

# **The Power of Your Words**

## **By Robert Morris**

### **Preface**

1. Read Genesis 12:3. Look for the “so that” clause. What was the ultimate purpose for which God blessed Abraham?
2. Now read 3 John 2. If you have prosperity, health and blessing in your life, what do you believe is God’s ultimate purpose for blessing you with these things?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:17-18. What is a mistaken idea about where wealth comes from? Where does wealth really come from, and what is the purpose of wealth?
4. Can you relate to the story about the explorer? Are there some truths in Scripture that you feel you have taken too far? Are there some that you need to learn more about?

### **CHAPTER 1**

## **The Strength in a Word**

1. How would you define a mouth that is like a “loaded gun”? When has your mouth been like a loaded gun? What kinds of scenarios cause you to shoot off your mouth?

2. Can you think of specific times when your mouth ever got you in trouble? What was the most painful time—either to you or to another person? Has your mouth changed since that time? Why or why not?

3. How have your words hurt your relationships with your family and friends in the past?

4. What do you feel that you can do to learn to control your tongue?

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Word Connections You Can't Live Without**

1. Read John 1:1,14. How is Jesus, the Incarnate Word, the visible expression of the invisible God? How does He bridge the gap between the spiritual and the physical?

2. There's a lot about word-bridges in this chapter. What needs to happen in order for two living beings to get to know one another?

3. Words are spiritually powerful, a lesson not lost on Satan. According to Genesis 3:1-8 and Matthew 4:1-11, what is Satan's line of attack? Why does he start there?

4. Time for self-examination. If what Jesus said is true (and it is!) that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34), what has been coming out of your mouth lately? Blessings? Encouragements? Constructive coaching? Love? Curses? Discouraging words? Destructive comments? Bitterness? Take some time to pray right now, and then listen

for God's reply to your heart. Record your thoughts.

5. "Stop speaking death over your health, your finances, your marriage and your other relationships." How and when have you "spoken death" over these things in your life? Take some time to write down your thoughts about why this matters and how it affects your closest relationships.

6. "Start allowing your mouth to line up with the Word of God." Let's say that you've had a sudden sickness, or a sudden outflow of finances (or a slow-but-steady negative cash flow), or hit a rocky place in your marriage (or another relationship). What is your tendency to do in these situations?

7. How can you "speak life" to a situation that looks like "death"? Record your thoughts.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **Can I Speak Freely?**

1. If people spoke exactly whatever first came to their minds, what would the result be?

2. According to the scriptural principles in this chapter, what are appropriate constraints to put on your own speech?

3. Ephesians 4:25 says, "Speak truth to one another." But Job 6:25 says, "How painful are honest words!" If truth can be so very painful, what are we supposed to do? (Read Eph. 4:15).

4. Read Ephesians 4:15 again. If you can't speak the truth "in love," what should you do?

5. Think about the hurtful joking and “kidding around” you’ve experienced. What kind of joking is appropriate and what kind is inappropriate? Where do you draw the line? If you realize you’ve gone over the line, what should you immediately do?

6. In what way do our mean-spirited words last? Why is it so hard to forget spiteful, insulting things said to or about us? How can we get free from these “curses?”

7. When was the last time someone said some really life-giving, healing words to you? Have you had any moments like that—moments that were life-transforming? Record your thoughts

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **Ten Deadly Sins of the Tongue**

1. Do you have a problem with lying? (Be honest!) Have you made yourself accountable to a close friend in this area? If not, who could you ask to be an accountability partner?

2. Can you identify a time when you have “sown discord” in the past? How should you respond when someone who has a critical spirit begins sharing with you?

3. Have you been a gossip? If not, can you think of times when you have inadvertently spread gossip? How can you control this area of your life?

4. Have you ever shared information about someone or a situation that you found out later was not true? What would help you to avoid doing this in the future?

5. Have you ever shared something with someone else that was shared with you in confidence? What are some practical ways that you can become a trustworthy confidant?

6. Do you have a problem with cursing? If so, how can you break this habit in your life? Are you accountable in this area? Do you feel that you have spoken curses in the past that need to be repented of and broken?

7. Have you ever used God's name in a self-serving way? Describe what you did.

8. Do you have a tendency to use filthy speech? Is filthy speech used at the place where you work? How can you show love to unbelievers and yet avoid listening to filthy speech?

