

## The Power of Your Tongue (Part 1)

*Death and life are in the **power of the tongue**: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof*  
(Prov. 18:21)

**Introduction:** Two alternate English version:

- The Easy to Read Version: this, *“The tongue can speak words that bring life or death. Those who love to talk must be ready to accept what it brings.”*
- The Good News Translation: *“What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words.”*
- It has been well said that words are the seed-bed of power. The Bible tells us that the tongue has power to bring forth fruit in our lives that culminate in death or life. One of the Hebrew definitions for the word “power” in this passage is “destiny” (Strong’s dictionary). Our words are seed that shape our future and direct our destiny. Our words have power to produce. Therefore, this teaching is vitally important to the child of God.

1. In our last lesson we learned that we have the authority to open doors to God’s blessings and Satan’s destructive ways in our lives.

- a. James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:7-9
- b. We can submit to God and run Satan out of our lives or we can submit to Satan and run God out of our lives. The choice is ours.

2. Complaining (showing a lack of appreciation) and speaking against God’s appointed leaders opens the doors for Satan:

- a. Num. 21:5-6
- b. Quite often in the Old Testament God is said to have done what He allowed or permitted Satan to do when He removes His protection (see 2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chron. 21:1)
- c. The Hebrew word for sent is *shalach*. This word means *allow* or *permit*. God did not *send* these serpents on Israel as a man would sic his ferocious dog on a perpetrator. God

was forced to remove the restraints He held on nature and *permit* the snakes (and the demonic forces who control animal violence) to kill.

- d. The snakes had already been in the wilderness. God was protecting them from the snakes – Deut. 8:15.
- e. The fact that God *led* the children of Israel in the area in which these serpents existed means that He was protecting them “...*from hidden dangers and from deadly diseases*” (Psalm 91:3; Easy to Read Version)
- f. “*He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him*” (Eccl. 10:8).

3. Satanic forces were the ones that released the snakes among the people:

- a. 1 Cor. 10:10
- b. The Phillip’s New Testament: “*Nor yet must you curse the lot that God has appointed to you as they did, and met their end at the hand of **the angel of death.***”
- c. The “Destroyer” here is known among the Jews as “The angel of death”. The Bible tells us that it is Satan who held the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15).
- d. The Word Study Greek New Testament offers an interesting translation of this passage: “*But not we might pressure out the Christ, just as some of them pressured and by the snakes were destroyed.*”
- e. We push Christ away with our incessant Grumbling and complaining. Our words have power to open doors and close them to both Christ and Satan.

4. Jesus saves us from ourselves.

- a. Num. 21:7-9; John 3:14-15
- b. When we repent and return to Christ God is more than happy to relieve us from the destructive works of Satan. As a matter of fact, He sacrificed Himself to do so.