

[From the Desk of Pastor Bourke](#)

[Proverbs 18:21](#) (Three translations)

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

NIV The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21King James Version

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Subject: Do You Want to Give Life or Promote Death?

Do You know the purpose of your mouth?(other than aiding in digesting food)Yes this is true, but I'm going to introduce you to a spiritual principle in today' lesson that will change your life forever,concerning your mouth, if you can grasp the concept and have faith in God and apply it to your life.

Our Mouth and Teeth are Important to You. Every time you smile, frown, talk, or eat, you use our mouths and teeth. Our mouths and teeth allows us to make different facial expressions, form words, eat, drink, and begin the process of digestion. The mouth is essential for speech. With the lips and tongue, teeth help form words by controlling airflow out of the mouth. The tongue strikes the teeth or the roof of the mouth as some sounds are made. When we eat, our teeth tear, cut, and grind food

in preparation for swallowing. The tongue helps push food to the teeth, and allows us to taste the food we eat.

The mouth helps us breathe.

Our Mouth Balances, vision, and hearing: A healthy tongue, trigeminal nerve system, and jaws can help with balance and walking in a straight line.

Our mouth aids in Connecting with the world around us, such as tasting food and telling people how much they mean to us. Without your mouth, you couldn't taste freshly baked bread, smile at your neighbor or tell the people you love how much they mean to you. Taking good care of your mouth is essential for both dental health and whole-body health.

Most importantly, Spiritually your mouth is used for creation. This is the spiritual principle I would like for you to capture.

You are creating your own destiny, your are creating your own life by what you Speak and what you believe.

What you speak, you are giving life to it, and what you believe is what you become (Prov 23:7) As a man thinks in his heart, so he becomes...you become what you believe.

The words you speak from your mouth are spirits and they give life, John 6:63. The story of Jesus healing a Roman Centurion servant appears in the Gospel of Mathew 8:5-13. **Jesus** offers to go to the **centurion's** house to perform a healing, but the **centurion** hesitates and suggests that **Jesus'** word of authority would be sufficient. The word of God carries authority when spoke.

Words are invisible forces or invisible powers. Words are energy. This energy has the ability to cause things to happen. You can't see words, heat, electricity and

wind,because they are spirits. Every thing is energy, your words, your thoughts,as well as your emotions. Words are invisible forces, operating at a vibration and frequency. Spirits are disembodied. They don't have a body. God is a spirit, you can't naturally see him. Rather you witness His love and compassion. You as well as so many others bear witness of his healing, comfort, and deliverance. Many who are now believers have experienced his sovernity. You have witnessed his hands in actions, or at work in your lives, causing you to have a testimony. You testify of the manifestation of his power at work in your own lives causing you to be an overcomers. Satan and his demons are our adversaries. They are spirits as well. We see the result of his work as well, in the form of sickness, diseases, rebellion, disobedience ache, pains, doubt, fear etc. In the Bible, Jesus says "Get behind me, Satan" to Peter in Matthew 16:23. This is after Peter tries to stop Jesus from doing something by saying, "Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!" . Jesus responds by calling Peter "a stumbling block to me" and saying that Peter is "thinking about the things of men, not the things of God". Notice Jesus didn't address Peter, but the spirit operating in Peter.

Jesus told his disciples I have given you power over unclean spirits. I have given you the power to force out evil spirits and to heal every manner of disease and sickness. He breathe on them and said receive the Holy Spirit, John 20:22.

Hebrews 11:3 in the Bible states, "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible".

So than, scripture teaches us Heb 11:3 what is seen was not made out of things that are seen.