9. Are you a contentious person? Do you like to argue? Have you developed habits of being argumentative and contentious? How can you break these habits so they won't affect your relationships? Who is a trusted confidant that you could ask to help you in this area?

10. Are you a negative or a positive person? Have you developed a habit of speaking negatively? Is there a stronghold of unbelief in your life? What can you do to break this habit?

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **The Troublesome Tongue**

1. Even though our tongues are small members of our bodies according to the book of James, they can do a lot of damage. Has your tongue started

some forest fires or caused some shipwrecks in your life and relationships? Take some time now to record names and events (if you feel uncomfortable doing that, use code words! The important thing is to bring them to memory so that you can start doing things differently).

2. Consider the 10 sins of the tongue. Which of these sins are you most likely to commit? How could learning to control your tongue make a difference in your life? In your family?

3. When you were born again, God gave you a desire to serve and follow Him. According to Romans 12:1-2, how important is it for us to renew our minds with God's Word? How will learning about controlling your tongue affect your life? (Record some specific ways.)

4. Were you affected by words spoken to you when you were growing up? How have those experiences affected the way you interact with people today? Have you forgiven those who spoke bad things to you? Write the names of the people that you need to forgive.

5. Are you focusing on what God's Word says about you and not on the negative words that people have spoken to you? What practical steps can you take to believe what God says about you?

6. How can you begin speaking life instead of death over your life? Over your friends? Over your family?

7. Proverbs 18:21 tells us: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Proverbs has much more to say about the tongue. Below are selected verses from Proverbs that tell us how words can heal and harm. Read these verses in one sitting and let them speak to your spirit. (You may want to pick out a couple of verses to memorize. Use your preferred Bible version; this version is NKJV.)

Proverbs 10:18

Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

Proverbs 10:21

The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.

Proverbs 11:11

By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 11:13

A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Proverbs 12:14

A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.

Proverbs 12:17

He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Proverbs 12:25

Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 16:27

An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire.

Proverbs 18:6

A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows.

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

Proverbs 26:28

A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 29:20

Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 30:32-33

If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth. For as the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife.

8. Which verses jumped out at you? Record what you hear God telling you through His words of wisdom.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **Taming the Tongue**



One of the main points of chapter 6 is that “bridling” the tongue means to pause, ponder and pray. Let’s consider each:

1. Pause. There’s an old adage that if you feel anger, count to 10 before you open your mouth. Has that worked for you? If not, what are you personally going to do to buy some time before you say something you’ll regret?

2. Ponder. Read 2 Samuel 16:5-10. When Shimei openly cursed David, David could have gotten offended and with a wave of his hand had Shimei’s head removed from his shoulders. But look at the story. How did David respond? A lot of times, someone will say something to us that angers us and it has some truth to it. We want to get all defensive and insist that we’re right, or that we’re not doing anything wrong. But if we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through that person, we might learn something important. Can you think of any incidents in your own life where you have missed such an opportunity to hear from the Lord? Record your thoughts.

3. Pray. Controlling the tongue requires a prior work of God in our lives as well as attentiveness to the “voice” of God through the Word and through others who are speaking the Word to us. What does prayer have to do with all this? Can we expect to live a supernatural life without prayer? How can you build into your prayer life a way to listen for the still, small (or the loud, insistent) voice of the Lord in your life?

4. Another key point in this chapter is chopping down the tree of bitterness. Read Hebrews 12:14-15. What do you think is meant by the “root of bitterness”?

5. When Isaiah came into the Lord's presence (see Isa. 6:1-8), he was convicted of his words, and the Lord cleansed his mouth. How can you enter the Lord's presence every day? Are you committed to spending time with God every day? What needs to change in your schedule for this to happen?

6. Since the Bible tells us that we think in our hearts, do you remember a time when your heart was telling you to do something and you didn't do it? What were the consequences? What are some ways that you can train yourself to listen to your heart?

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **The Baptism of Heaven**

1. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

2. Have you received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? How can you know if you have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

3. Is there resistance or openness in your church to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? Are there misconceptions about it? What are they?

