

Remnant Life Church  
August 29, 2021  
“Spiritual Warfare – The Tongue: Words of Blessing”  
Luke 5:1-11

How is it that words have such power?

It is because of who spoke the very first words:

- 1) **Gen 1:3** - *And God said, “Let there be light” and there was light.*
  - a) **Gen 1:6, 9, 14, 24, 26. 29** – *And God said*
  - b) The creation of the universe came on the WORD of God
  - c) The very life of all creation was brought forth by the spoken word
  
- 2) What does that mean?
  - a) Words bring life
  - b) Your words can bring life to the person you are speaking to
    - i) Many times, my role in helping people through a difficult time
    - ii) Not to provide answers but to speak words of life, encouragement, and hope
  - c) You don’t need to be a pastor or minister to do that
  - d) Every one of us are called, as a child of God, to speak those words
  - e) But, again, it begins in your heart

Words are primarily defined in the Bible as being described in one of two ways – a blessing or a curse

Just as words can be negative, they can also be positive

- I want this morning for us to examine and understand the power of speaking positive words over others and even yourself

Let me make clear at the outset, this is not about a prosperity or name it and claim it gospel

- There have been and are still today many ministries that preach this misguided and false understanding of what the Bible says regarding the blessings of God
- At best is an imbalanced theology, and at worse, it is a very worldly and ungodly representation of God’s love that promotes the wealth of a person as the indication of God’s favor in their lives

This is also not about the power of positive thinking

- A book of the same name authored by Norman Vincent Peale written in 1952
  - A 20<sup>th</sup>-century Reformed Church pastor
  - Problem – his theories and pronouncements are largely unsubstantiated, unverified, and with little or no documentation of his sources
  - They also promote the power and importance of self rather than a reliance on God and the Holy Spirit in our lives
- At the farthest end of the most dangerous type of this teaching is L. Ron Hubbard’s Dianetics
  - The whole premise of curing or healing yourself through the elimination of negative thoughts was a failed psychological theory that, after being soundly and

utterly rejected by the APA (American Psychological Association) Hubbard filed for, and received, identification as a religion.

- Hubbard's background?
  - Science-fiction writer
  - A very low-level, some have called failed naval career
  - Arrest for theft
  - Arrest for fraud
  - Involvement in a wide variety of occult groups
- This is why you must be so very careful of the authors you read and the thinking you allow to come into your mind and heart

We said 2 weeks ago that words of cursing bring anxiety, fear, and despair; confusion, disorientation, and a loss of direction or purpose (**Gal 1:7**)

As damaging and harmful as negative words or curses are, is as uplifting and positive the words of blessing are

Listen to what the prophet Isaiah writes and how he describes the impact of spoken blessings -

- **Isa 61:1-3** - *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to **proclaim** good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to **proclaim** freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to **proclaim** the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be **called** oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*

In **Phil 4:8** Paul writes these words - *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

- Why is this verse important?
  - Because we have already determined that words are an outpouring of our hearts and then formulated in our minds
  - Paul provides a list of what things should be occupying our minds in order to produce words of kindness and blessing

Here are a few important things for you to understand about the words of blessing

1. **Your words have the power to bring a blessing into the life of another person**
  - a. We see God do this, again, at the very beginning of creation
  - b. **Gen 1:28** – *And God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*
    - i. Who is God blessing? Adam and Eve
    - ii. In these words, He is blessing them to have the ability to bring children into the world

- iii. He is also giving them the authority and power to rule over all living creatures on the earth
- iv. But not only to rule but have dominion which means to care for or stewardship
- v. These words supernaturally transformed Adam and Eve physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually
- c. It was God's original intention for Adam and Eve to live forever in a life filled with His blessings, His presence, and to exist surrounded by His love in His perfect creation
  - i. We were created to live in the blessings of God
  - ii. And we have a role in that happening
- d. But then sin entered in and that perfection was lost
  - i. But it could not destroy the spoken, all-powerful Word of God
  - ii. A portion of the blessings remained
  - iii. We as His children, desiring to live with hearts filled with His presence, are called to speak those words of love and blessing everywhere we go

**2. Not only do your words bring blessing, they can also bring life**

- a. **Proverbs 10:11** – *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*
- b. The words you speak are filled with life
- c. **Proverbs 16:24** – *Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.*
- d. These words are life to the spirit, to the mind, to the heart, and even the body

Recently, I heard a story about a little boy named Michael who was looking forward to his mom having his little sister. Each day he would sing to her while she was in his mom's womb. And each time the song was the same –

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine  
 You make me happy when skies are grey;  
 You'll never know, dear, how much I love you;  
 Please don't take my sunshine away

Little Michael was already doing his best to be a good big brother. He was speaking words of blessing to her. He was loving her, telling her how important she was and, he thought, that she was like sunshine.

And everything was going fine. The baby was growing, and the family was looking forward to a new addition to the family. That is until the mother went into labor. Suddenly, there were multiple complications and as a result, as well as other issues, it looked like the newborn would not survive. She had arrived, but she was not healthy. The doctors quickly placed her in the neonatal intensive care unit but there was little hope that she would ever leave the unit alive. Her parents, of course, were devastated. But it suddenly occurred to the young mother that Michael may never get to see his little sister. He would never get to hold the little girl that he had been singing to over these past months.

And so Michael's mom made up her mind that she would do whatever she needed to get them together. One afternoon, she snuck Michael into the NICU so that he could at least see his sister. She knew that would be difficult for him, but she just had to let him see her at least once.

When they got there, she told him that they had to be very quiet so no one would notice them. But he just couldn't help himself. He started singing his song to her – You are my sunshine my only sunshine.

A nurse of course heard him and was just about to kick them out because siblings were not allowed in the NICU, until... she noticed the monitors. Because as soon as Michael had started singing his sister's heartrate began to slow and, for the first time, it started to beat in a regular rhythm. The nurse asked Michael to continue singing. There was something happening that she couldn't understand or explain but a pink hue was beginning to be seen spreading around her little body. She became calm and she soon stabilized.

Over the next few days, the little girl not only continue to get better, but the family was able to take their daughter home. The words of blessing that Michael had been singing over his sister had a transformative effect. No one could fully explain what had happened physiologically, but what was obvious was that the words of blessing spoken, or in this case sung, over that baby changed the situation. The words, very simply, brought life.