



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 4 God’s Design for Communication
By Pastor Jody May 02/27/2022

Proverbs 3:5-8, 13-20 ESV

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
- ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
- ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,

Proverbs 10:11 & 21 ESV

- ¹¹ The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
- ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many,
but fools die for lack of sense.

Proverbs 12:6 & 18 ESV

- ⁶ The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
but the mouth of the upright delivers them.
- ¹⁸ There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs we are quickly learning, is a gem of a book. No, it is not written in Red, nor is it written by one of the Apostles, but it does fit nicely into our theological framework even though it seems like a bunch of random teachings on different topics. The Reason it jumps off the page for many of us is it because it is collective Wisdom, given to King Solomon, given to him by the **pre-incarnate Jesus**. God’s people, Jesus’ subjects, recognize His



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words, we recognize there are gospel implications in them, and we accept them as a basis for how a Christian is to live life. When you accept them, when you practice proper *obedience (fear of the Lord)*, you should be discovering that they are beneficial to you.

[REVIEW]

Week 1 - It all begins with **TRUST**.... Fear the Lord, cling to Him, and believe what the Bible has to say to you while at the same time we refrain from the advice of foolish people. This was the way we said to discover **True Happiness** in your lives. That’s good to know, especially when the world is offering such poor excuses for how to obtain happiness especially when it seems like right now everything the elite are trying to do is falling apart.

Week 2 – Pride vs. Humility Pride is what goes before a fall, everyone suffers from it, and thank God, He will correct it in the believer’s life. We looked at the life of King Nebuchadnezzar, we admitted we are no better, and we pleaded that God would be gracious even when we ignore His gentle corrections. AND because of Christ He is and He graciously uses the lessons we learn for Him.

Week 3 - God’s **Sovereignty**, His complete rule over all persons, places and things, from the beginning to the end, and that this is what **brings peace** to the believer’s life. That has been so good to see and know this week in light of those things around us that we have no control over like inflation, war, inept governing authorities, tyrannical regimes, deceptive man-made philosophies, and what seems like a mass outbreak of the crazies.

This brings us to week 4, and we get more good news. This week is a little more instructive as in Solomon tells you what is desired, and scripture is very clear on how we are to get there. This week Proverb’s Wisdom for Life is all about **God’s Design for Communication because what you say could literally save someone’s life.**

[READING OF THE SCRIPTURE HERE]



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One of the things that my momma did always tell me is, *"If you can't say anything nice about anybody then don't say anything at all."* That saying, as so many of the old wise sayings we had growing up, are summary statements of what we see in Proverbs.

[WHAT WORDS DO]

How many of you remember that old saying that *sticks and stones can break your bones, but words will never hurt me*? How many of you would right now raise your hand and say that I have never been hurt by anything that someone has said to me? As of matter of fact the world (culture) knows that this saying is not true. There are laws on certain law books that say you cannot say certain things, or it will be considered a hate crime (**do we remember bill C4 that just passed in Canada 2 months ago**). In many places around this globe, right now, it is a misdemeanor to speak out against certain lifestyles now deemed honorable in our society. While I believe this is the wrong approach to take when it comes to speech (first amendment freedoms). Point taken this morning – **words DO hurt...**

As a counselor in what seems another life now, I always found most of my work took place in the field of couple communication. Thanks to arguing couples I got through school and picked up some side cash. **If only people knew how to talk to each other many of their problems would dissipate!** By helping couples learn how to talk to one another I discovered that most marital problems seemed to disappear. This shows that only do words hurt but **words have the ability to GIVE LIFE.**

Words are a powerful force and looking back to Genesis One we see they are how God chose to create. When God created, He used words (Gen. 1:2 *let there be light*): He brought life to the Universe, set the Galaxies in motion, formed our planet out of the void, brought order to this world from chaos, set our solar clock ticking, brought forth our animals all THROUGH SPEECH! Then He gives the decree to the cosmos "Let us make man in our image".

