

MESSAGE 1:

DYNAMITE IN YOUR DENTURES

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: JAMES 3:1-12 (NASB)

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on Dynamite in Your Dentures is to make people aware that through their words, people have the power to direct the course of their lives to damage lives or even to determine life itself.

INTRODUCTION: Although most people don't realize it, there is incredible force behind the words we use. In one breath we have the power to both build people up or tear them down.

Alfred Nobel brought the world dynamite with the hopes that it would be used for clearing large rocks and other obstacles

for the purpose of building roads and bridges. In a few short years, his invention became a tool of the military to be used against foreign enemies. To him, it was inconceivable that his dynamite would be used to destroy.

The Bible tells us that the tongue is a fire, which the devil constantly seeks to ignite into something that will destroy. One word wrongly spoken has often been the cause of broken friendships and family feuds. But this is not God's plan. That same fire can be used to edify and encourage people. When it comes to relationships, God wants us in the construction business, not the destruction business.

The Bible also says that the tongue is akin to a bit in a horse's mouth or a rudder on a ship; it is something so small, yet commands the direction of something so large! As such, words have the power to direct the course of our lives toward positive or negative ends.

In fact, the tongue holds the power of life itself. When God made the heavens and the earth, the trees and mountains, the fish and the animals, and even humanity itself, He did so by speaking simple words. As creatures fashioned in His image, we also possess life-giving speech.

Spoken words have such potency; they can motivate, instruct and console, but they also can discourage, confuse and even devastate. For this reason, we should choose what we say with care and build people up instead of tearing them down.

SERMON POINTS:

1. YOUR MOUTH HAS THE POWER TO DIRECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

- A "perfect person" (spiritually mature) has bridled the tongue.
- We all have stumbled in how we've lived our lives, and no one is perfect.
- The "perfect person" has bridled the tongue, therefore he or she is able to bridle all the other stumbling blocks of life.



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- Your Christianity is worthless if you can't control your tongue.
- 2. YOUR MOUTH HAS THE POWER TO DO DAMAGE TO YOUR LIFE.**
- The damage done by the tongue is devastating. One single word can be like a spark that starts a fire.
 - The tongue is able to do so much damage because it has the power of hell behind it.
 - The tongue is more difficult to tame than taming wild animals.
- 3. YOUR MOUTH HAS THE POWER TO DETERMINE LIFE.**
- Christians must start relating and thinking better.
 - There is a difference between church programs and true spiritual revival.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

ALFRED NOBEL, DYNAMITE, AND THE PEACE PRIZE: It was in 1866 that Alfred Nobel invented dynamite. He developed the explosive power of nitroglycerin in stick form so that it would bring great benefit to mankind. They began to use dynamite to clear debris for the building of roads and bridges. The power of dynamite had the ability to improve the convenience, the progress and the livelihood of mankind. But soon, nations discovered how to use it for war. That same dynamite that was created to build society could also be used to destroy life by bombing an enemy. Alfred Nobel was so impacted by the negative use of dynamite that before he died, he bequeathed his vast fortune to the establishment of the Nobel Peace Prize. He didn't want his legacy to be connected to destruction; he wanted it to be connected to peace. As people, we also have dynamite in our dentures, meaning that we have the equivalent power of dynamite just in the very words we use.

A 1,500-POUND HORSE CAN BE STEERED WITH A LITTLE PIECE OF METAL: When you get on a horse, a 1,500 lb. beast, you can move it to the left, and you can move it to the right with a little piece of metal in its mouth. Have you ever seen a wild stallion—a horse that's not under control? It's not bridled. That's a horse that's going to buck you off. That's a horse that's going to hurt you. That's a horse out of control. But when you put that bit in its mouth

and bring it under the control of the one who's riding it, a 100 lb. woman can steer a 1,500 lb. animal using a small piece of metal in its mouth. The correlation here is that if you control the mouth/tongue/speech, you control the rest of the body.

