



April 28, 2010

Dear Ministry Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord! As you know, our mission is "Igniting the Next Generation for Christ. One way that we can accomplish this mission is to provide teenagers with opportunities to use their gifts and talents for the glory of God. Remember teenagers are NOT just the church of tomorrow. They are a vital part of the church TODAY! Therefore, it is our honor to introduce to you, JOSHUA WALDEN. Joshua is a member of Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC. The following article was written by Joshua.

A servant of Christ,

Brother Dale Elwell

"The Potency of Words"

(By: Joshua Walden)

Words are potent, and can be used to hurt or build up. The Bible tells Christians to communicate wisely by keeping their tongue under control and let God speak through them. Christians often forget the potency of their speech, and as a result, lose many opportunities to share the Gospel with unbelievers. God can speak through anyone, but He provides Christians with the incredible ability to change lives through their words. When Jesus spoke, everyone listened because what He said impacted them personally. Jesus could speak to thousands of people, but could still impact individuals and transform his or her life. Jesus never spoke rashly or without thought, and Christians should follow His example.

Christians should choose their words wisely because the impact of what they say could change lives. Psalms 141:3 shows how a Christian could speak wisely. "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." Christians should ask God to help them guard what they say, and never talk without thought. When words become many, the chance to sin becomes greater. Proverbs 10:19 says, "When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise." Christians need to keep a tight reign on their tongue, and not waste their words because others can get hurt when they speak without thought.

Gods' word tells Christians that just because He created them, they do not have the divinity and power to know the potency of their words. James 1:26 says, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." Every word spoken makes an impact, even when carelessly thrown away. James 3:10 tells Believers that they worship God with the same mouth that can wound human beings. "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." Christians

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igniting the next generation for Christ

should try to show respect to people with their words, not degrade them. When Believers think about what they say, they show the power of Godly communication.

Christians should show God's love and compassion for His creation through their words. They can bring someone into a relationship with the One that made them. Colossians 4:6 shows Believers how to communicate with others. "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Christians should love others with every word that comes out of their mouths, so that they can help those who need it. Proverbs 25:11 shows the beauty of words spoken with thought. "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." A Believers word should always build up and show Gods love, not hurt and humiliate.

Every word that comes out of a Believers mouth should be thought upon before spoken. The spoken word can show Gods love, but can also wound and destroy. When Christians follow in the footsteps of the Bible, their words impact everyone around them because God shines through what they say. God needs to remain the center of a Believers communication, whether with other Christians or with non-believers. When God remains the center, lives can change. God created all words, so why should Christians not use what God created to further His kingdom?

Youthwalk Devotional Bible. Wilkinson, Dr. Bruce, executive editor. Georgia: Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, 1973.