[JESUS]

When we think about Genesis, Public Communication is something that God has always done and it's important to Him. God's ultimate plan to show the



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world who He is, was to send His Son into the world to speak for Him: Jesus proclaimed His words and demons were cast out, strongholds were tore down, disease and sickness were eradicated, and lives were turned upside down. Jesus gives us a taste of what will happen in the end when **His voice makes all things new!**

And as we are being conformed into His image (Rom. 8:29), the Father is concerned with how we reflect Him, because we are His **public display, we are speaking for God now**. Words are not empty to Him, and we all are held responsible in scripture for our use of the language that we speak. **Our words** where they **lack divine cosmic power** still hold within them the ability to **give life and take it away, to hurt or heal**, and they can **defame the image of God**.

Jesus says,

“It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

Matthew 15:11 ESV

Verbal communication, over other forms, IS the main way we relate with each other and these words were meant to sustain life and multiply our joy! Unfortunately, it is no longer considered a value to speak life to people, but it is very popular to tear one another down, so culture values more that which defiles us according to Jesus. **The very breath of God that we all share is something that gives life, as it originally gave life to us, but it is a powerful gift and when the heart of the person wants to do evil, it can destroy someone!**

[CHALLENGE]

We don’t say what needs to be said for we are afraid of not being liked.

OR

We sound too much like the world, and still, it’s never enough for it.

Recently there was an article on the Daily Wire entitled, *How The Federal Government Used Evangelical Leaders To Spread Covid Propaganda To Churches* by Megan Basham exposing how culture used big evangelical



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voices such as Ed Stetzer, Russell Moore, Rick Warren, Tim Keller and even N.T. Wright to push vaccine propaganda.^{1 2} These well-known evangelical voices touted the Christian responsibility to be vaccinated, be masked at all times, and accept what the government said without question all at the prompting of Dr. Francis Collins of the National Institute for Health (NIH).

You can read that for yourselves later but what was discovered of which none of these well-known leaders had an answer for, was that the things they were asked to speak about many times were found to be false and misleading. They were all too eager to speak on things without the proper facts being provided. Possibly these folks were a little too concerned with being liked and were willing to speak too hastily for a world that demands obedience without question.

Let me just take some worry away from you if you are concerned with how you are viewed by this world or you are worried that your words may be used against you. If that’s where you stand this morning and you don’t want to come off as not nice then here is some good news for you:

John 15:19 ESV

*If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world **hates you.** – Jesus*

The world hates you not because you say the wrong things or you’re not saying enough of what they want you too say, the world will hate you because you belong to Jesus! The Gospel frees us from having to worry about how the world judges us, **it’s too late, I GET** to be hated like Jesus. Perhaps if you are too worried about the world liking you, you’re too worried about the wrong things **THEN this morning hear (TRUST) God has a design for communication for people that are more worried about what their God thinks than what this world thinks. Three parts to this communication plan:** the words of the

¹ <https://www.dailywire.com/news/how-the-federal-government-used-evangelical-leaders-to-spread-covid-propaganda-to-churches>

² <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-sword-the-trowel/id1334359794?i=1000551923988>



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Righteous give life (what they do), the words of the righteous come from a changed heart (where they come from) and the words of the righteous preserves life (How we are to use them).

Going back to our passage of scripture for the day let's see if we can catch on to what God is communicating to us about **WORDS**, so that we may reflect Jesus' image better, and let's put this to the test and see if His words **CAN** bring us life.

1. The Words of the Righteous give life.

*"The mouth of the **righteous** is a **fountain** of life,
but the mouth of the **wicked** conceals **violence**."*
Proverbs 10:11 ESV

There are 4 things that we see from this verse right at the start.

- God promotes life through His people. He's pro-life! - Common Grace, the effects of Christianity in the world.
- Life comes from the mouth. - It's uses were intended for more than just **Consumption**, but its' major function was to be **PRODUCTION!** One must ask the question is our mouth something that produces life in others?
- Life is a by-product of righteous person. - From the picture we see here in scripture this life is an overflow, it is not something that has to be thought of on how to do it, it is a natural occurrence.
- Righteousness (a righteous person) is the conductor of this fountain.