AN ENTIRE CRUISE SHIP THAT HOLDS THOUSANDS CAN BE STEERED BY A TINY RUDDER: Cruise ships today are enormous; they have malls and hold upwards of 7,000 people. They have all kinds of swimming pools, ice skating rinks, movie theatres; they are like floating cities. And when the storm breaks out, comparatively, they each have a little tiny rudder that steers the ship even though it's subject to the storm. Similar to the previous observation, the correlation here is that if you control the mouth/tongue/speech, you control the rest of the body.

MRS. O'LEARY'S COW STARTED THE CHICAGO FIRE OF 1871: Mrs. O'Leary's cow caused the entire city of Chicago to burn. On October the 8th, 1871, a cow belonging to Catherine O'Leary kicked a lantern in the barn and set some hay on fire. Within minutes, the entire barn was ablaze, and due to those Chicago winds, the flames ended up spreading throughout Chicago, burning a large percentage of the city, leaving 100,000 people homeless, 7500 buildings destroyed, and the deaths of 300 people. The correlation here is that one simple, seemingly innocent word or comment has the potential of spreading and creating enormous damage.

WE CAN TAME CIRCUS AND ZOO ANIMALS MORE EASILY THAN TAMING OUR OWN TONGUES: We've all been to the circus, and we know what it's like to see tamed animals. Whoever thought a human being could boss a lion around? The lion has the power to tear that person apart, but it's been tamed. Who would have thought we can tell a tiger what to do? The tiger goes up, sits down, runs around or jumps through hoops because a person tamed it. The ones we can't tame we place in a zoo. But animals will also fake us out. They'll make us think we tamed them until the right set of circumstances show up. Then they show us through harsh reality just how difficult it is to truly tame an animal. The correlation here is that it is more difficult to tame one's own tongue than it is to tame a wild animal.



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THE TWO JUMPING FROGS: Two frogs were walking one day, and unbeknownst to them there was a big ditch that they didn't see, and both frogs fell into the deep ditch. So they started doing what frogs do: they jumped, hoping to get out. But the ditch was too deep. They kept trying, but in doing so, they began to get tired. Some other frogs came along and saw their friends in the ditch. It was clear that they weren't going to make it, so they gathered around to say goodbye to their friends. "We're so sorry you're in the ditch. There's nothing we can do. It's too far for you to jump out, so we just came to say goodbye." Basically, they told their friends to give up and die.

The first frog gave up because he was just too exhausted. He just laid down, fell asleep and died. But the second frog kept jumping. His friends said, "All you're doing is killing yourself. Give up. Give up," but he refused. This frog just kept jumping until, to the shock of the frogs up top, he literally leaped out of the hole.

His friends were shocked and said, "How did you do it?"

The frog said, "I'm deaf. The only reason I hear you now is I'm close enough to read your lips. But when I was down in the ditch and saw all of you waving your hands, I thought you were encouraging me to keep jumping, so I just kept jumping until I made it." The correlation here is that the tongue has the power to give life or to take it—the power to bless or to destroy

SERMON LINES:

This message will demonstrate the awesome power of the tongue as a tool to build up and to tear down.

This sermon will demonstrate the awesome power of the tongue to give life and death.

This sermon will encourage you to control the use of your tongue for the purpose of administering life instead of death.

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

"You and I have dynamite, and it's in our dentures. Explosive power that can destroy or that can construct."

"A little match can start a forest fire; a little spark created a conflict and a blaze you were not able to put out."

"The reason why your mouth—your speech, your words, your tongue—can do so much damage is that it's got the influence of hell helping it."

"You need to be deaf to hell and keep your ears open to heaven because God wants to lift you out of the pit you're in by what you're listening to."



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MESSAGE 2:

JUDGMENT IN YOUR JAWS

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Matthew 12:31-37 (NASB)

³¹ Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. ³³ Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵ The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶ But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message on "Judgment in Your Jaws" is to help people change the things that come out of their mouths by taking inventory of their hearts and giving them good things on which to meditate.

