



# Our Words of Power

Proverbs 25:8-15

## Proverbs 25:8-15

- “Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another; 10 Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined. 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. 12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear. 13 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. 14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain. 15 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.”

# Our Words of Power

- “WHO AM I? I am more deadly than the screaming shells from the howitzer. I win without killing. I tear down homes, break hearts, and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me, no purity pure enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea, and often as innocent. I never forget and never forgive. My name is ... gossip.”  
(Morgan Blake, Atlanta Journal)

# Our Words of Power

- “The tongue is mightier than the blade.” (Euripides, 406 B.C.)
- Joseph Goebbels became famous for propaganda in WW II.
- The Japanese used radio voices like U.S. born Iva Toguri D'Aquino as “Tokyo Rose.”
- “Hanoi Jane” was believed to be instrumental in Vietnam’s victory over U.S.
- Politicians repeat things they know to be false, because some voters will believe it anyway.
- Good men can be destroyed by words, and evil men can be empowered.

# Our Words of Power

- God changed the whole world at Babel without the loss of a single life, just by confusing human speech
  - Gen. 11:6-9 - “And the LORD said, Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

# Our Words of Power

- God disheartened the will of the people of Jericho with reports of Israel's success
  - Joshua 2:9-11 - "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."

# Our Words of Power

- Words have power
  - James 3:6 - “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”

# Our Words of Power

- Our words have the potential to do more good than harm, if we use them for good. Eternal salvation is communicated by words
  - Acts 11:14 - “...Who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.”
  - Rom. 10:15 - “How shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”



# Our Words of Power

- Proverbs 25:11-15 speaks of four words of power:
  - Words fitly spoken
  - Words of fitting reproof
  - Words of faithful messengers
  - Words of forbearing gentleness

# Words Fitly Spoken

- Prov. 25:11 - “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.”
- This is not merely knowing what to say; it is knowing when to say it, how much to say, and when to stop saying it.

# Words Fitly Spoken

- A Christian's speech is limited; we speak only that which builds up and strengthens
  - Prov. 10:32 - "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse."
  - Eph. 4:29 - "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

# Words Fitly Spoken

- We need wisdom to use appropriate words and timing for every situation.
  - John 16:12 - “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”
  - Matt. 10:16 - “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

# Words Of Fitting Reproof

- Prov. 25:12 - “Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.”
- Sometimes love requires that a brother be rescued from the snare of sin.
  - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

# Words Of Fitting Reproof

- James 5:19-20 - “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

# Words Of Fitting Reproof

- We are not helping erring Christians by saying nothing when they stray. We must maintain relationships that permit us to approach one another.
  - Eph. 4:15 - “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ”
  - Gal. 6:2 - “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

# Words Of Fitting Reproof

- We must speak words of caring reproof even when it is painful
  - 2Tim. 2:2 - “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”



# Words Of Fitting Reproof

- Notice the word of reproof is to be given “to an obedient ear.” The loving relationship between the reprover and reprovee must be two-way.
  - John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”

# Words Of Faithful Messengers

- Prov. 25:13 - “Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters.”
- A trustworthy messenger can be counted on to deliver a message accurately without procrastination, editing, or inserting opinions
- Notice that it is refreshing to the sender, not the receiver. The sender has confidence that the message will be faithfully delivered.

# Words Of Faithful Messengers

- God's people have a duty to accurately, faithfully communicate the gospel.
  - John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

# Words Of Faithful Messengers

- 1Cor. 15:1-4 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”

# Words Of Faithful Messengers

- We're not at liberty to add to it to make it more appealing. We dare not leave out parts that might make it harder to accept
  - Acts 20:26-27 - “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

# Words Of Faithful Messengers

- Christians are stewards of the Gospel
  - 1Cor. 4:1-2 - “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
- We deliver it faithfully, not only out of love for the lost, but even more so to honor the Sender, God.

# Words Of Forbearing Gentleness

- Prov. 25:15 - “By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.”
- We must speak in a calm reasoned manner.
- Persuasive speech does not need pressure tactics, reactionary language, and emotional appeals
- We must create an atmosphere conducive to reasoning

# Words Of Forbearing Gentleness

- Consider the example of Jesus
  - 1Peter 2:23 - “...When He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”



# Words Of Forbearing Gentleness

- The conduct of the messenger reflects on the sender of the message
  - 2Cor. 5:20 - “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”
  - 1Peter 3:14-15 - “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”

# Words Of Forbearing Gentleness

- Rom. 15:14-15 - “Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. 15  
Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God”
- Prov. 16:32 - “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

# Our Words of Power

- Col. 4:5-6 - “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”