Just looking at this one verse it **seems simple right? IF you want a better life then incorporate this FORMULA - Find a good person** and just have them call you once a day, respond to a text, perhaps write on your FB page once a week, comment on your Instagram when you post, or maybe mention you in a tweet, and you will finally be happy. But if we actually spend a little time doing some exegetical work together, we discover that the intent of God's people is **not to suck the life out of others but to give life**, that is your path to have a fulfilled life. **The Gospel produces joy by loving like Jesus it doesn't demand that others try to make you happy, which will always fail.**



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*"The **teaching of the wise** is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death."*

Proverbs 13:14 ESV

&

*"**Good sense** is a fountain of life to him who has it,"*

Proverbs 16:22 ESV

When we pull those two references together the **"teaching of the wise"** is a fountain and if **"good sense"** is a fountain as well then it is probably safe to say that these righteous people have the **element of wisdom** within them.³
CONCLUSION - **A righteous person is a wise person**. The responsibility of a wise and righteous person is to use their words to pull people away from the snares of death, that is PRODUCTION. Again, your joy is discovered when you are following the communication plan God intended for you!

Example: It's much like being the person that gets to sit next to the emergency exit on the airplane. You have to be confident that you can get that door open so that the passengers can exit as safe and as fast as they can. Wise and righteous people, God's people, we are in this world, and **we are the ones sitting in the exit rows**. This is the entrance to the narrow path, and we have to be willing and ready to speak words of life and be willing to tell the world to **'shut up'** when they are quick to be offended and angry if we contradict them to what is the path for Salvation.

Jesus bore the ridicule so we can bear God's acceptance, Jesus endured the sneers so we can enjoy the Father's smile, and Jesus made it a practice of hacking off the world so we can be free so let's not be afraid of doing the same thing Jesus does. Let's open our mouths and let others hear the gospel.

1st - We should be thinking right now in our minds, and asking ourselves, if this is an accurate picture of ourselves. **We want to be the type of people that**

³ Piper, John. "The mouth of the Righteous is a Fountain of Life". Sermon, September 1, 1991. [Desiring God](#), July 27013.



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other people want to be around to gain some refreshment from. Is that you? (Is everything you say negative or is it all about yourself)

2nd – Do you make it a point to **be around those that Fear God** because if not how do you expect to be refreshed when you need it? **We want to be around people that speak life into us.** (Are you hearing voices that tell you no matter what don't give up!)

Now let's discuss the 2nd part in God's communication plan how this righteousness comes about. (Where the Words come from)

2. The Words of the Righteous come from a changed heart.

We have not seen anywhere so far in our search for Happiness, **this fountain of righteousness does not begin by you trying hard!** You cannot produce within yourself the ability to speak words of life to others. **Righteousness is not a by-product of your living! Righteousness is totally a work of the Lord!** Our fountain of Life, if that is describing us, does not come from us walking around just wanting to be able to say the right things for somebody at the right time.

This is OUR dilemma! **We can't produce it and yet God is very concerned about what comes out of our mouth.** God uses His creation (us) to speak into people's lives all the time. AND the other side of that, is that, everything that comes out of our mouth is heard by our God = We are accountable!

God's Design for Communication, is not that we manufacture words of life on our own, but to speak out of an over-abundance of the heart. The way we become conductors of good news is we must **dive deeper into the good news** ourselves!

Our hearts are to be so overfilled with the Gospel that every time we open our mouths it just leaks out. It's not work, to edify someone when you already are experiencing the gratitude of a blessed heart.

Jesus says it like this in Matthew,



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"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment **people will give account for every careless word they speak,** 37 for **by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."** **Matthew 12:33-37 ESV**

Jesus here is showing us the way. Just like He explained it to the Pharisees they will be known not by their works of their hands but by the words of their mouth for they will be judged. **These guys were the best, well behaved, upstanding citizens around. Jesus calls them vipers!**

We too will be judged by our words – family and that means if you never try to speak you are condemned already...

Fathers/Husbands we will be judged by the words we speak to our wives/children. Do our words lead them to life? Do your words offer a path for direction in a world that is hostile to the ways of God? Taking our kids to a youth program/children's ministry does not take away our responsibility. Giving our wives whatever, she asks for does not save her soul. We are called to lead our family by speaking to them the words of life, being involved, taking the lead!