INTRODUCTION: The words we speak have consequences. We will incur judgment for every word we have spoken in our lifetime. But it comes as no surprise to many of us that our attempts to change the words that come out of our mouths are weak at best. This is because we fail to understand that the source of our speech is our spiritual hearts. When our hearts are polluted, corrupt, angry, sad, doubtful, fearful or mean, the nasty words that come out of our mouths reveal the nasty condition of our hearts. The coming judgment on our words is a big deal. While Christians will receive a different judgment (the judgment seat of Christ) than non-Christians (the great white throne judgment), it's still vital that we understand that the gain or loss of spiritual rewards in the kingdom of heaven is determined, in part, by the quality of the words we speak while we are here on earth.

So, if we want to change the quality of things that come out of our mouths, we must examine the quality of our

hearts. Our spiritual hearts feed our thoughts (mind), choices (will), and feelings (emotions). We must begin to meditate on things that will promote its overall health. The more we meditate consistently on positive, constructive, uplifting things, such as Scripture, a good book, a productive discussion or a thoughtful sermon, the more good food will flow out into our thoughts, choices and feelings. That will positively impact our speech and the quality of our word choices. A transformed heart thus leads directly to a transformed mouth.

SERMON POINTS:

1. BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO REJECT JESUS CHRIST AFTER HAVING BEEN FULLY ILLUMINATED BY THAT SAME SPIRIT.

- Speaking blasphemy against the Holy Spirit incurs judgment; it is the unforgivable sin.
- For those who are worried about whether or not they have committed such a sin, it is safe to say that they haven't. Their worry indicates that they are searching their hearts before God, and have thus not rejected the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- Blasphemy against the Spirit is committed with full disclosure about that truth.
- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is not a misspoken word; it is a permanent rejection of the truth that Jesus is the Son of God.

2. THE SOURCE OF YOUR SPEECH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL HEART.

- Similar to the physical heart, which pumps blood throughout the body, the spiritual heart pumps the contents of your thoughts, choices and feelings.
- Oxygenated blood can carry vital nutrients throughout the body or it can carry contaminants as well.
- The blood that comes from your spiritual heart,



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similarly, can carry positive or negative content that affects how we think, how we feel, and even affect the decisions we make.

3. AN INVENTORY OF EVERYTHING WE SAY IN OUR LIFETIME WILL BE REVIEWED ON THE DAY OF OUR JUDGMENT TO DETERMINE GAIN OR LOSS OF REWARD.

- Similar to a wiretap, God remembers everything we say.
- On the day of judgment we will all give an accounting of what we have said during our lives on earth.
- For Christians, the words we say determine our gain or loss of heavenly reward.

4. WE CAN CHANGE THE QUALITY OF OUR SPEECH BY FOCUSING ON THE CONTENT OF OUR HEART.

- We should meditate on positive ideas (Philippians 4:8).
- We should continually meditate on positive ideas (Philippians 4:8, James 1:25).
- By revisiting the positive messages we receive—intentionally dwelling on them—we change the quality of the words that come out of our mouths.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

RECEIVING A MOUTH INSPECTION AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE: During a normal medical examination, when you go to your family physician, one of the things that you will be asked to do is open your mouth and stick out your tongue. They will go on to say, "Say, 'Ah.'" Now when they ask you to open your mouth and stick out your tongue, they're not merely looking for something wrong in your mouth. The doctor understands that the condition of the mouth can indicate problems that go much deeper. When they look in your mouth, it can sometimes indicate infection. It can sometimes indicate disease, and it regularly indicates vitamin deficiency. Simply by looking at your mouth, they can determine whether something is wrong much deeper inside. The correlation here is that the condition of our heart determines the condition of our speech.

