

spoken in love, affirmation, prayer illustration, and they build. People that help build people up provide seeds to others. These are the three questions that we need to ask ourselves saying things out of our mouths daily because it will prevent gossip and anger from you and other people in the room and around you. Is it true? Is it loving? Is it helpful right now? We need to answer these questions while we are at home by ourselves or with our families, at church, on social media and when we are angry or tired. People share negative stuff and postings on social media about things and other people to think they know it all about stuff and other people with false advertisements.

We need to acknowledge what we say and about what we say that could be negative or gossip about other people. We as a people usually fail with our words as a sinner and it is time for us to come to God to start thinking and going by Heavenly wisdom. We need to start to point to Jesus to guide us daily. We need to go and be effective disciples to spread the word of Grace to others. God redeems not just our hearts, but our mouths. We need to have hope to seek the kingdom in your life for the path of righteousness. I want you this week and going forward to choose one person to intentionally build up with your words. We pray to God for him to guard our mouths. We align our words with our hearts. We need to start making our speeches and what we say out of our mouths a source of life. May our words reflect the God who spoke light into darkness.

“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. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”-James 3:5-6.

You didn’t plan to hurt anyone. You didn’t wake up that morning thinking, Today I’m going to wound someone with my words. You said stuff out of frustration, sarcasm or just careless to use words that came out of your mouth. When we hear the word stewardship, we usually think about money, time, or talents. The Bible treats words as something entrusted to us by God. A steward doesn’t own what they manage. They are responsible for how it’s used. That means my words aren’t just mine. Your words aren’t just yours. Words belong to God and he cares deeply about how we use them. Death **and** life are in the power of the tongue. Gossip damages trust. It takes this back to me because I do not trust my mom’s side of the family along with my stepfather’s side of the family because I gossip a lot about people along with my sister. Sarcasm that masks cruelty. Harsh criticism lingers long after the conversation. Silence when encouragement is desperately needed. James tells us the tongue is like a small spark that can set a whole forest on fire. It doesn’t take many words to cause deep damage. Some of us are still carrying wounds from things said years ago. Words shape how we see ourselves and sometimes how we see God. The same tongue that wounds can also heal. Words can build up through encouragement spoken at the right moment, truth shared with love, affirmation that reminds someone who they are in Christ, prayer spoken over someone who feels weak. Words are like seeds. Ephesians 4:29 gives us a clear standard. Our words should be helpful, according to the person’s need and beneficial to the listener. Every one of us has failed in this area. We have all said things we regret. We have used words to defend ourselves instead of loving others. Jesus spoke words of grace to sinners. He spoke truth without cruelty. When he was falsely accused, he sometimes chose silence. Jesus paid for our sinful actions at the cross. God doesn’t just want to clean up our language. He wants to reshape our hearts because out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.

I need to stop being too political in my sermons because my words could hurt some people in the world.

Heavenly Father,
Set a guard over our mouths.
Help our words reflect our heart.

Forgive us for the times we've torn down instead of built up
teach us to speak life—especially when it's hardest.
May our words point others to You, the God who spoke light into darkness.
In Jesus' name, amen."