did not believe.

***Psalm 106: 24 – 25***

Yes, they despised the pleasant land. They believed not his word: but murmured in their tents and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.

The cost of their words

Numbers 14: 28 – 38

* Guard your tongue.

Study ***1 Cor 10***.

Israel was an example for us in this hour.

* For those in positions of leadership, you have a responsibility to speak life over every situation. ***Slander*** is whispering defamation.
* Those that lead people out of faith and into fear will be judged.
* Do all things without murmurings and complaining (Phil 2: 14 - 16).
* Caleb and Joshua chose life and were rewarded for their faithfulness.
* As you have spoken in my ear, so will I do to you.

Genesis 11: 1 - 9 (Tower of Babel)

Let us make a name for ourselves.

***This will make us famous.***

Babylonian system.

- Lust of the flesh - Lust of the eyes - The pride of life

***In His name*** will always involve the Father’s will, not man’s.

* The people were united and all spoke ***one language***.
* There is always power in agreement.
	+ Consider Matthew 18: 19 – 20.
	+ Must be gathered together “In His Name”
* They had dominion through words.
* ***Let us*** make a name for ourselves (***God resists the proud***). They did not want to be scattered throughout the whole earth. The was God’s plan from the beginning. Be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth.
	+ This was a Babylonian system started by Nimrod (Genesis 10:9).
	+ Man trying to meet his own needs without God.
	+ An ungodly attempt to connect with heaven.
* God wanted to make their name great (Genesis 12: 1 - 3).
	+ I will bless you (Abram) and make your name great.
	+ Proverbs 10: 22- The blessing of the Lord makes rich – accumulate.

1 Samuel 8: 1 – 9

* Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life, however his sons did not follow in his ways. This tainted the peoples view of leadership.

***Judges 2: 7***

All the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua. Leadership is key.

***1 Cor 19-20***

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we were bought with a price.

* Obey all that they ***say***.
* 1 Samuel 8: 19 – 22 (obey their voice and make them a king).
	+ That we may be like all the nations (the world’s pull).
	+ Samuel heard the ***words*** of the people and repeated them to God.
	+ Exodus 19: 4 – 6 (Israel was God’s treasured possession).
	+ 1 Peter 2: 9 – 12 (NLT) - We belong to God, so glow in the dark.

 Luke 1: 11 – 20 (Zechariah)

* How shall I know this. I am an old man and my wife well stricken in years.

Consider Abrahams Response to God when told that he would be the father of many nations.

* NLT – ***How can I be sure*** this will happen? He wanted evidence.
* His words were governed by natural circumstances (sight, not faith).
* His tongue was silenced until, the child was born, because he ***believed not*** his words.
* Words of doubt and unbelief can abort the plans and purposes of God.
* Words are seeds that produce life or death, blessing or curse.
* If you are sowing bad seed, repent and start sowing good seed. That’s how quickly we can change. God’s grace is sufficient for us.

Luke 9: 51 - 56 (2 Kings 1: 9 – 13)

* Samaria was south of Galilee and many Jews travelling to the temple at Jerusalem avoided this area because of the hatred between Jews and Samaritans. Jews saw them as heretics and half-breeds.
* Disciples had an issue of pride and superiority.
* Jesus rebuked them – ‘You don’t know what manner of spirit you are of.’
* Our words should minister life not death, grace not law.
* We don’t use words to bind or control people.
* We have power and authority over devils not people.
* Don’t pray prayers designed to control peoples will. Pray God’s intervening grace in their lives. Remember, love covers.

**Are you on the enemy’s radar?**

Maintain radio silence

Love is the engine room of faith. Love is our covering. When we are not walking in love the enemy has access.

The greatest weapon against Satan is love.

What you speak may be alerting the enemy what to do next.

2 Timothy 2: 22 – 26 NLT

* Some are held captive at the devil’s will (hostages).

***James 3: 16***

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

* Proverbs 17: 28 – Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise.

