



“WITH MY MOUTH”

Mary Mayko 2010

James 3:9-10 CEV “My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praises and curses. We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn’t right.”

Isn’t it amazing, how much easier it is for people to do exactly what the Bible tells us not to do! Words spill carelessly from a mouth with negative or untrue statements about another person as easily as rain falls unrestricted from the clouds above us! The old saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me” is far from the truth!

Proverbs 26:22 CEV “The words of a whisperer or slanderer are like dainty morsels or words of sport to some, but to others are like deadly wounds; and they go down into the innermost parts of the body or the victim’s nature.”

Reputations have been damaged, relationships destroyed, battles have erupted, lives have been lost over words spoken from a person who was made in the image of God! James reminds us that this is certainly not right! He tells us our tongues can get out of control and spread evil and deadly poison!

Proverbs 18:20-21 tells us just how powerful the tongue can be. “Make your words good~~ you will be glad you did. Words can bring death or life! Talk too much, and you will eat everything you say!”

If we use hateful words with others, and hatefulness comes back to us, and we have to eat them, that will leave a very bitter taste in your mouth! Seems we have a built in defense systems, and if we are assaulted with unkindness, we want to get even! While it is a natural thing to want to attack the other person, it actually drags us down to their level! The more gracious thing is to rise above that low level and to bless those who curse us!

Luke records some interesting instructions from Jesus in his Book, ch.6:27-28 CEV “This is what I say to all who will listen to me; Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you.”

To curse someone is to speak evil of him, causing harm or injury, and cutting him off from receiving blessings! If we bless someone, we bestow favor on them, treat them with goodness and wish them well! Many lives have been changed for the better when someone has been treated as a person of value!

Proverbs 10:13a, 19-20 CEV “If you have good sense, it will show when you speak.” “You will say the wrong thing if you talk too much~~ so be sensible and watch what you say. The words of a good person are like pure silver, but the thoughts of an evil person are almost worthless.”

Proverbs 16:24 CEV “Kind words are like honey~~ they cheer you up and make you feel strong.” Excellent words can bring a healing to a hurting soul!

Since we have such wise and godly instruction from God’s Word, we need to apply them daily in a practical way. We need to know when to speak and when to be silent! While this does not always stop evil words from coming at us, it is better not to answer a fool!

Proverbs 26:4CEV “Answer not a self-confident fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.”

Psalm 39:1 CEV “I told myself, “I’ll be careful not to sin by what I say, and I’ll muzzle my mouth when evil people are near.”

Will we spew out curses or watch our mouth so we will speak kindness and blessings?
Psalm 141:3 “Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips.”

Psalm 37:30-31 CEV “Words of wisdom come when good people speak for justice. They remember God’s teachings and they never take a wrong step.”

Lastly, accept Peter’s teaching on guarding our personal lives. 1 Peter 3:16-17 CEV “Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear. This way you will make people ashamed for saying bad things about your good conduct as a follower of Christ. You are better off to obey God and suffer for doing right than to suffer for doing wrong.”

With my mouth opened wide I will praise the Lord my God all my days! With my mouth I will speak blessings to others.

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“A LOOK THROUGH LOT’S EYES”

By Dan Price 2010

I looked across the plains of Jordan, and they were very green and fertile to my eyes. I thought within myself, *this is the place I will pick!* Abraham’s servants and mine have been quarreling so much ~~~ even to the point of fighting among themselves while they are herding cattle, sheep and other livestock! Last evening my Uncle Abraham met me and we talked about this matter. He has given me first choice of the land before us, in any direction!

The God of our Fathers has especially blessed Abraham in riches. I too, have been blessed because I have been in his household. His wisdom is wise, I will separate my household from his, or God forbid~~ we might become enemies!

The sun has risen and the bright rays with their warmth on the plains are breathtaking! If Abraham doesn’t want this fertile plain, I may as well take it! He gave me first choice, does he know what he is going to miss out on? Eastward are the cities and beyond is Sodom and Gomorrah. My family and I may as well satisfy our wants and desires.

It has not been that long since I was in the plains and valley. I have somehow edged closer to the cities and pitched my tent toward them. I have allowed the inhabitants of the city to change me. I have been drawn to the feasts and pleasures of life. My eyes have deceived me. I have been unaware of the events which have taken place. Time has passed along. *How things have changed*~~~ I am struggling within myself. It has been a restless day. Things have not gone too well. *What have I gotten myself into?* My daughters have all intermarried to the men of this wicked city. I am just a man mocked!

It is now evening and I am at the gate of the city. I feel a trembling and a hidden fear within as two men are before me. Their faces shine like Angels of God. Quickly I bowed myself and invited them to our home as guests. The hour of sleep is near, but there is a

loud uproar on every corner of my house. There is a mob from the city ready to abuse the messengers of God!

When morning came the two messengers put us out of the city. To my dismay there were not enough righteous people to save the city! I remembered the messengers saying, "Don't look back, lest you are consumed by the fire!" My wife could not resist, she was turned into a pillar of salt!

Today I look and awaken with several questions that we must all answer! Have we let this world condition us to the things of the world? We look toward our jobs as security, our homes as refuge. As we labor among our fellow co-workers, is our light shining forth in their world that is dim? Are we becoming like the world, or are we separating ourselves from it?

Is the green grass of the plains alluring us? Drawing us closer to it?
Have the pleasures of life and entertainment, money, music crept in subtly and overpowered our priorities?
Have we grown cold and indifferent in our life?
What direction have we pitched our tent?