THE SAD FATE OF NAVY PLANES DURING WORLD WAR II:

In World War II there was a Navy ship in the Atlantic, and six planes took off from the Navy vessel to bomb the enemy. On their way back, the ship turned out all of its lights so that the enemy would not know its location. But the problem was that the pilots couldn't see where to land because the lights on the ship were out. So the planes radioed the ship and asked them to turn on the lights briefly so they could land. With great despair, the captain denied their request because turning on the lights would jeopardize the safety of the hundreds aboard the ship. So the six planes continued circling until they ran out of gas, and they plunged to their deaths because the lights were out. The correlation here is that God will eventually turn out the light (remove saving hope) for those who have rejected the truth when they had the chance.

THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SECURITY AT ALCATRAZ PRISON:

In San Francisco Bay, there is a prison no longer in use, called Alcatraz. Not all prisoners who were in Alcatraz were on the same level; there was maximum security, medium security and minimum security. If you were in maximum security, that meant you were a hardened criminal. Maybe you got out for an hour a day, otherwise it was solitary confinement permanently—that, that was one level. Medium security meant that, that you got more free time—more time to interact. Minimum security—you got to go out and play basketball. You got to go to the library. In other words, there was much that you were allowed to do. Regardless of the level of imprisonment, there was no escaping from Alcatraz because it was surrounded by San Francisco Bay—full of sharks and a great distance from the shore. The correlation here is that hell—in one sense—has many levels in that there are varying degrees of punishment for those who will spend eternity there.

MEDITATION AND THE COWS WHO CHEW THEIR CUD:

You're driving down the highway, and you see a cow with a dribbling chin—white stuff running down the cow's mouth. Cows have multiple stomachs. When a cow wants to eat some grass, it will eat up some grass and chew it a long time before swallowing it. But then the cow may want to chew it even more. So, the cow will regurgitate it before continuing to chew. But now, it's partially digested, so it's bringing up part-grass-part-juice. It does this repeatedly until what is left is just juice. Then it swallows it for the last time, and it infiltrates the cow's system more effectively. The cor-



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relation here is that the more we meditate on positive things, the more effective they will be at transforming our hearts and changing the quality of our speech.

SERMON LINES:

This message will prove that the quality of our speech is indicative of something deeper.

This message will demonstrate that the source of our speech is our heart.

This message will reveal that we will give an accounting in the next life for everything we say in this life.

This message will encourage people to meditate constantly on Scripture and positive messages for the purpose of changing the heart, and thus, the quality of our words.

QUOTES BY DR. EVANS:

“Once you reject full light, darkness is all that remains.”

“To blaspheme the Holy Spirit, is to reject Jesus Christ is indeed the Christ, the Son of the Living God after the Holy Spirit has revealed this truth in you.”

“The mouth is only articulating what the heart is declaring.”

“God has a tap on your mouth, and He is listening to every word.”



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MESSAGE 3:

POWER IN YOUR PALATE

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Mark 11:20-26 (NASB)

²⁰ As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. ²¹ Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." ²² And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. ²⁴ "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. ²⁵ "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. ²⁶ "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message on "Power in Your Palate" is to demonstrate the power and authority of God's Word over the obstacles and difficult problems we face in our life.

INTRODUCTION: In our lives, we all face personal obstacles. Whether they are emotional struggles, financial problems or spiritual attacks, they serve to rob us of our joy and tempt us into trying to remove the obstacles in our own strength. The Bible calls these obstacles mountains. Jesus teaches us that we believers have the authority to speak to these mountains and command them to depart from us as long as we speak under the authority of God's Word. That means that Christians have power in their palate; by speaking the words that God has written on our hearts, by declaring the truth that we have stored up inside our minds through diligent reading, and studying of Scripture, we can make our personal mountains disappear.

But some mountains are bigger than others. Some of our problems overwhelm us, and in the stress and anxiety of trying to handle those problems, we might lose sight of two important truths. First, as children of God, we have the same authority to "move mountains" that God has. As creatures

made in His image, we have power in our speech, which comes forth as an outpouring of what lives in our hearts. Second, in order to benefit from that power, we must utilize that power through actual speech, not just belief. Just as God declared the universe into existence, not with the wave of a hand, but with authoritative speech, we also must speak to our problems after we have spoken to God in search of His will. By seeking His will first through prayer and by storing His truth in our hearts through faithful reading of the Bible, we can speak to our mountains and demand that they be removed from us.