Ephesians 4: 22 – 27

* NLT – And don’t sin by letting anger control you. Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a ***foothold*** to the devil.
* KJV - ***Give place*** means – room, license, opportunity, power or occasion for acting.

2 Corinthians 2: 11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.

***Stealth*** makes detection by radar or sonar difficult.

* Walking in love and forgiveness makes us ‘stealth’.
* ***Advantage*** – defraud, make a gain or to outsmart.
* ***Ignorant*** – not to know through a lack of information or intelligence.
* ***Devices*** – mind, thought, purpose or schemes (used only once in NT).

***Activities of the devil:***

-Temptation

-Deception

-Sin (author)

-Theft (word)

-Accusation

-Affliction

-Opposition

-Death

His strategies (plan of action to achieve a long-term or overall aim)

There are ways that seem right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death

* Denies the existence of God, denies his own existence, presents many ways to God, knows and twists scriptures, stops the spread of the gospel, promotes business and performance, promotes religious tradition, attacks the key human institutions (marriage, government and church).

***Resist***

to withstand

***Steadfast***

Stable, strong and sure

1 Peter 5: 5 - 9

* He seeks whom he may ***devour*** (drink down or swallow).
* He has a license to seek because he is the god of this world system.

Angels are assigned for us

Hebrews 1: 14

Psalms 103:20

Words release angels from both kingdoms

* We must resist steadfast ***in the faith***.
* ***Afflictions*** means – something undergone. A hardship or pain, emotion or influence. This Greek word isn’t describing sickness or disease.

***Overcome***

Subdue, conquer, prevail or get the victory.

* John 16: 33 – In the world you shall have ***tribulation*** (pressure, affliction, anguished, burdened, persecution or trouble).
* To be of good cheer is to be courageous. Why, Jesus has already overcome.

Ephesians 6: 10 - 11

Our wrestle is not against people. They are not the enemy. We have authority over demonic forces, not the will man. We don’t control people. We withstand the root (spirit), not the fruit (outward behaviour). Controlling behaviour is never fruit of righteousness.

* We are strong in him, not our power nor might.
* Put your armour on and keep it on.
* ***Wiles*** means - trickery, schemes or strategies.
* ***Stand*** means - to be firm, fixed or established.

James 4: 7 – 8

* ***Submit*** yourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.
* To obey, subordinate or be subject to.

***John 14; 15***

If you love me keep my commandments.

Luke 22: 31- 32

***Hebrews 9: 25***

Jesus is interceding for us today.

* Satan wants to ***sift*** you as wheat.
* By inward agitation to try one’s faith to the verge of overthrow.
* Jesus said, ‘I ***have prayed*** for you, that your faith fails not”.

**Wrong thinking**

Empty heads (minds) are easy to deceive. That’s why Satan wants to keep us out of the word of God. What we need is daily mind renewal.

***Matthew 10: 16 - 20***

Don’t be anxious about what to speak. God will give you the words to say when you need them.

Matthew 6: 24 – 34

Don’t take the thought ***saying***.

* *Thought* – to be anxious, troubled with cares or worries.
* When we think wrong, we believe wrong. When we believe wrong, we speak wrong. When we speak wrong, we act wrong.
* Seek the kingdom ***first*** and his righteousness = things added to you.

***Do you not*** ***care*** (have concern for).

Martha wanted Jesus to do the very thing that He taught against.

***Tell her to help.***

Law v Grace

Performance v Rest.

Same Mary who later anointed Jesus with costly perfume oil-years wages.

Luke 10: 38 – 42

* You are ***careful*** (thoughts) and ***troubled*** (disturbed or troubled in mind) about many things. Mary ‘*heard his word’* and chose life.
* One thing is needful – sit at the feet of Jesus and receive the Word of God.

How do we control our thoughts?

Romans 12: 1 – 3 (KJV & NLT)

* *Transform* means – to change
* *Mind* means – understanding / thought
* Our mind is renewed by the word of God which reveals God’s will for us.

***Anxiety meaning***:

A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome.

All anxiety and worry are fear based.

