

# Words that Bring Life//*Still Standing*

## Message #4//Proverbs 18:21, et al

**Christmas in August: 60K**

### **Frontline...**

In all of RDU, all week, there is nothing more significant, more important, or more exciting than what is happening at our church. You get to be a part of that, to share in our successes.

**Starting next week, we have a new schedule...** Not that you're surprised, the only thing constant around here is change.

Seriously... in the next few weeks, our church is going to increase by 1000... so, we have to create some more space.

I'd like for you to look at this as a great new opportunity... for example, our BC Sat service... you can come and then volunteer the next day!

You're like, well, I use my Saturday night for friends: can still enjoy Saturday night with friends!

One last thing here to tie up a loose end... if you're not on Twitter. We're **having a boy... My girls are so excited...** Kharis wanted a boy because she said that she wants someone to play Star Wars with... got her wish... the only problem is course I stood in this pulpit a few weeks ago and said I was pretty sure it was a girl because I had decided "God doesn't send a man when there's already there in the house...." Been trying to process that.

We're in a study in Proverbs called "Still Standing." We're looking at the qualities of a life that stands, and today, we're going to explore a crucial element in all relationships: our words. The average person speaks close to 700 times a day. (For my daughters, I think that # is in the millions. Seriously, I have no idea who counts that.) For a woman that amounts to about 20,000 words a day, and for a man 7,000. (One thing my wife and I have noticed is that I've gone through most all of my 7K by the time I get home from work, and she, having been home with the kids all day, hasn't used hardly any of hers. So, I usually have about 300 words left and she's got about 19K.)

This is a major theme in Proverbs. KS brings it up over 90 times. I've got one major verse for us today: **18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue...***

Say it. "My tongue." If you're sitting beside your spouse or a good friend say... "Death is in the power of your tongue."

Everybody stick their tongue out. Feel how small it is? But this is the most powerful thing in all the earth. Death and life are in the power of it. Now say it again...

Many of your greatest memories are built around words said to us; many of your most painful memories include words.

So here's what I want you to see today: simply changing this could revolutionize your life, your relationships, and our church. Words are literally the power of life and death.

**Let me start with something pretty incredible thought: In the Bible, God's creation of life**

## **happens through words**

In Genesis, God speaks words, and there was light and planets and fish. (I believe... big bang: me too, I believe there was a pretty big bang when God spoke)

Most of Jesus' miracles happened through His words.

Jesus spoke and lame men walked.

He spoke and lepers were healed.

He spoke and storms stopped (underrated: rebuke: you rebuke things that obey you... employees... Jesus rebuked the storm. Kind of like when a car is going off in the parking lot... you walk out... "oh, sorry, that's my storm." I was thinking about how cool this would be with my kids... they're crying about thunder... I lie in bed with them, go open to window... "cut it out." He spoke, and storms stopped.

He spoke and dead men came out of graves.

Except for the occasional spittle and mud miracle, almost all Jesus' miracles were spoken words. Our salvation comes through believing words...

Going all the way back to Abraham... Abraham believed the Word of God and thereby received the strength into his sterile 99 year old body to impregnate his wife. You get that? It was by believing God's words, that he would have a son, that Abraham, a 99 year old man who had been sterile all his life, received the power to impregnate his 90 year old wife. Abraham says to Sarah: put in your dentures and put on some Marvin Gaye, we're going to start a family!

It is by believing the words of the Gospel that we ourselves are saved. The Gospel comes to us as an announcement in words about Jesus—announces to us that He is Lord and that He has accomplished on our behalf all that was required to save us—and when we believe the words of that announcement, we are born again in forgiveness and the new life of salvation.

The point: God's words are His power. They give life. In the same way, because we are created in the image of God, Solomon says, our words have the power of life too. The ability to speak is one of the key things that separate us from animals: (some animals exceed us in sight or smell or hearing). None can speak! (I know as soon as I say that... What about the dolphins? Yeah, Veronica and I saw that after school special too. Screeching about where there's a rotting eel carcass the clan can feed on is different than theorizing about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There's no declaration of independence among dolphins.) Speaking is one of the unique features of being created in God's image.