SERMON POINTS:

WE HAVE THE POWER TO SPEAK TO MOUNTAINS.

- Mountains are the problems and struggles in our lives that hinder us from experiencing joy and freedom in our lives.
- Before we speak to the mountains in our lives, we need to speak to God in search of His perfect will.
- Just as Jesus spoke directly to a fig tree and caused it to wither, we can speak to our problems and demand that they be removed from us.
- The power of our speech stems from our faith in God's power.

BENEFITING FROM THIS POWER REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION.

- God's Word has power because He has authority over His creation.
- We are created in His image, and as such, our words have authority when we speak something in accordance with His will.
- We have authorization when our words mirror what God has already said and when they articulate what He already wants.



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BENEFITING FROM THIS POWER REQUIRES UTILIZATION.

- Just like the energy that comes from electrical power, we will only benefit from such energy if we utilize it.
- Utilizing the power that moves mountains requires actual speech.
- We must verbally speak to our problems in the same way that Jesus spoke to a fig tree if we hope to remove such problems from our life.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

A CHRISTIAN FIRED FROM HIS JOB: (This is a true story of a man who spoke with Dr. Evans two weeks before he preached this sermon). There was a Christian man who once got fired, not because of incompetence, but because of his faith. His bosses told him, "We don't have tolerance for Christians here." They said, "If we had known that, we wouldn't have hired you. You know you can't read your Bible on your lunch hour here even though it's your lunch hour. If you don't abide by this, even though your work is fine, you can't work here anymore."

The man replied, "Well, I cannot deny my faith."

They said, "Well you can't work here," so they fired him.

So he packed up his stuff, and on his way out, he prayed, "Now, Lord, You know this situation. I speak to this situation in the Name of Jesus because You know it is unfair. You also know I need a job, so I speak into this the will of God." He then walked out the door, and on his way to the car, his cell phone rang. On the other end was a voice that said, "This is General Motors, we've just come across your application. We want to hire you." He was offered more money, more benefits, more everything, before he got to his car!

THE WEIGHTINESS OF ONE'S WORDS:

When a police officer drives up behind you with his or her lights on and through the speaker says, "Pull over," it would be in your best interest to comply. You know why? Because that is a weighty request from a weighty person who has authority to say those words. Now if a regular person just drives up next to you and says, "Pull over," I would not advise

you to do that. You know why? Because they do not have the authority to make the demand. So, when weighty words come from a weighty person, you might say that that person has authority to speak. Those words now have clout. When God talks, He's not just mouthing stuff. When God talks, He talks to create. He talks to employ. He talks for something to result out of His speech.

THE UTILIZATION AND AUTHORIZATION OF POWER: We all have power in our homes. We have electricity in our homes because we are connected to a power source. Some kind of power is supplying our houses with the energy we need. In fact, the available power far exceeds our needs. It's not only serving us; it's serving every customer of the company providing the power. If we have a connection with a power company, it has authorized us to use their power. However, the power company is not going to come to our homes and plug in our appliances, nor is it going to come into our homes and flip on the light switch. That's our job. All it's going to do is authorize our use of it. So, if we have power, but we don't plug something in or flip a switch, it will remain unused power. Not because we don't have it, but because we never utilized it. Now, if we haven't paid the bill and the power company cuts us off, we could flip switches till we're blue in the face, but nothing will work. That is because we have not been authorized to use the power. So, two things have to happen before our appliances will work or our lights will come on. To benefit from power, we must be authorized to have that power, and we must utilize it once we receive it.