1 John 4: 18 – fear has ***torment*** (punishment).

Philippians 4: 6 – 9

* Be ***careful*** is the same Greek word ‘thought’.
* Thinking right thoughts is our responsibility, not God’s.

Proverbs 4: 20 – 23 (NLT)

* Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 16: 3 (AMPC)

“Role your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause ***your thoughts*** to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed.”

Joshua 1: 1 - 8 (meditate on the word day and night)

* God gave the same promise that he gave 40 years earlier (v. 2)
* The primary advice God gave Joshua was to meditate on the word.
* Be strong and courageous (not like the 10 spies – *we are not able to go*).
* Obedience to the word of God was the key, not any natural ability on the part of Joshua and his army.
* Faith in God’s word expels fear.
* No man could stand before Joshua, because God was with him.

Isaiah 26: 3

*Perfect peace* – both words mean ***Shalom***(prosperity, safety, health, wellness, completeness, soundness, favour, welfare, contentment & wholeness).

**Isaiah 26: 3 (NLT)**

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you.

***Mind*** – thought or imagination.

***Stayed*** – to lean upon or to take hold. To rest self.

***Trusts*** – be confident, secure, sure, bold or careless.

2 Corinthians 10: 3 – 5 (KJV & NLT)

* Challenge arguments, theories and reasonings with the word.
* The battlefield is indeed the mind.

For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). **1 Cor 10: 4 – 5 AMPC.**

Proverbs 3: 5 - 8

* God’s mighty Weapons (Ephesians 6: 13).
* The strongholds of human reasoning and thought.
* Only the truth of the word destroys false arguments which keep people from knowing God.
* Paul said we capture their rebellious thoughts and teach then to obey Christ.

**Controlling the tongue**

The Bible warns of the destructive power our words can have (Proverbs 18: 2). According to the book of James, no man can **‘*tame*’** the tongue. This means that we must train ourselves to speak. We do this by renewing our mind with the Word of God and allowing the power of grace to manifest in our lives(John 12: 48 – 50).

**Mark 11: 23**

We can have what we say.

**2 Cor 4: 13**

We have the same spirit of faith. We believe and therefore speak.

We can limit God in our lives by the very words we speak out of our mouths. For many Christians, circumstances are not going to get any better until they change the words they speak and ***begin to agree with the Word of God***.

The devil also knows how to use this principle. He wants us to believe lies and speak them. ***Do you want everything you are saying to come to pass***?

James 1: 26 (KJV)

The word ***‘Religious’*** is used once in the NT and means fearing and worshipping God

NLT – *If you claim to be religious, but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is* ***worthless*** *(empty or profitless)*.

We submit to God by obeying His word and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.

* ***Bridle*** means – to hold in check, to curb, restrain or guide.
* ***Deceive*** means – delude.
* 1 Timothy 2: 14 – Eve was deceived. Genesis 3: 2 – Eve answered the serpent. We don’t answer to the devil, ***we resist him***. We answer only to God (resist by submitting to God first and the devil will flee - James 4: 7).

***2 Cor 11: 3***

***Beguiled*** means delude, seduce or deceive.

James 3: 1 – 12 (NLT)

* Perfect man – completeness, of full age, mature (Hebrews 5: 14 – “*of full age*” is the same meaning as the word ‘*perfect’*).
* No man can ***tame*** (restrain) the tongue. There isn’t a natural remedy. Grace and grace alone, is the key (1 Corinthians 15: 10).
* Developing your intellect cannot control the tongue.
* Meditation alone won’t change the way you speak. It’s an issue of the heart (for of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.)

-***Unruly evil*** – means unrestrained

-Full of deadly ***poison*** (rust) Proverbs 18: 21

Proverbs 13: 1 – 3. Words matter.

Psalm 39: 1 – bridle /muzzle the mouth

* Angel shut the mouth of Zachariah (like 1: 20).
* Psalm 141: 3 – keep the door of my lips.

1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 4 (NLT) For while one ***says***….