*So, I want you to show you today how King Solomon says, like God, your words can be life-giving words. 3 characteristics of life giving words.* Let me just cut to the chase... I want you to learn to speak like Jesus... one of my favorite descriptions of Jesus is in John 7:46... "Never man spoke as this man spoke." There was something about Jesus' words that made Him different. And I know what it was... John 1:17 said, "The Word was full of grace and truth." Jesus spoke with truth and grace.

I'm getting ahead of myself. 3 characteristics of life-giving words.

### **I. True words (27:5)**

Life giving words begin with truth. But sometimes the truth is painful. KS <sup>27:5</sup> *Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup> Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

If we are someone's friend, we will be willing to speak truth to them, even when it is wounds

them.

This is no fun, is it? Because very few people enjoy it when you speak painful truth into their lives—make that none. But, as this verse says, if you're a friend, you'll do it. Because you see that there is something that is destroying them. (Lie) Maybe they have a habit that is destroying them; maybe they are making choices that are really going to harm them. And you know that... But a lot of us don't want the pain of confronting our friends. We would rather keep the peace. But when we do that, we're not at all their friend. We're more like their enemy. We're kissing them when the more loving thing to do would be to wound them. But our kiss in that situation is more like Judas' kiss... It's not the work of a friend, "It's the work of an enemy."

"I just care about them too much to hurt them like that." What you're really saying is "I care about myself too much to have to go through the pain of telling them that."

I think about this as a pastor... I've told you I am a real people-pleaser... I love to preach sermons where everybody laughs and feels warm and fuzzy. But there are times when I know there is something you need to hear and I think, "No, God, do I have to? Can't I bring in a guest speaker to say that?" But if I love you as your pastor, I'll say it to you.

The other night my family was getting ready to go out for a special dinner, everyone was excited and in a good mood and one of my daughters told a lie... 2 things we spank for... direct disobedience, the other is lying... (you're like, "I don't believe in spanking, we do timeout; well, we put them in timeout too, we just spank them right before we put them in there.)... My thought when she did that: I was like, "Couldn't I let it go? I'm going to ruin the evening..." But... no... I love them too much to keep the peace in that moment... Value her character more than the temporary peace.

Listening to radio the other morning... APA has released this new statement about homosexuality... "*Homosexuals usually can't change. It brings no benefit to the homosexual person to make them feel guilty about their lifestyle by telling them they can change.*" So, their advice to anybody who says homosexuality is wrong is to "cease and desist" from saying that. And I thought, "the assumption in that statement is that there is no God and no reality they are living out of harmony with. But if there is a God, then His reality is the real reality, and so we have to tell them what that is, even when it's difficult. If a fish somehow flops out of his bowl because he saw something he liked out there, then if I love that fish I'd try to get the fish back in the bowl and not just let him think he's going to be ok outside the bowl. If I love someone who is living contrary to God's reality, I'll tell them. Lots of Christians are jerks about this... but, I'm just saying, at the very minimum, you don't have access to God's power of new life until the truth about a situation has been spoken.

One of the cruelest things we don't do with our words is tell people about Jesus... you got a neighbor, a friend... and they're not a Christian... never told them about Jesus... I don't want to bring it up... they might feel awkward? How unloving could you be? If you went to someone's house and saw that in their kid's room a black widow had built a web, would you just not tell them, afraid they might get embarrassed because they have a spider in their house? If we know that people's only hope of spending eternity with God is in Jesus, how can we not tell them about Him?

Principle 1: To speak like God, we must speak truth, even when it is painful for them and for us.

Now, on the other hand, there are some of you who have no problem with this... you just love to speak truth into people's lives; you love to tell them what is wrong with them... so the 2<sup>nd</sup>

characteristic is...we must speak

## II. Graceful words (15:4)

*Proverbs 15:4 – A gentle (Hebrew: healing) tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

Gentle tongue is a tree of life... means it restores back to “paradise.” Gentle literally means “healing”

Our words are to have as their aim healing.

The opposite of that is that you speak in a way that breaks the spirit... Often, you can say things to someone that are true, but the effects of your words is not healing, but breaking.

The Bible calls that “cursing our brothers.” Curse means you condemn them, or cut them down... (Difference in cursing and cussing. A lot Christians who believe they shouldn't cuss will curse somebody in a moment using all acceptable words. In the South, you can say just about anything about anybody as long as you say follow it with “Bless his heart.” What they really mean is “What a stupid freakin' idiot.” Cursing is a whole lot worse than cussing.

