

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: The Easy to Read Version renders this, *“The tongue can speak words that bring life or death. Those who love to talk must be ready to accept what it brings.”* 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. The word “power” comes from the Hebrew word “yad” which is usually translated as “hand”.
 - a. Metaphorically it is a reference to power:
 - b. *Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and **in thine hand is power and might**; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all* (1 Chron. 29:12).
 - c. *Behold, **the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save**; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.* (Isa. 59:1-2)
 - d. As we will learn, we have the power to either receive or hinder God’s power from working in our lives through our words and our actions.

2. The word for “power” in Prov. 18:21 is the exact same word used in reference to God creating the universe:
 - a. *The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land* (Psalm 95:5)
 - b. When we read Genesis 1 we see that God actually spoke every thing into existence. Therefore, when the Bible talks about God creating with His “hands” it is a metaphorical reference to His mighty power in creation.

- c. *What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over the works of **thy hands**; thou hast put all things under his feet* (Psalm 8:4-6; Revised Standard Version)
- d. First, take note that God indeed cares for you. He is deeply in love with you. Second, note that you have been made a little lower than God Himself. You are created in His image and His likeness (Gen. 1:26-28).
- e. You have been given authority over the works that God created in His power. You must exercise this power via your words. What you do with this power is up to you.

3. You have authority to choose whether God or the devil will operate in your life. Your words will determine which one:

- a. Gen. 4:6-7; 1 John 3:12; James 4:7; Eph. 4:26-27; 1 Pet. 5:7-9; Rev. 3:20
- b. Which ever person you choose to operate in your life will determine whether you receive “life” in your life or “death” in your life.