

WORDS – Part 3

These WORDS are POWERFUL WORDS

1) Never underestimate the power and the importance of your words

"The tongue has the power of life and death,"
(Prov. 18:21 NIV)

"Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose."
(Prov. 18:21 TM)

"Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation."
(Matthew 12:36-37 TM)

Salvation or damnation.

Life or death.

Fruit or poison.

Blessing or curse.

You choose.

2) Choose your words carefully

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."
(Matthew 12:36-37 NIV)

The bible warns us against careless or idle words.

"Watch your words and hold your tongue; you'll save yourself a lot of grief."
(Prov. 21:23 TM)

Language matters. Words make a difference. Choose them carefully.

Watch your words and hold your tongue.

"It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that."
(James 3:5 TM)

3) Always speak the truth, but don't always be speaking it.

The bible talks about speaking the truth in love.

It says that:

**"a gentle tongue can break a bone."
(Prov. 25:15 NIV)**

Ann Lamott says in her book Bird by Bird: 'The sword of truth need not be used to cut; it can also be used to point.'

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." (Col. 4:6 TM)

Gentle words. Gracious words. Words that are seasoned with salt.

4) Use your words for good and not evil

**"Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."
(Prov 12:18 NRSV)**

This image of a sword takes us also to Ephesians 6 and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. Your words can be used as hurtful, cutting sword thrusts into someone, or as spiritual, healing, God-given words.

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