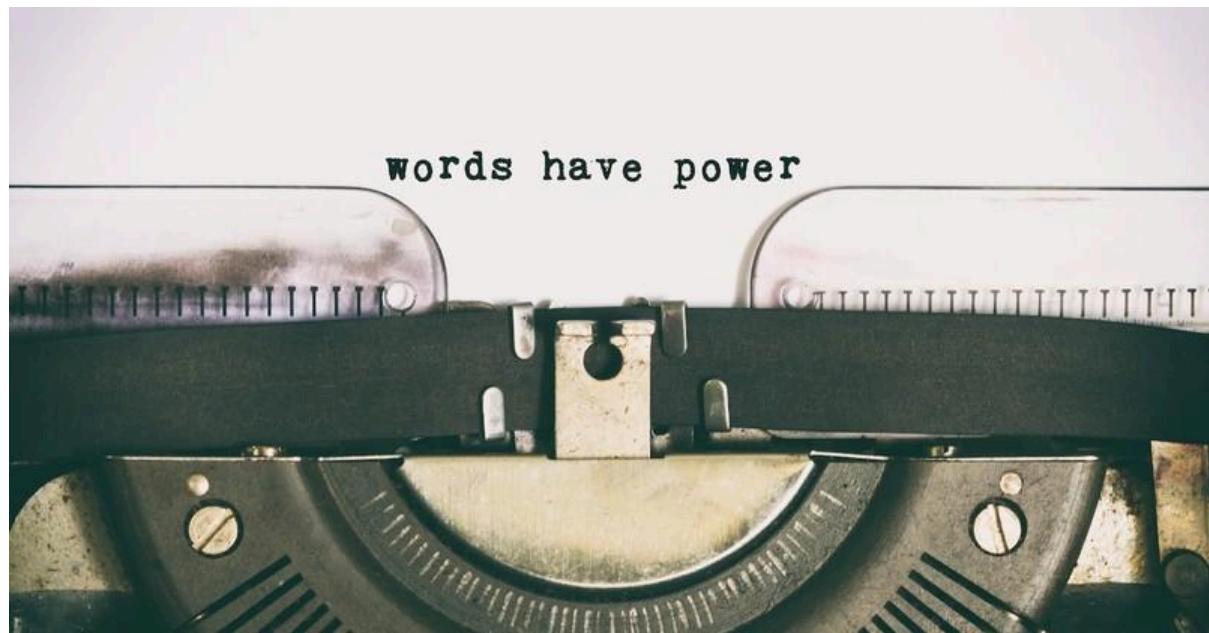
Understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that which you see was not made out of what is visible, or made from what you see.

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And **God said**, Let there be light: and there was light.

A Prophet share with me a word from the Lord "My words are like soldiers they carry out my authority" and comes back to me, Job well Done! Mission Accomplished! A testimony has been Granted! My word will not return to me useless or of no effect.

Therefore, what you see was made or created in the spirit realm first, made and created from the invisible realm.



Life and Death is in the Power of the Tongue

Words are one of the greatest gifts that God has given to mankind. Every parent looks forward to the day their child utters their first words. Many people rejoice and even shed tears over this moment. There is also the beauty of words that allow people to exchange thoughts and ideas and express how they feel. Is there anything more powerful than listening to a gifted orator or a brilliant singer manipulate words to create an emotional response in the hearer. Truly there is an unlimited amount of ways that words can be used. In short words are powerful. It is with this backdrop that we consider this proverb penned by [King Solomon](#).

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit." – [Proverbs 18:21](#) (NKJV)

Solomon just took the power of words and your tongue to a whole new level. Attributing to them the potential of life and death. What does [Proverbs 18:21](#) mean? How are life and death in the power of the tongue? If there is something has this level of capacity, it makes sense that we should try to understand it better, and that is what we will do.

What this Proverb is literally saying is that the words you speak have the ability to give life to a person or a situation. However, they can also kill or destroy a person or a situation. This proverb is a simple reminder of how much your words matter. This is the proverbial double-edged sword. Out of your mouth you have the ability to build up or tear down. To motivate or discourage. To lift people higher or to drag them lower. To inspire to greatness or to push them to mediocrity all because of the words that come out of your mouth. This is the life and death that are in the power of your tongue.

I recall the day of my visit to the doctor. I was in a joyous mood and feeling enthusiastic. The report that was spoken to me in word, crushed my spirit and left me broken and full of tears. All over what was said to me. It was the word spoken.

Allow me to share with you another story of a power man of God name Elisha and the Two Bears (2 Kings 2:23-25)

Elisha was being teased

23 Elisha was on his way to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and teased him. “Get out of here, baldy!” they said. “Get out of here, baldy!” **24** He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.s, “**A deadly burst of vengeance upon a troop of youths; a curse pronounced upon them in the name of the Lord! 25** And he went on to Mount Carmel and from there returned to Samaria. Elisha was known as a man of God and the Lord was with him. Therefore, the words in which he spoke were not useless or spoken in vain or to be taken lightly.

Elisha was known for other miracles: He performed the miracle of oil, raised a boy from the dead and healed Naaman of leprosy.

The moral of the story involving Elisha is that God will not be mocked, or allow his prophets to be mocked, and that those who do not honor their elders may suffer similar consequences.

Life is found in obedience to God and His word and living to honor him and worship him, the reverse is true, as well. Disobedience leads to death and destruction and loss of abundant life, that we will learn as we read 2 Kings 25:9–10.

2 Kings 25:9–10 NIV –

He, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon commanded his commander of the imperial guard Neb – boo- zar-dan) to set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. The Isrealites belongings were taken. Of those in charge of fighting men he took, along with the chief Priest Zephanniah, and the door keepers .

Nebuzaradan (Neb – boo- zar-dan), the Commander of Nebuchadnezzar, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon. So Judah went into captivity away from her land as the Lord had spoken, brining judgment in this case. Those of Judah was taken into captivity as a result of disobedience. This serves as a reminder to obey God and his word.

Another Story I would like to share:

1 Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and He let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. Meaning God was with Samuel to confirm his words.