Let me give you a couple ways people often speak truth w/o healing:

### 1) Gossip:

Almost w/o exception, when we talk negatively about somebody to somebody else, we are not trying to restore...

Even if you preface it with “prayer request.”

**20:19** A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much. Now, you say, “Aren't there times when you really do have to explain something negative about someone to someone else?” Yes, there are times. But if so, you better a) make sure the motive of your heart is love; b) there better be a clear benefit for telling (if you were about to hire someone I knew was a thief). What about a prayer request? No, keep it between you and God.

Here's a little acid test: if you enjoy telling this thing.... It's not love—there are times I would tell you something negative about my kids; it's painful. I don't glory in their shame.

You can pretty much guarantee when you're gossiping you're not speaking with grace.

So, he says, avoid gossip. Hearing it or giving it.

Don't speak it: If you must speak negatively about someone, never speak about, always speak to...

Don't listen to it: A little practice I picked up... someone would come in my office and really start to throw someone under the bus... have you talked about this with them? And then pick up the phone...

BTW, 2<sup>nd</sup> part of that **verse** is good... “avoid a man who talks too much.” See whenever someone tells you, “So and so told me not to tell you this...” you can pretty much guarantee their talking about you and repeating what you told them not to say to others.

Our words are not healing when we gossip; second, they are not healing when **2) We don't have relational capital**

*Proverbs 12:18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

Some people only speak when they know something negative. There are sometimes when I get critiques from people... I suppose they mean well. But this is the first I've ever heard from them. Got a letter one time from someone who'd been coming to church here for 4 years, and they were upset at something I'd done or said... wrote me. And my thought was, “Of all the things I've said and done over the last 4 years,” you never saw fit to say something positive; the first

time you speak to me it's negative? It feels like a sword thrust.

We assume the strengths, and notice the weaknesses. We should reverse that: assume the weaknesses, and notice the strengths!

Some of you dads... you only speak negatively to your sons. In athletics... they are resenting you. I have to speak negatively to my daughters sometime... so I'm making sure I speak positively to them constantly so that when I do say something negative.

Some of you wives... the only thing you ever really say to your husband is negative! You note the one thing on his day off he didn't do that you asked him rather than the 3 things he did do! Healing words flow out of a positive, affirming, believing relationship. So, build the relationship so that when you do speak a word of rebuke, the person you're giving it to can receive it as if from someone who loves them, embraces them, approves of them, and accepts them!

Our goal in speaking ought always be to restore and to heal.

Whenever you say something negative, here's a question to ask: Whose benefit am I speaking for? What am I trying to do? Is that about making me feel good, or putting them in their place? Or is it done from a deep desire to heal?

Acid test: ***When you are speaking wounded words for the right reasons, it never feels good!***

You say "I'm probably a little of both..." Part of me wants to help them out; part of me wants to pay them back. Then pray and keep your mouth shut until the retribution impulse is gone.

### **III. Encouraging words (4:22; 10:11)**

**Proverbs 4:22,** <sup>22</sup>(These words) are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh;

God's words are words that give life. They're not just true; they give life.

**Illus.** The 12 spies: ***Numbers 13:32, "So they brought to the people of Israel an evil report about the land they had spied out."*** *Here's the thing:* everything they said was true! Yet God called their report evil, because the spies did not report from the perspective of what God wanted to do in the situation. Sometimes we can speak words that are true but are still considered evil because they are not done from the perspective of what God can and wants to do in someone!

Thus, when we speak, our words have to give life. They have to encourage people (en-courage, speak courage) to believe what God wants to do in the situation. **10:11 – The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.**

One of my favorite theologians on this was Martin Luther. Luther said the most amazing thing about God was the way He redefined reality with words. God looked into chaos and spoke the hopeful words of creation. He looked into the chaos of our sin and declared us righteous in Christ. By speaking those words, coupled with our belief in them, He reconstituted our reality. **If He had declared us lost He would have spoken truth, but He spoke a greater truth by recreating us with His words.**

*In other words, others might tell me I am a failure, an idiot, a clown, evil, incompetent, vicious, dangerous, pathetic etc., and these words are not just descriptive: they have a certain power to make me these things, in the eyes of others and even in my own eyes, as self-doubt creeps in and the Devil whispers in my ear.*