* Words will reflect a carnal or worldly nature (of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks).
* Our words enable satan to get a ’missile lock” because he walks about ***seeking*** (desire or plot) whom he may ***devour*** (swallow or drown).

Ephesians 4: 29 – 32 (KJV & NLT)

* ***Corrupt*** communication is worthless or bad.
* ***Edifying*** is to builds up. To minister (***give***) grace to the hearers.

Colossians 4: 6

* Let your words be always with ***grace*** (acceptable, benefit, gift, favour, joy, liberty, pleasure).

***Ecclesiastes 10:12***

The words of a wise man’s mouth are ***gracious***, but the lips of a fool swallow up himself.

Acts 14: 3 & 20: 32

* The word of his grace.

What will you consider?

* Romans 4: 19 – 20 (don’t look at circumstances)

***Shunam***

Nazareth, were Jesus was born was about 10 km away. The southernmost shore of the seas of Galilee was about 25 km away.

* Hebrews 12: 2 – 2 (look to Jesus)

**Bible examples**

2 Kings 4: 8 – 37 (Shunammite woman)

* Shunam was located in northern Israel in the land of Issachar in the region of Galilee.

Remember the Israelites in the wilderness:

“*We are going to die in the desert*”

***Numbers 14: 28***

As truly as I live says the Lord, as you have spoken in my ears, so will I do it to you.

* A great woman (KJV) – a wealthy woman (NLT), a noble woman (MEV). A rich and influential woman (AMP). High standing both morally and socially (Proverbs 31: 25 – 31 NLT & Psalm 112: 1 - 3).

***Psalm 112: 3***

Righteousness attracts wealth and riches (Matt 6: 33)

* She honoured the man of God which tells us something about her reverence of God (to stand in awe of).
* Matthew 10: 40 - 41
	+ *“He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he that receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”*
	+ Matthew 23: 37 – killing the prophets.

Elisha would have arrived at least 12 hours later which would have been the next day in the early hours of the morning.

* She had faith in God but not for a child. God honoured Elisha’s words.
* Words are seed and will produce a harvest.
* It shall be ‘***well’ = Shalom*** (Health, welfare, prosperity, peace, quiet, safety, soundness in body, wellness, rest, completeness, favour, contentment & wholeness).
* Mt Carmel was 30 - 35km distance north west of Shunam. It could have taken about six hours on a donkey one way. It was an uphill trek.
* The prophet saw her ‘afar off’ (father of the prodigal saw his son a great way off – Luke 15: 20).
* ***Vexed*** - Her soul was troubled, bitter, grieved.
* Nothing happened the first time. Don’t give up or quit because you don’t see results straight away.
* Hebrews 11: 35 (By faith women received their dead raised to life again).
* His teacher Elijah (1 Kings 17: 8 – 24) raised a child from death.
	+ The widow of Zarephath sowed seed in faith.

If the boy was about 8 - 10 years old when he died, he would now be at least 17 years old.

2 Kings 8: 1 – 6

* The favour of God – Shalom. Full restoration of land and produce resulting from seven years of famine.
* Restore means – to bring back or return.

This is a ***model*** or ***pattern*** of how to pray.

It is not a formula or a rigid ritual. Prayer is not religious communication with God.

***John 17*** was a demonstration of that teaching.

* The woman indeed got a prophet’s reward.

**Praying requires speaking (yes or no)?**

Luke 11: 3 - 10

***To meditate*** means:

to ponder, imagine, mutter, speak, talk, study utter or resolve in your mind.

* When you pray, ***say***… (to bid, call, speak, tell or utter).
* Matthew 6: 7 - Shameless persistence is not vain repartition.
* They think that they shall be heard for their ***much speaking***. Don’t be like that because the Father knows what you need ***before you ask*** Him.
* Prayer is spoken, not thought.
* ***Ask*** and you shall receive
* John 17 – The Lord’s prayer. It begins with “***These words spoke Jesus***”.

In the beginning God created through words. He said something and it was so.