THE DOCTOR VERSUS THE PSYCHOLOGIST: You make a trip to Walgreens and get some over-the-counter medication for your flu-like symptoms, but they are not doing the job. It's only getting worse. Over-the-counter is just not strong enough. So, you call the doctor and make an appointment. The doctor says, "Well let me check you out." She discovers the problem is much deeper, and writes out a prescription. All you know is, the doctor is authorized to write it by virtue of being a doctor. You also believe and trust her knowledge. What she wrote on the paper, even though you can't read it or understand it, you trust is exactly what you need. You make your way to the place that couldn't help you before



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when you were trying to do it yourself. You tried to solve your problems yourself by shopping right off the counter, but now, with the doctor's word in your hand, you have authorization to shop at the pharmacy in the back of the store.

The pharmacist comes up and says, "May I help you?"

You tell him that you want the prescription filled and hand him the paper. That's, that's all you say, because you are operating on faith based on the word that is written. He brings you some medicine based on what is written, and you've got the gall to trust him enough to take it. You don't understand it; you can't explain it; you don't know the ingredients in it. All you know is my authorized person wrote it down.

However, you can have people with knowledge who don't have authorization. A psychologist has knowledge and can tell you what's wrong, but they can't write a prescription. A lot of us are spending a lot of our time talking to psychologists instead of doctors. Spiritual folk who sound like they know what they're talking about, but they can't write a prescription. All these people can do is help you analyze how bad off you really are. But when you talk to a doctor, who's been authorized to write a prescription and you give the written word to the pharmacist, he gives you something that can change your health and make you feel better.

SERMON LINES:

This message will show you that there is real power in your words, if you channel the authority that God has given you.

This message will teach you how to speak with the same authority that God has as it relates to your struggles.

This message will teach you how to benefit from the power that comes from that authoritative speech.

This message will give you the confidence to face your problems with faith in God's power to tell them to cast themselves into the sea.

QUOTES BY DR. EVANS:

"Before God could say it, He had to think it because words are thoughts made audible."

"If the transformation does not have a declaration preceded by an authorization, there will be no transformation."

"Prayer releases what God has already intended to do."



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MESSAGE 4:

GOD IN YOUR GUMS

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Exodus 4:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰ Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." ¹³ But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message is to let people know that when God asks us to do something that requires us to speak, He enables us to do that through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION:

Our mouths are very powerful. With them, we have the means to build kingdoms and destroy civilizations. Yet, many of us do not believe that such power exists in our speech; like Moses, we consider ourselves incapable of speaking the will of God into others' lives. But God reminds us in His Word that He is the maker of our mouths. If He has called us to preach the good news, encourage the downtrodden with a kind word, or speak victory over our problems, He will also give us the words to say through the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. While God's Word informs us of the big picture (truths that apply to everyone), the Holy Spirit helps us contextualize that Word to our ever-changing personal situations. But the Holy Spirit will not force us into compliance; if we want our words to be used by God, we must submit ourselves to that Spirit and ask Him to govern our tongues. Being a Christian does not mean that every word that comes out of our mouths are now holy. With our unclean lips, we are still very capable of talking over the Holy Spirit and drowning out the words He is trying to give us. Therefore, we should ask Him to clean our lips, control our tongue and allow our words to be used as tools for the building of His kingdom.

SERMON POINTS:

1. GOD IS THE MAKER OF OUR MOUTHS AND IF HE CALLS US TO SPEAK, HE WILL GIVE US THE WORDS TO SAY.

- However inadequate we feel regarding our ability to say the right thing to the right people at the right time, God empowers us for service.
- The call to preach the good news is for all Christians, regardless of our understanding of our own gifts.
- Moses was of inadequate speech, but the Lord gave him the authority to speak bold and powerful words before Pharaoh.

2. WE SPEAK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF GOD, AS THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US UTTERANCE.

- The way that God empowers Christians to speak the truth is through the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.
- That same Spirit "fills" us, which is evidenced by bold, powerful and biblically sound speech before others.
- Through the Spirit, God becomes our speech writer, and determines what words to say even in the most difficult of circumstances.

