

The Power of Words

Luke 1:37 (ASV) “For no word from God shall be void of power.”

The Quakers say, “Of your unspoken words, you are the master; of your spoken words, the servant; of your written words, the slave.”¹

- I. Introduction: Barclay’s Commentary on [John](#) relates extraordinary information for the Jewish concept of the Word of God.
 - A. No language is without meaning and the meaning of language is its power (1st Cor. 14:10-11).
 - B. Spiritually gifted communicators speak the utterances of God (1st Pet. 4:11).
 - C. Old Testament communicators spoke with omnipotent power when they spoke the Word of God, but Church communicators combine the empowerment of their gifting with the intrinsic power of the message.
- II. Development: [Warren Wiersbe in Proverbs](#) “Solomon was right: ‘Death and life are in the power of the tongue’ (Prov. 18:21). No wonder James compared the tongue to a destroying fire, a dangerous beast, and a deadly poison (James 3:5–8). Speech is a matter of life or death.”² Wiersbe goes on to summarize what Proverbs teaches about human speech into four categories.
 - A. Speech is an awesome gift from God.
 1. Made in the image of a God who communicates, human beings have the wonderful gift of speech.
 2. Mastery of rhetoric is valuable in temporal life (Ecc. 12:9–11).
 3. Speaking the Truth of God’s Word in spiritual life.
 - a. The ability to communicate with wisdom is of great value (Prov. 10:20; 25:11–12).
 - b. Words of wisdom are like refreshing water (Prov. 10:11; 13:14; 14:27; 16:22; 18:4).
 - c. Right words are like nourishing food (Prov. 10:21; 15:4; 16:24; 18:20; Ps. 119:103).
 - B. Speech can be used to do good.
 1. Our words can bring peace instead of war (Prov. 15:1,18).
 2. Our words can help restore those who have sinned (Prov. 25:12; 28:23; Matt. 18:15–20; Gal. 6:1).
 3. Our words can instruct the ignorant (Prov. 15:7; 16:21).
 4. Our words can rescue the perishing (Prov. 14:25; Zech. 3:2; Jude 23).
 5. Our words can encourage those who are burdened (Prov. 12:25; 15:23; 16:24; Isa. 50:4).
 - C. Speech can be used to do evil.
 1. We hurt others by lying (Prov. 6:16–17; 12:19,22; 14:5,25; 19:5,9,28; 21:28; 24:28; 25:18).
 2. We hurt others by gossiping (Lev. 19:16; Prov. 11:13; 16:27–28; 17:9; 18:18; 20:19; 26:20,22).
 3. We hurt others by flattery (Prov. 5:3; 7:5,21; 14:20; 19:4,6; 26:28; 27:6; 28:23; 29:5). If it weren’t for our pride, flattery wouldn’t affect us. We privately enjoy hearing somebody agree with what we think of our-selves!
 4. We hurt others by speaking in anger (Prov. 26:21,23; 29:22).
 5. We hurt others by impetuous speech (Prov. 10:19; 12:18; 13:3; 15:28; 18:13,17; 21:23; 29:20; Jas. 1:19).
 6. We hurt others by talking too much (Prov. 10:19; 11:12–13; 15:2; 17:28; Ecc. 3:7).
 7. We hurt others by talking instead of working (Prov. 14:23).
 - D. Only God can help us use speech to do good.
 1. Mastery of the tongue is the mark of a perfect man who goes to the Lord in prayer for this miracle (Ps. 141:3; Jas. 3:2).
 2. Presenting your bodies begins with the tongue (Rom. 12:1).
 3. A good heart is the key to good words coming forth from the mouth (Prov. 15:28; Matt. 12:34; 15:18).
- III. Conclusion: Henry M. Morris article in [BibSac](#) describes the power of God’s Word in sustaining the universe.³

¹Wiersbe, Warren W. *With the Word Bible Commentary*, Nu 30:1. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1991.

²Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Skillful*. An Old Testament study., Pr 4:1. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1995.

³Dallas Theological Seminary. *Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 116*, 116:51. Dallas Theological Seminary, 1959; 2002.