*But God's speaks louder, and his word is more powerful. You may call me a liar, and you speak truth, for I have lied; but if God declares me righteous, then my lies and your insult are not the final word, nor the most powerful word. I have peace in my soul because God's word is real reality. That's why I need to read the Bible each day, to hear the word preached each week, to come to God in prayer, and to hear words of grace from other brothers and sisters as I seek to speak the same to them. Only as God speaks his word to me, and as I hear that word in faith, is my reality transformed and do the insults of others, of my own sinful nature, and of the evil one himself, cease to constitute my reality. The words of my enemies, external and internal, might be powerful for a moment, like a firework exploding against the night sky; but the Word of the Lord is stronger, brighter, and lasts forever.*

Both Satan and the Holy Spirit speak truth. But God's voice offers life. God speaks and reconstitutes reality. God sees into the darkness and despair of a situation and speaks words of hope and life and renewal in it.

And for me to speak like God means that I help people see what God sees and believe their way into it. This is called the gift of "encouragement," and is one of the most overlooked spiritual gifts today. You literally "speak courage" into someone's life by helping them see what God wants to do and believe it!

Other people may say, "You are a failure. You are worthless. You are guilty." I want to say, (Romans 8:29-31) "No, You are chosen. You have a purpose. God wants to make you more than a conqueror."

Other people may say, "This is a recession. We are in despair. No future is secure." I want to say, (Phil 4:19) "The God I serve is Jehovah Jireh and He has promised to supply all my needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus."

Other people say, "Oh, she's lived a loose lifestyle. She's second hand; she's damaged goods now." I want to say, (2 Cor 5:17) "You are a new creation, washed in Jesus' blood and filled with His power."

Other people say, "You're just ordinary. Nothing spectacular about you." I want to say, (Eph 2:10) "You are God's workmanship, created specially in Christ Jesus precisely for the good works He wants you to do in His kingdom."

Again, the gift of encouragement is one of the most overlooked, but most valuable, spiritual gifts.

Why? Because we assume others' strengths and notice their weaknesses.

One of our primary roles as the body of Christ is to see God's the traces of God's work in someone's life, no matter how faint, to see the evidence of God's grace at work in someone, and fan that into flame. So when you see God at work in someone's life, no matter how faintly, commend it! See people through the lens of what God wants to do in them and speak words of faith and life into them. See the crown that God has placed above someone's head and help them believe their way into it!

A lot of times people say, "Well, I want to be careful about speaking too positively to someone and commending them too much because I don't want to give them a big head." I want to guard their pride. Bull. Such an attitude shows little to no awareness of the human condition—how

most people live with an inward sense of despair, and no awareness of how God works. I think about the men that had the greatest impact on me... it wasn't the ones that just gave me constructive criticism; it was the men who saw something in me that I didn't even see yet and they called it out in me! I get teary eyed thinking about how often these men told me they believed in me and I need to hear it because I didn't believe in myself. Chief among these was my dad. He knew how to speak strength and hope into me. He knew how to see what God was doing in me and what God wanted to do in me and He called me to believe it!

Again: the gift of encouragement is one of the most overlooked, and most valuable, spiritual gifts.

So, I have a little project for us: It's a 7-day challenge for you... very serious. I have explained that we tend to assume the strengths and notice the weaknesses. What if you reversed that for 7 days you noticed the strength. Verbally. For 7 days, every positive thing you think about someone, you tell them.

Just tell them; jot a note.

One word of caution: guys, don't be sketchy with this... "girl... you be looking hot! I am just being honest."

Any sermon that ends with a "to-do" list where you say "do this" and "do that" is a "do-do" sermon. Our words come out of our heart.

**16:23 The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious...**

To speak wisely, we must have the right kind of heart.

What comes out of our mouth is an indication of what is in our heart.

In Matthew 12:34–37: Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks

If that is true, then most of us are in trouble. "Tape recorder."

So, how can you change your heart? Not just by changing your speech. Putting lemonade into polluted water... we have hatred and death and jealousy and bitterness in our hearts. How do we get that out?

**4:22 (These words) are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.** The words of the Bible tell a story that goes into our hearts and changes us.