***Romans 4:17 NLT***

Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

* Nothing happened until God said, “Let there be light”.
* The worlds were framed by the word of God (Hebrews 11: 1 - 3).
* God makes alive the dead and calls those things which be not, as though they were (Romans 4: 17). ***Calls*** means – to utter in a loud voice.
	+ Lazarus come forth.

When exercising his authority over natural and spiritual forces, Jesus used ***words*** because he understood the power contained in them.

* + Peace be still (and the wind ceased and there was a great calm).
	+ Child, ***I say to you*** arise (Jairus’s daughter).
	+ To Peter he said come (out of the boat and on to the water).
	+ Come out of the man you unclean spirit. Go into the pigs.
	+ Stretch forth your hand (to the man whose hand was withered).

What were David’s prayer habits?

* Psalm 5: 3 (In the morning I will direct my prayer to you).
* Psalm 55: 17 (I will pray and cry aloud).

***Ask*** means to beg, call for, crave, desire or require.

The new covenant believer asks the Father in the name of Jesus.

John 14: 12 – 14

John 15: 16

John 16: 23 – 24

***Remember***

You don’t fight thoughts with thoughts. You pull down those strongholds with words. Cast them down.

* We have authority to come boldly to the throne of grace.
* We have been given power and authority to use the name.
* With this power comes responsibility.

James 4: 2 – 3 (NLT)

* We don’t have because we ***don’t ask***, or we ask with wrong motives.

Pray in agreement with the Word of God

* God’s Word is His will.
* 1 John 5: 12 – 15
	+ Faith begins where the will of God is known.

***Proverbs 15: 8 & 29***

The prayers of the upright are His ***delight*** (pleasure, favour, goodwill or acceptance).

He hears the prayers of the righteous.

* + If we ***ask*** according to the Word of God (in faith) we know we have it. This isn’t a ‘*maybe He will and maybe He won’t’* approach to prayer. This is praying with confidence that God ***hears us***.
	+ Proverbs 15: 8 & 29
	+ John 11: 41 – 42 (Jesus knew that the father always heard him).
	+ 1 Peter 3: 12 (His ***ears*** are open to the prayers of the righteous). It didn’t say His ***mind***.

***Prayer of dedication or consecration.***

Jesus prayed this type of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. He wasn’t praying to change something based on the promises of God.

This is the only prayer where ***“if”*** can be used and not be in unbelief.

Jesus prayed the same prayer three times to the Father saying the same words ‘***not my will but yours be done***’

Compare to John 11: 41-42 when Jesus prayed to the Father.

Faith always speaks

2 Corinthians 4: 13

* We believe and therefore speak.
* Same principle in Acts 4: 18 – 20.

Mark 11: 23 – 24 (words matter).

* The speaking is as important as the believing.

Believing and speaking is a foundational principle of faith

* Jesus equates ***prayer*** to ***speaking*** to a mountain.

Abraham ***staggered not*** at the promises of God through unbelief.

* ***Doubt*** means – separate, withdraw from, hesitate, stagger or waver.
* Faith believes you receive ***when you pray***, not after you get.
* Believing precedes receiving (faith is evidence - Hebrews 11: 1).
* This is key to praying prayers of faith.

***The power of the name of Jesus:***

Acts 3:16

Acts 4: 12

Philippians 2: 9 - 11

Luke 10: 19

As touching anything that they shall ***ask***

* Even the devils are subject to us through your name.
* Matthew 18: 18 – 20 (binding and loosing).
* If two or three shall agree (harmonious)– you can’t agree in thought.

Matthew 8: 5 - 10

* Speak the word only and my servant shall be healed.

Philippians 4: 6 – ***request*** means a ***thing asked***.

* Think on these things (take an inventory). Control the mind.

James 1: 5 (ask for wisdom and it shall be given to you).

Ephesians 3:20

***Ask*** means to beg, call for, crave, desire or require.

* ***Think*** means – to exercise the mind, to comprehend, to consider, perceive or understand.
* According to the power that works in us.
* Take no thought saying. Spoken words give life to thoughts/ imagination.
* Of the abundance of the heart, the mouth ***speaks***.
* Jesus knew (perceived) their thoughts. God ***hears*** our prayers.

