

## # 20 Victory for the Physical Area of Life

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The Holy Word of God says in plain words that the key to total victory in the physical area of life is when a person can control what he or she says.

*“For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well”* (James 3:2).

This is no news flash--all of us stumble in many ways. BUT, if we do not stumble in what we say, we show and reveal the perfection of Christ within us. Speaking has much to do with the evidence of Christ within us. This context makes clear that the “stumbling” spoken of here is not any technical inaccuracy of speech, but rather refers to moral problems, like--dishonesty, criticism, condemning others, and blaspheming the Holy Spirit. How easy it is for us, even as indwelt Christians, to say things we devoutly wish only in moments later that we could retract.

*“The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin”* (Proverbs 13:3).

Victory in speech requires the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The tongue is a powerful tool to breed destruction in the lives of God’s children. With our tongues, we confess multitudes of beliefs. It is through these confessions of beliefs that bear witness, or lack of it, of the Life of Christ within us. With our mouths we insult others, say regretful things in anger, pledge our fruitless promises, and tell “off-color” stories—all which bear false witness to the Life of Christ who lives within us. God grants us the preservation of our souls by and through our speech.

*“He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles”* (Proverbs 21:23).

We can literally protect our lives from many troubles if we make use of our mouths by tapping into the Words of Christ in us. We can maintain victory just by walking after the Spirit and guarding our human words from slipping out.

*“The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence”* (Proverbs 10:11).

Violence is birthed through the mouth because true intentions and beliefs spring from the heart. Peace follows a well-guarded tongue. When we, by choice, guard our own minds from spewing forth words that produce division, we are able to release the Holy Spirit within us to shout Christ’s words, which produce righteousness and wisdom.

*“The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, but the perverted tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverted”* (Proverbs 10:31-32).

*“The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, But the mouth of the upright will deliver them”* (Proverbs 12:6).

*“A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him”* (Proverbs 12:14).

*“A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!”* (Proverbs 15:23).

One of the most real and true principles of life and the Scriptures regarding our speech is given in Proverbs 18:21: *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”* Men and women alike are given by their ability to speak, together with their position in and through the Life of Christ, the power over words that either produces life or death. Victory shown in the believer comes by way of the mouth first, and deeds second. Those times when we use our own words to advance our lives, we classically are attempting to aspire to positions of influence or authority over others--to be a little bit better. When we do this, we must reckon with the effects of our words returning to glorification of the self-life.

How wonderful and glorious to know God's great forgiveness and healing for the past misuse of our tongues, as well as the prospect of growth and victory in our speech through the daily appropriation of Christ as our life. It should always be our goal to have every word that proceeds out of our mouths to be coming from the mind of Christ within us.

The key element of victory in our daily living is to remember that our tongues are the gateway to evil or righteousness. If we forget this, victory is postponed for another day.

*“So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell”* (James 3:5-6).

When our speech is boastful (based in pride), we set aflame relationships here on earth, with the primary emphasis being destruction of the Body of Christ. When our speech is based on the mind of Christ, we build the Body of Christ and provide a solid example of the Gospel to self and others. Misuse of words is nothing short of godship. Remember that godship leads to further rejection, which builds the self-life to be destructive and independent.

Godship requires repentance, but this will not happen until there is brokenness. It is only through brokenness that we find humility (a little less than human). Humility then becomes our gateway to victory! Victory is the dwelling place of experiential understanding of our identification in Christ.

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