"Lord, don't let my heart grow cold. Draw me closer to You and let my life be in tune with You. Lord, You are my Shepherd; Lead me to and in Your Green Pastures. Lord, let me put You first in my life, not my wants or desires."

As I read Lot's account in Genesis, I wonder will we be consumed by fire? Or, by God's Grace will we come through it pure as gold?

Let us all take inventory of our life. Have we been guilty of taking a *Look Through Lot's Eyes?*

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10a KJV

"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; But know for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh.

Psalm 32:8 NKJV "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

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“MARVELOUS MAY!”

Rev. J. Kehl Golding

**“We henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [tricks] of men, and cunning craftiness [cleverness] whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, may GROW UP INTO HIM IN ALL THINGS, WHICH IS THE HEAD EVEN CHRIST.”
EPHESIANS 4:14-15**

Many consider May the most beautiful of all months. This of course, is a matter of opinion. But, an established fact in the world of botany tells us it is a month of great growth in a plants' life.

In fact May, number five in our calendar, according to the dictionary, is so named after the goddess of growth, “Maia” and so named because it is regarded as a month of the greatest growth in a plant's life.

Recently, I walked the edge of my lawn, over by the fence there is a deep dense plot of ivy. I've wanted to plant spring bulbs in it. Last year one of my sons planted all the Easter bulbs in it for me. All winter I waited to see if they would grow. Several weeks ago I saw the first little green shoots coming up in one of the spots. We have had very cold weather, and two snows, but those tiny 'hyacinths' kept growing.

On one of the warmer mornings, the dog and I walked over to inspect them more carefully. Not only the three bulbs, but an increase, there is a fourth! We walked down a row, and discovered another one. Then we moved a large heavy pine branch that had fallen, and there to my surprise under all those needles and weight was a hyacinth in bloom! The lovely bluish-violet against the dark green ivy makes quite a sight! All this time, God was at work making this lovely sight, quite unknown to me!

All I could think of was a Scripture verse I've quoted to you many times, and I will again, because of the truth that lies within it: “And the WORK of righteousness SHALL Be peace and the EFFECT of righteousness QUIETNESS and ASSURANCE forever.”
Isaiah 32:17

There comes a moment of decision making after we are saved. We realize we have a choice, go on a babe in Christ, or understand if we are to grow in Christ, it will demand our entire consecration!

I recently drove past a church that had the following on its' marquee. "God wants full custody, not just weekend visits!"

If we are to grow in Christ, there will be time spent in prayer, a time of listening for God's voice, not just our own. There will be time spent in the Word- far beyond the Psalms, but time actually studying the Word- as a mirror, so we can see our needs and address them.

This will be done, behind the scenes quietly alone with God. So He can work in secret, much like He worked on the hyacinth, and one day the "bloom" will be discovered- one day we'll see begin to see our growth. When we come from this private time with Him, righteousness is produced, this is "uprightness with God". We'll know it as "peace, quietness and assurance." Those about us will see a different reaction to trials, problems, and difficulties.

I recently talked with a Pastor, this person was a student of mine, many years ago, one that has "kept in touch." This one, has a real Pastor's heart, that still preaches holiness of living, conduct and conservation, as well as clothing. But, had this to say: "Today Pastoring is glorified baby sitting - one must bottle and burp his people through every trial and test that comes along. Saints do not seem willing to get a hold of Him and the Word for themselves."

I believe this to be true for many, because we have become conditioned to calling the doctor for every ache and pain. He will prescribe a pill for me to "Pop." Never mind prayer, exercise, proper food and rest for the condition. If we have a spiritual test or trial we'll call the pastor- he'll have God's answer for me to "Pop." Never mind my waiting on God in prayer, or diligently seeking the answer for myself in the Word, after all, "I have so much to do!"

Read again in Ephesians 4:11-13 "And He gave some apostles: and some prophets: and some evangelists: and some pastors and teachers."

The **reason** He gave these people ---"For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying [building up] of the Body of Christ. Till we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge [appreciation] of the Son of God unto a perfect [MATURE] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

WHY?

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [tricks] of man, and cunning craftiness [cleverness] whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

Paul further challenges us in this fourth chapter of Ephesians to be over comers, no longer babes in Christ with very strong words: "This I say therefore and TESTIFY in the LORD, that ye henceforth WALK NOT as other Gentiles walk in the vanity [emptiness] of their mind."

Because___ here's the result!

“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated [turned away] from the Life of GOD through ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness [callous condition] of their heart:

Who being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness [evil indulgences] to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have NOT so learned Christ:

If so be that ye have HEARD HIM, AND HAVE BEEN TAUGHT by Him, as the Truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation [manner of life] the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts: And be RENEWED in the spirit of your mind: And that ye put on the NEW MAN which after God is created in RIGHTEOUSNESS and TRUE HOLINESS. [Holiness of Truth].”

These Scriptures leave no doubt about what should be taking place in a HEALTHY, born again Christians' life. There should be Growth after we come to Christ. The OLD [sinful ways of life] must be put away, gone completely from the NEW man's way of life. These habits must go, if we are to grow in Christ.

Just like the winter must go, and spring come, if the plant is to GROW there must be warm sun, water and elements in the soil, a complete change in the environment, and so it is with us. We must turn our backs on the old, take on a NEW ENVIROMENT. This will include reading the Word, prayer and attending a Bible believing church as well as new Christian friends.

It will also include much of TV and movies, even activities of the world watches and is involved in.

But all this will add to growth that leads to MATURITY.

The growing month of May is a great time for each of us to get started, and watch the marvelous outcome that will glorify His Name!

Happy growing..... as you rest in His Presence!
Rev. J. Kehl Golding