Jesus got a word of affirmation: baptism: this is my son. That is something we have all longed to hear; the absolute approval of the all-glorious, all-satisfying God. That Jesus, when he went to the cross, looked back up into heaven and said, "My God, My God..." He got the silent treatment on our behalf. But because he did that in my place, I can now receive in His place the words of affirmation. God says to me, 'You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.' In that affirmation I have the approval of the only one who really matters.

That stops the war in our hearts—at last we have found the assurance of love we have longed for. Proof: Pentecost/Babel. The disorder moved to order. So with us.

You need to believe the word; if you're a believer, you need to grow in that word. I think that is the most important thing you can get out of a church: to be in a place where you hear the message of the Gospel and God's great love for you over and over. Forget music styles; forget which place gives you goosebumps during worship; get the Word into your heart!

**Prayer:**

Lord, I confess I have wounded others with my words. My words indicate I have a very bad heart. God, help me to rest in your love for me, and may my words become life-giving words. Help me to speak truthfully, graciously, and en-couragingly, just as you have spoken with me. **And, if you've never received Christ and you want to,** say "Jesus, as much as I know how, I let you have the controls in my life. I accept your offer to save me and make ne new. Make yourself real to me and change my life. In Your name I pray, Amen."

## Bullpen:

10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

Hebrew parallelism: Tongue, heart are the same. Because the one always reflects the other.

Jesus' words were not just true, they were healing. They were full of grace, and truth. "The Son of Man did not come into the world to condemn the world." No one ticked more people off by speaking truth than Jesus did. But His words dripped with love and grace and constantly invited people back into relationship!

Gossip is saying behind someone's back what you would never say to their face; flattery is the opposite: saying to someone's face what you would never say behind their back.

(Stick tongue out.) This one small thing could revolutionize your lives, your marriage, and our church.

Proverbs gives us the characteristics of a life that is built to last. Anybody can feel together when life is going well. But in a recession, or in the midst of declining health, or a deteriorating relationship... that's when you see how strong your life is. So, for several weeks we looked at the foundations of a godly life. Now, we are looking at some of the behaviors of people who build enduring, lasting lives.

God-like words are "en-couraging" words. See how that word breaks apart? The literally give courage.

Let me go back to that statement, 'We often assume the strengths and notice the weaknesses.' We should reverse that. We should assume the weaknesses and notice the strengths. One of our primary roles as the body of Christ is to see God's potential in a situation and call people to believe in it. Or, we are to see the traces of God's work in someone's life, no matter how faint, to see the evidence of God's grace at work in someone, and fan that into flame. We help them see the life-giving words that God has spoken over a person and give them the courage to believe it!

Don't give pearls to swine

Spoken in Faith:

Proverbs 10:11 – The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

One of most neglected spiritual gifts: Power of encouragement

Break apart the word and it means "to speak strength into someone's life."

I love being around people with it! They seem to know when and how to call out the grace in my life. It is one of the things I most love about my dad. He was far from a silly, positive-thinking devotee, but he knew how to speak strength and hope into me. He still does. The thing that most of the mentors who meant the most to me had in common was that they would most often speak strength, not criticism, into me. I get teary eyed thinking about how often these men told me they believed in me.

It is easy for us to "assume the strengths" in others and "notice the weakness." We can even write it off as being "helpful," and guarding their pride. Bull. Such an attitude shows little to no awareness of the human condition, or how God works. I believe we should reverse that. Assume others' weaknesses and notice their strengths.

See the promises of God over people and situations and speak words of belief in those promises.

Instead of listening to the bad reports of the economy, why not speak God's promises that He is Jehovah Jireh who will provide for you!

See the flame of God's work within them and fan that flame.

Instead of telling your kids how much

Instead of hearing the words of condemnation... why not speak your new identity in Christ?

Instead of noticing the one bad thing your husband didn't do on his day off, why not commend him for the things you appreciate about him?

*Before we speak, we need to ask ourselves what the Redeemer wants to accomplish in the situation, and we need to be committed to be a part of it.* Paul Tripp, *War of Words*, 160. **GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOU IN THE SITUATION!**

Opposite of gentle, graceful words are words that break the spirit.

**When we are not trying to help the person. At that point, our words curse**

Of the two, cursing is much more important. You can curse someone while using all sanitized Christian words.