Mothers/Wives you will be judged by how well you build up your husband and not tear them down. You will be judged by the words you speak and don't speak to your kids. You will be judged when you have opportunities to speak to other women about God and not gossip. Are you giving words of life?

Young unmarried & married people your words carry a lot of weight for your future. If you are constantly complaining about parents, friends, church, other Christians, romantic relationships, jobs, your body images, then you have not found the Fear of the Lord – STOP BLAMING OTHERS! **His abundance of Glory allows you to deal with worldly disappointment.** Your



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goal for your life right now, is a right relationship with Jesus not having all you want! Friends we all need to be praying that **God overflows our cup of blessing so all we spew is praises of Him.**

The only hope in being not condemned for our words is to plug into Wisdom that has shown itself to be from God. Only one man has ever shown me that He was worthy, and I was told in Heb. 4:16 I can approach HIS throne with my questions, doubts, insecurities, and complaints. There has only been one man that was so Wise that He confounded the sharpest religious minds of the day, made the political powers of His era do what He wanted them to do, and outsmarted the powers of the world by getting them to complete the plan how he planned it.

By being plugged into Jesus we will always speak words of life because He is the living fountain, and as he told a nice thirsty lady at the well one day, “if you drink from this well (Himself) you will never be thirsty again (Jn.4:14) Let this be the dawning of wisdom in all our hearts oh Holy Spirit. That the way we speak life to people, the way in which we don’t worry about having to produce wisdom out of thin air, is that we have got to repeatedly be in contact with the source of all wisdom - Jesus.

His Spirit will begin to talk with you, but you must go to the well of His word. Jesus’ Words, which are full of ‘*Grace and Truth*’ as John teaches us, are opened up to us by the HS by us using scripture we have read making confirmation in our minds all the time. **Spirit lead people are Bible reading people, and Bible reading people are people that have something of worth to say!** **God’s design for communication** – “Godly Revelation” was to preserve scripture over the years so we could receive Him and then pass Him on to others.

In closing let’s talk about how we pass along the words of life.

3. The Words of the Righteous helps to preserve life.

Proverbs 10:21

²¹ The lips of the righteous **feed many,**



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but fools die for **lack of sense**.

I am not advocating that everyone get on social media that’s a little too easy but what I am advocating for is that we need to be involved in community within and without the church. We need to be in a community group to receive and give words of life, in a couple of months we will have more opportunity to receive and give words of life in Bible Study. But if we don’t commit to community, we are doubly culpable: we die because of our **lack of sense** and we hurt others by not being a **source of nourishment**. Perhaps now is the time to ensure you are feeding off of God’s Word and practicing prayer and get ready so you can be a source of life to your church and beyond.

Proverbs 12:6 ESV

⁶The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
but the **mouth of the upright delivers them**.

There are those that we all know that could use a little warning. Not a, “bless your heart” but a heartfelt plead not to do a thing. We have to be willing to argue for what is right, we have to be willing to speak up for the defenseless, and we have to be willing to confront the voices of the world in the ears of those we care about. This is best done one on one in person not in a text. Is there someone you need to make time for in your calendar so you get their undivided attention?

Proverbs 12:18 ESV

¹⁸There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise **brings healing**.

I want to make us aware this morning of the killer of communication, a SWROD THRUST, **SARCASM**. Sarcasm is a type of communication that says you don’t care enough about a person to say what you really mean. It means you annoy me enough to employ passive aggression, but I don’t care enough to want to correct what’s bothering me. BUT if we deny our tendencies to use sarcasm in communication, it will force you to confront what needs to be confronted OR keep your tongue so you’re not tearing down. BTW if you use sarcasm in your marriage cut it out.



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Our words are to bring healing, ask yourself how could you say something to someone in such a way that makes them feel good instead of them wondering if they offended you? Let’s make a choice to model Christ well in this and speak words that bring life.

May God grant us all a tongue that shows that our hearts are full of Jesus’ Wisdom, that we are being filled with an unending fountain of life, and that we can’t help but share this good news with others.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that brought all into existence by the Word of His mouth decreeing from the beginning that He would save us.

Go in the name of the Son, that spoke words of life giving us His righteousness, so that our well would never run dry.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that opens our ears to the Words of Life and makes our hearts vessels carrying the good news to others.