The LORD did not let any of Samuel's messages fail to come true. Then all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew

Samuel was a true prophet of the LORD because what he said the Lord brought to pass.

This is what the Bible Say about Speaking Life

So often the temptation is to gloss over the words you say as if they don't matter that much but they do. More importantly, you are responsible for them. Look at what Jesus said,

"But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken." – Matthew 12:36

I want you to understand something about your tongue and the words spoken which gives life or death. There are no such thing as empty words. Every words that comes out of your mouth you are accountable for what it accomplishes or gives space to. This means the words spoken in public, in private, the ones everyone hears, and the ones you think no one hears. You are responsible and have to give account for all of your words. Not only do you have the power to speak life or death, which is in the power of your tongue you, you are responsibility for how you use them.

My point is this is serious business!!! When it comes to your words there are no hiding place. Notice what Jesus said

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

Not only is the life and death in your tongue impacting others, they are also impacting you. Your words will either set you free or lock you up and condemn you, so be careful what you say.

(3) Ways to harness or control the power in your tongue

Like it or not your words matter so how then do you harness this great power you have? I want to give you three things to consider.

1. Speak Slowly

"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry," – [James 1:19](#)

James is giving us a simple yet powerful principle that acknowledges the reality that life and death are in the power of the tongue. When you have such a powerful weapon you must exercise it with great caution. This is why he warns or encourages you to be slow to speak. And to be careful with the way you use your words. The thing about words is that once they come out they cannot be taken back. It is like the toothpaste once it is out of the tube you can't put it back in. Have you ever had a quickly spoken, careless word fly out of your mouth? Have you ever crushed someone simply with the words you spoke? How many of those words did you wish you could take back? I know this is frowned on in the face of our culture today which is always looking for a quick response, but many times there is no wisdom in that. The more you understand the power of your words and the life or death they can bring, the more careful you will be to use them. You must be mindful that sometimes the wisdom comes not from what you say but from choosing not to say anything at all.

2. Speak Truthfully

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." – [Ephesians 4:25](#)

Since it is true that life and death are in the power of your tongue, then part of that life or death can be determined

by whether we speak truth or not. It is imperative that we always speak the truth to others. This does not mean it will always be well received but there is life and freedom in the truth. No one can be set free with lying words.

What is just as important as the truth you speak is the attitude with which you speak it. Earlier in Ephesians Paul encouraged this,

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” – Ephesians 4:15 (NIV, emphasis added)

While we are required to speak the truth let it come with love. It may not make the message any easier to hear but at least the person may know you have their best interest at heart.

3. Speak Graciously

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” – Colossians 4:6

The final way you should use your tongue and conversation is to use it graciously. You might wonder what it means to speak with grace. One of the meanings of this word is kindness. Look at the verse again and replace the word kindness for grace. Here is how it reads, Let your conversation always be full of kindness. Imagine for a moment the difference it would make if all we did was out of kindness to our conversations. Sometimes death comes not just from the words you say but also in the manner in which you say them. When kindness is present in your conversation then chances are there will be life in your tongue instead of death. In fact, kindness

may open the door and give you the opportunity to speak life into someone.

Think of all the people who have gotten strength and encouragement because of the words spoken to them. In the same vein remember all those people who have had their dreams, hopes, and lives crushed all by the power of the words spoken. This is the life and death Solomon referred to. The only question that remains is do you want to give life or promote death? How you decide to use your tongue will determine which side you land on. This small part of your body carries so much weight and influence, so I hope that you would choose life. Let it be from this point forward, start using our tongues to produce life and stop killing others with the words that come from our mouths. **The words you speak have the ability to give life to a person or a situation; or they can kill or destroy a person or a situation. Which will you choose?**

Do You want to give life or promote death?

In conclusion do not create a playground for the devil to play, speak the words of God which produce life. Where you are now in your life is as a result of your own beliefs and thoughts. So if you are not satisfied with your life, change it. You can effect change by speaking the word of God over your situations and circumstances and witness the transforming power of God at work by his word transforming your life.

The spiritual principle from this lesson is that your mouth has been given to you to create just as your heavenly Father spoke in Genesis and created his world by speaking his words, so he has given you the power to create your own world, just as he created his, you can create yours. You have been given

the power to create your by world, your own destiny by choosing the use of speaking the Words of God which is spirit and life... You have his spirit, his creative powers was given to you when he created you, when he formed you(Genesis 2:7). Jesus himself said the same works that I do , healing the sick, giving sight to the bind; these things you shall do and even greater thing, because I go to the father. How can this be? By the power or Spirit of God which has been placed within you. You have been given the authority, you have been given access to a wealth of power which you can be activate at anytime by speaking it into existence. Give the angles something to do! One of their jobs are to carry out God's word.

According to Psalm 103:20, angels carry out God's word by listening to and obeying his voice.
I'm closing by leaving you with this thought....What's your position? Are you speaking Life or Promoting Death?