

Gospeling

Message 03 of the series: "Speak Life"

I. We can choose to speak life or speak death.

"Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose." Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

II. We can speak death if we don't control our tongues.

"...the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!"

James 3:5-10 (NLT)

"If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." James 1:26 (NIV)

III. We can speak life by gospeling.

Gospeling (*obsolete*) = Instructing others in the Gospel.

- a. Gospeling means telling others the Good News that no matter who we are or what we've done, Jesus has made it possible for us to have a personal relationship with God.

The bad news: "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23 (NLT)

The Good News: "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation... So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."

Romans 5:6-11 (NLT)

We must respond. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

Life Application: This week I will speak life to insert name here by telling him/her the Good News about Jesus.

"Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you." Romans 8:10-11 (NLT)

- b. Gospeling means intentionally looking for opportunities to share the Good News about Jesus.

Finding common ground: "I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings." 1 Corinthians 9:20-23 (NLT)

Always being ready: "...if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ."

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)

Speaking graciously: "Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ... Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone."

Colossians 4:3-6 (NLT)

Life Application: This week I will intentionally look for opportunities to speak the Good News about Jesus at insert place here.

- c. Gospeling means reminding other believers of our new identity in Christ.

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God **loved us and chose us** in Christ to be **holy and without fault** in his eyes. God decided in advance to **adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious **grace he has poured out on us** who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he **purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins**. He has **showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding**... And when you believed in Christ, he **identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit**, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the **inheritance** he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people.”

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NLT)

Life Application: This week I will speak life to insert name here by reminding him/her of his/her identity in Christ.

I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. I have been chosen by God, adopted into his family, accepted, and loved unconditionally. Jesus has purchased my freedom, forgiven all of my sins and made me holy and without fault. I have been showered with grace and kindness, wisdom and understanding, and I have received the Holy Spirit as a guarantee that I will spend eternity with God in heaven.

Why it matters:

- If I don’t believe I am **forgiven and accepted**, I will constantly focus on my faults, failures and sins of the past, waiting for God to get even with me.
- If I don’t believe I am **covered by grace**, I will attempt to earn God’s love by doing more for Him, and I will wear myself out.
- If I don’t believe I’ve been **adopted into God’s family**, I will live like an orphan providing for myself and attempting to live the Christian life in my own strength. I’ll be anxious, fearful and constantly comparing myself to others.
- I can’t give away what I don’t possess!

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Quotations by Charles Spurgeon on sharing the Gospel:

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”

“We are not responsible to God for the souls that are saved, but we are responsible for the Gospel that is preached, and for the way in which we preach it.” Charles Spurgeon

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.”

Connect Group Questions:

1. What is the best thing that has happened to you in the last 10 years?
2. How do you navigate difficult conversations?
3. Read Romans 1:16-17. Why do you think Paul referenced not being ashamed of the Gospel? What does it look like to be ashamed of the Good News of Jesus Christ?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What would it look like for a person “to become all things to all people” so that they can have the opportunity to share the Gospel?
5. Which of the following statements do you believe is more true? “I need to go find unbelievers to share the Gospel with,” or “God has already put unbelievers all around me in my daily life.” How should this change your approach to the everyday, mundane activities of life?
6. Read John 13:34-35. What impact, if any, does our response to fellow believers have on unbelievers following Christ? Is love the key for ‘gospeling’ (sharing the Gospel with others)? (see John 3:16)
7. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What are some things that jump out at you in this passage? How can you use these statements to encourage other believers?
8. Name someone (a believer or unbeliever) who comes to your mind that needs to hear the Gospel? How will you share with them this week?