

May 1, 2022

## Your Words

by Ken Weliever

"I recently came across this 1997 bulletin article by my friend and preaching colleague, the late Dee Bowman entitled "Be Careful What You Say."

"It bothers me how we treat one another sometimes," Dee began from one of his journal entries.

He pointed out that the "The Scriptures say a lot about loving your brother, about making sure that he comes first in your preferences, that he is accorded the kind of respect and honor he deserves, even when you disagree with him."

Dee continues by expressing concern for when we use our words as "a flailing stick," or by "constantly shooting others down." He suggests that in our discussions and disagreements, even when we are right, we can still be wrong by what we say and how we say it.

From private discussions to chats over a cup of coffee to family gatherings to public presentations to just casual conversation, we both express and consume a lot of words every day.

A New York Times article, December 9, 2009, referenced a University of California report that the average American consumes 43GB of content and 100,000 words a day. That doesn't mean we read all of those words, but that in a single 24-hour period 100,000 words cross our eyes and ears. The information comes through a variety

of media—TV, movies, the Web, video games, texting, recorded music, and print media. Another study of 396 participants showed that both men and women spoke approximately 16,000 words a day.

I wonder with facebook and other social media outlets if that number has increased in the past 12 years?

Not surprisingly the Bible has a lot to say about your words.

"A good word aptly spoke is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Prov. 25:11)

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

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Prov. 12:18).

"A man finds joy in giving an apt reply — and how good is a timely word! (Prov 15:23).

Think about your words in the many situations in which we find ourselves.

You can speak a loving word to your spouse.

An encouraging word to your children.

A hopeful word to a disheartened friend.

A thankful word to someone who serves you. A soft word to an angry person.

A kind word to a fellow Christian.

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Our summer meeting** with Mike Walls is scheduled for June 19-22

**Our fall meeting** with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

A forgiving word to someone who has wronged you.

A friendly word to a stranger.

A cordial word to a co-worker.

And a cheerful word to all that we chance to meet.

Conversely, your words, can have the opposite impact.

A careless word may incite strife.

A brutal word may wound the soul.

A cruel word may discourage and depress.

An angry word may rupture a relationship.

A thoughtless word may hurt the heart.

Your words reveal what's in your mind and heart. Warren Wiersbe observed, "It is by our conversation at unguarded moments that we reveal our true character."

Indeed Jesus says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things."

He concludes with this sobering warning, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:35-37).

Seriously, consider your words. Whether written or spoken.

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** is home but still has very limited mobility.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother)** is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

**Debbie McMurray** is undergoing chemo.

**Wilma Shipley** broke her foot but is now walking on it again.

**Jimmy Stinnett** is having an irregular heart rhythm and had a stress test. They are adjusting his medications.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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