**Live long and strong**

***Colossians 1: 13***

Who has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of hid dear son.

Psalm 92: 12 – 15

Being planted also means to transplant.

Fat means – fertile, rich, anoint, prosperity.

Flourishing means – green or fresh.

To bring forth fruit is to increase.

Jeremiah 17: 5 – 8

* Those who trust is in the Lord and whose hope is in the Lord will always bear fruit.
* Fruitfulness is not governed by natural circumstances or effort.
* Compare with Psalm 1: 3

Genesis 6: 3

* Yet his days shall be 120 years.
* NLT – In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years.

Very few people living 120 years in the earth today would give weight to God’s eternal Word.

***Num 14: 28***

As truly as I live, says the Lord, as you have spoken in my ears, so will I do to you.

Psalm 90: 10 (Numbers 14: 28 – 34 – *Amplified Bible foot note*)

This Psalm is credited to Moses who is interceding with God to remove the curse which made it necessary for every Israelite over 20 years of age to die before reaching the promised land (when they rebelled against God). Moses said that most are dying at 70 years of age. This number has often been mistaken for a set span of life for mankind. It was not intended to refer to anyone accept those Israelites. 70 or 80 years has never been the average span of life for humanity.

Moses (Deuteronomy 34: 7)

His eyes were not dim nor his natural force abated at 120 years.

Caleb (Joshua 14: 10 – 11)

* As strong as he was when he was 40 years old.
* He believed God (he had another spirit) – Numbers 14: 24

Is it pre-determined by God?

Are we authors of our own destiny?

The Israelites were in the wilderness.

Can spoken words actually lengthen or shorten our days?

Indeed, our creator ***knows*** our last day and very breath. But who determines it?

- Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

-He knew me from the foundation of the world.

-God desires for his children to life out their full days blessed and a blessing to others.

Who determines our length of days?

* 1 Peter 3: 10 – 12 (NLT)
* Proverbs 3: 1 – 2 & 16

**Hebrews 9:27**

And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement.

* Proverbs 4: 10
* Proverbs 9: 10 - 11
* Proverbs 10: 27 & Psalm 55: 23
* Proverb 13: 3
* Proverbs 18: 21
* Psalm 91: 16
* Ephesians 6: 1 - 3

Common sayings that are a curse:

* When your times up, your times is up.
* I guess it was his time.
* Only the good die young.

Have we finished our assignment?

* Jesus said it is finished (John 17: 4).
* Paul said he finished his course and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4: 7).
* Peter (2 Peter 1: 14 – 15 NLT).
* David served the purpose of God in his generation (Acts 13: 36).

The benefits of controlling your mouth:

Proverbs 10: 11(mouth of the righteous is a ***well of life***).

Proverbs 12: 6 (mouth of the upright shall ***deliver*** them).

Proverbs 12: 14 (***satisfied with good*** by the fruit of his mouth).

Proverbs 12: 18 (tongue of the wise is ***health*** – healing / wholeness).

Proverbs 14: 3 (lips of the wise shall ***preserve*** them – keep or guard).

Proverbs 15: 4 (wholesome tongue is a ***tree of life***)

Proverbs 16: 24 (pleasant words, ***sweet to the soul*** and ***health to the bones***).

Proverbs 21: 23 (keep your mouth & tongue and ***keep you soul from trouble***).

Words can:

* Build up or tear down.
* Bless or curse (Balaam).
* Set people free or keep them bound.
* Bring light or bring darkness.
* Please God or empower Satan.
* Speak life or death over any situation.
* Be filled with faith or doubt and fear.
* Encourage or discourage.
* Speak truth or lies.
* Offend or release through forgiveness.
* Win the lost to Jesus or repel them.
* Justify or condemn.

Words will always produce a harvest – good or bad.

Finish with Proverbs 18: 21

Death and life are in the ***power of the tongue*** and those that love it shall eat the ***fruit*** thereof (produce or reward).