4. How important is it to be filled with the Holy Spirit—to be “baptized” in the Holy Spirit?

5. Are you accustomed to reading Scripture in this way, or is it new to you? Be assured that this way of reading Scripture has an ancient pedigree going all the way back to Christ's own teachings about Himself in the Old Testament. (Read Luke 24:27,32.) The Church has come to call this way of reading the Scriptures “reading the Old Testament

Christologically.” Can you think of other picture-story/types of Christ in the Old Testament?

6. Under the subhead “Foreshadowing from the Old Testament,” Abraham’s life shows us *types* of baptism. Normally when we read “types” in our minds, we think of “kinds of.” But “type” is a technical word in Bible study. It means pictures of future things to come. “Types of Christ” (foreshadowings of Christ) in the Old Testament include the entire sacrificial system (see Hebrews 8-10); the “three-day” journey mentioned in Genesis 22 in which God told Abraham to take “your son, your only son” Isaac up to a “mount” and “bind” him on the “wood” so that he’d become a “burnt-sacrifice offering (i.e., sin offering).” This picture-story, while not exactly prophecy, blazes a way for us to recognize that in Christ, who is God’s son, a greater sacrifice happened on the Cross to take away our sins. All this background is given to set up the following question: What do you think of the threefold foreshadowing/fulfillment theme between Abraham’s three “baptisms” and the three baptisms we are to have, culminating in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **The Language of Heaven**

1. How important is an ongoing, passionate relationship with the Holy Spirit to our ability to live the Christian life successfully? What are some areas of your life in which you’ve experienced spiritual growth through the power of the Holy Spirit?

2. In what types of experiences have you had difficulty controlling your tongue?

3. What are the myths about praying in a prayer language?

4. Isn't it amazing that there is a gift of tongues in the Bible? If praying in the Spirit builds us up and strengthens us, should we submit our tongues to the Holy Spirit on a daily basis?

5. Is it difficult for you to walk in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit? Based on what you have read in this book, what can you do to build your faith in this area?

6. Have you received a prayer language from the Holy Spirit? Did you have to step out in faith when you received it? If you haven't prayed in a prayer language yet, are you willing to trust God in this area and yield your tongue to Him? If there is fear in your heart when it comes to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, will you ask the Lord to help you in this area?

7. What are some gifts of the Holy Spirit that you have already seen manifested in your life? (i.e. teaching, leading, giving, prophecy, faith . . .)

8. According to 1 Corinthians 14:14-15, what does Paul say about praying in tongues?

9. If this is a gift of the Holy Spirit that builds us up and strengthens us, what do you think Satan's agenda is? What tactics does he use?

10. First Corinthians 14:39 tells us not to forbid (people) to speak with tongues. Is this Scripture still relevant to us today?

11. What should be our attitude toward Christians who don't believe this gift is for today?

12. Why do you think there is so much controversy surrounding praying in tongues?

13. Since the power of life and death is in our tongues, is it important that we submit our tongues to the Holy Spirit every day so that we can speak life and not death? What are some practical ways that we can yield our tongues to God every day?

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **The Gates of Praise**

1. How do we enter God's presence with our words?

2. How do our words help us to speak to people who are created in God's image?

3. How is praise important to our daily lives? What are some of the most meaningful ways that you praise God?

4. When we are going through difficult times and we choose to praise the Lord with our words, how does this action help us?

5. Is there a specific time in your life when you remember God helping you through a difficult time because you chose to praise Him? Record your thoughts.

6. Do we have creative power? Is it God who has creative power, and when we choose to praise Him, is it His power that is released in our lives?

7. Are we trying to get God to agree with our words or are we trying to get our words to agree with God?

8. How does Satan try to get us to speak death over our lives and others?

9. How important are our words to life and blessing or death and destruction being released in our lives?

10. How important is the language of praise in our relationship with the Lord? How important is the language of praise in our relationship with our family and friends?

11. What does the Bible tell us about “putting on the garment of praise?” What are some ways that you can “put on the garment of praise” every morning?

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **Oh! How Much Your Words Matter!**

1. According to Romans 10:9-10, how are we saved? What do these verses say it is important to do with our hearts and our mouths?

2. How is believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths important in our lives as believers? How is it important to our maturity and growth as believers?

3. What practical steps can you implement today and every day to help your words agree with God’s Word and will for your life?

