

The Spoken W.O.R.D.

Matthew 12:35-37

35. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

36. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

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

Romans 14:11-12

11. It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' "

12. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Eph. 5:5-7

5. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

7. Therefore do not be partners with them. But all of us have a responsibility to keep guard over what we say.

Rom. 6:13 - Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Romans 10:8-10

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

1. W - WORSHIP of God instead of a WEAPON of mass destruction!

James 3:1-12 says...

1. Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
2. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.
3. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.
4. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.
5. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.
6. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.
7. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,
8. but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
9. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.
10. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.
11. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?
12. My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Illustration of gossip:

A man in a small village had been found guilty of starting a malicious rumor about another man. This rumor was not only untrue, but had seriously damaged the other man's reputation and family. As is often the custom in small villages, the accused was taken before the chief of the village who served as a judge and would hear the case and decide the man's punishment if found guilty.

After hearing the facts of the case, the chief found the accused to be guilty and was now preparing to sentence the man to his punishment. The old, wise chief handed the man a large bag of feathers and told him that his only punishment would be to place a feather on the doorstep of every person to

whom he had told the rumor. The man was relieved at such a light punishment and quickly took the bag of feathers and set about his task. Four hours later, the man returned to the king with the empty bag and said, "I completed your task, sir. Is there anything else?"

"Yes, the wise chief replied. Report to me in the morning and I'll give you the second half of your punishment." The man reported the next morning and was instructed that the second half of his punishment was to gather all the feathers back up and place them in the bag. "But sir," the man replied, "didn't you hear the storm that raged through our village last night? Didn't you feel the force of the winds that blew? It would be impossible to know where those feathers are now."

The wise old chief raised his index finger and pointed knowingly at the man, "Now you see, my child, the damage that you have done to another. For although you told only a few lies here and there, the storm of gossip took hold of those lies and spread them far beyond your grasp to undo them. You can regret what you said, but you can never fully undo what you've said."...

Proverbs 26:20 - Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

2. O - ORDER in the world instead of an ONSLAUGHT of disorder!

In Genesis 1:3 He said, "Let there be light" and there was light.

Gen. 1:11,12 - "Let the land produce vegetation...and it was so...

Gen 1:24 - And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures.. And it was so"

Mark 1:42 - "Be clean!"

Mark 1:25 - "Be quiet! Come out of Him"

Mark 7:33 - "Be opened" and the man's ears were opened and his tongue loosed.

Mark 4:39 - "Be quiet! Be still!" and the wind died down and it was completely calm

Mark 11:22-24 - He told them, "Have faith in God. If anyone SAYS to this mountain, "Go throw yourself into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he SAYS will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatsoever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours"

3. R - RADIANT life instead of RUINOUS death!

Proverbs 18:21 - tongue has the power of life and death.

Mt. 12:37 - For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Mark Twain - "I can live two months on a good compliment."

Psalms 141:3 (MSG) - "Post a guard at my mouth, God, set a watch at the door of my lips." -

4. D - DIVINE Truth instead of DECEPTIVE lies!

Num. 23:19 - God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Jn. 8:44 (NIV) - You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Jn. 8:44 (NASV)- You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Jn. 8:44 (NKJV) - You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

If you use words for deceptiveness...

Who's words are you really speaking?!

You may think they're yours, but they originate from the father of lies!

James 3:2 - We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

First, Ask God to bring your speech under His control.

Psalm 19:14 - May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Second, Ask God to let you hear yourself.

Third, practice "putting off" and "putting on".