In the South, we say "Oh, bless his heart," which really means "what a stupid freakin' idiot"...

Maury: "Damn"

When we gossip...

Verses about talebearers? Don't tell them.

When we don't have the relationship

((God speaks truth. God gives us an accurate picture of reality. One of the problems when you lie is you create a false reality for people. They conform their lives to a reality that is not really there. We have to be willing to describe reality to people as it is, so that they can adjust their lives to it.

Specifically in Proverbs it talks about being willing to speak truth into people's lives when they

are not in conformity to God's reality.))

### **Change your life by changing your words.**

Allie and the Spongebob comment

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See HYPERLINK ".../AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Topics/Words"[words notes](#) in topic file

Importance of words: God's greatest works were done through words...

Examples of ungodly words\* (Dustin and Furtick)

Characteristics of godly words: Truthful  
alternate reality?

see also the need to rebuke

Friendly wounds- words that your friend needs to hear, that are going to be painful for that friend to hear, yet they have to hear them. If you're afraid to tell them, then you're not really a friend.

- You think you are loving by hiding the truth, "I love this person too much to tell them the truth", but this is the "work of an enemy". It is just as bad as Judas betraying with a kiss. What you're really saying is "I love myself too much to have to go through that".

Gentle... (see Keller notes. It is GENTLE, merciful words that create real change. Gentle words can still rebuke, exhort—Keller) works better than sarcasm or insults or berating

Hope and faith: the report of the Israelite spies was true but still called evil

Assume positive; note the weakness

How to change our words:

Words reveal our hearts... "wise man out of his heart"...

<sup>16:23</sup> The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

<sup>10:20</sup> The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

Hebrew parallelism: Tongue, heart are the same. Because the one always reflects the other.

The average person speaks close to 700 times a day (I have no idea who counts that). That's the average. For some you, that number is in the thousands. You speak 3500 words a day. 3500 glimpses into your heart. In Matthew 12:34–37: Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks

Tape recorder out of our mouths/Adirondack well

Jesus' was declared son of God by words (Matthew 3) & we are saved by appropriating that which He has earned for us); Pentecost; He was the Word; Jesus got silent treatment on the cross

Challenge: for 14 days say everything positive that comes into your mind

### **Difference in cursing and cussing...**

Of the two, cursing is much more important. You can curse someone while using all sanitized Christian words.

In the South, we say "Oh, bless his heart," which really means "what a stupid freakin' idiot"...

Maury: "Damn"

Words can change your life... instead of listening to the bad reports of the economy, why not speak God's promises that He is Jehovah Jireh who will provide for you! Instead of hearing the

words of condemnation... why not speak your new identity in Christ? Instead of noticing the one bad thing your husband didn't do on his day off, why not commend him for the things you appreciate about him?

**Need interpretation:**

<sup>24:26</sup> Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.

<sup>25:11</sup> A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

((It is by the Word Jesus brings an end to all His enemies on the last day. The Book of Revelation says that the armies of the world are gathered against Him, and Jesus opens His mouth and a sword comes out and destroys His enemies. Doesn't mean a literal sword... it means He speaks and it is done.))

Or someone will come up to me after a sermon and say "Here's the one thing you did wrong." A lot of times they are right. But they never come up and say "Man, that was really great." Of all the things I preach, this is the only thing you comment on? It makes me feel like all that you see me as is negative, which is like a "sword thrust."

Sinclair Ferguson: Like God, when we speak, we put our "soul" into the world.

You see, when you lie to someone, you are causing them to live in a false reality. (If you go on a date with a girl and you tell her you're an architect that makes 200K a year and in reality you're unemployed and live with your parents, you have caused them, for a short amount of time, to live in a false reality, and that's going to keep them from getting to know you—and will probably work out bad for you when they find out.) In the same way, when someone's life is out of conformity to God's truth, and we allow them to go on living like that, without ever saying something to them, you are allowing them to live in a false reality that is going to harm them.

David Jeremiah.

Proverbs 11:9 – With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

The Word is the central in every major section of the Bible... Jewish Old Testament has 3 major divisions: Genesis; Joshua; Psalms; John opens the New Testament with "in the beginning was the Word"—that's Jesus' main identity in the Bible... He is the Word of God.