3. GOD'S WORD PROVIDES US WITH THE BIG PICTURE, BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTEXTUALIZES THAT PICTURE TO THE DETAILS OF OUR LIVES.

- The Bible provides us with the big picture; the Spirit provides us with the details.
- The Bible provides us with revelation for everyone; the Spirit provides interpreters that truth for us as individuals.
- The Bible provides us with the playbook; the Spirit provides us with audibles.
- The Bible speaks to us about general matters; the Spirit personalizes those same matters.



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4. WE NEED TO ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GOVERN OR CONTROL OUR TONGUES.

- It is hard to hear anyone talking when we are talking over them.
- The Holy Spirit tries to talk to us, but He can't be heard because we talk too much ourselves.
- Our speech is unclean and self-centered which prevents us from knowing that which the Spirit would have us know.
- In order to hear the Holy Spirit, we just need to shut up, that is, surrender our tongues to Him and ask Him to clean up our language.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

DANGEROUS ANIMALS ARE PUT BEHIND BARS: We have all been to the zoo. We've been there ourselves. We've taken our children or other relatives. The most vicious animals you will find in the zoo are in a cage, and they're in a cage because they're so dangerous. There are bars on that cage to hold that animal in. That cage is a container, limiting how far that lion or tiger or gorilla can go because we know that if those dangerous animals ever broke out of that cage, somebody's going to get hurt. And so, for those dangerous animals, incarceration is necessary in order to manage the damage that they could do. The correlation here is that our tongues are dangerous animals (our speech has the power to do damage), and so they are behind bars (our teeth).

NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS: Television news comes at us in two basic forms: the national news and the local news. On the national news, we get the big picture; we're informed on federal politics, global crises, international business developments, and the goings-on of famous celebrities. We get the scores and stats of teams in the NFL, NHL, NBA and MLB. Even the weather given to us is broad and sweeping in its content; a rapid-fire of temperatures and major weather systems across the country serve to give us a general idea of national weather. But, the local news informs us about the goings-on in our individual worlds. We find out about local police news, school news,

local weather, sports scores for teams that play in our area, etc. Often, the national news (which applies to everyone in the country) becomes more relevant to us when it's connected to local events. For example, the results of the general election are national news, but local elections inform the general elections, as we get to see which congressman from what district won that election and will be moving to Washington as part of congress. The correlation here is that God's Word functions as national news and provides general truths that apply to all, but the indwelling Holy Spirit applies those truths to the context of individual people and individual circumstances.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS AUDIBLES: In the NFL, there is a rule book and all 32 teams have to abide by it. But each of those teams has their own play book. Each play book is different, designed for specific strategy employed by each individual team. However, each play book must be consistent with the rule book; you can't have a play book operating outside of the rule book. The Bible is God's rule book. It applies to all people. The Holy Spirit operates as our play book by guiding you uniquely from everybody else.

In keeping with all that is written in the rule book, the play book attempts to adjust in conjunction with the team's need for a change in strategy. So, the information in the play book changes, whereas the rule book stays the same. Beyond this, the offensive coordinator (OC) will make adjustments to plays during the game. The quarterback can even change that strategy on the field while the clock is running by calling an audible. When this happens, everyone on the field makes a last minute adjustment to what they are going to do once the ball is snapped. This is the organic nature of football. In order for the offensive coordinator or the quarterback to make these kinds of adjustments, they have to know the rule book well enough to never break its rules while making adjustments.

The Holy Spirit calls audibles in our lives. He knows God's Word, because He is God. As such, He will never steer us or guide us in a way that is inconsistent with Scripture. We might start out walking in a particular direction in our



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lives, and suddenly, circumstances change; the Holy Spirit will guide us to a new path, a new strategy, a new job, a new ministry, etc. He calls an audible in our lives, and as long as we are on the same team, we will make the last minute adjustments because we know that the Holy Spirit knows the Rule Book better than we do. In short, we trust the leading of the Spirit, even if the change He is making seems peculiar. Every player on the field needs to know the Rule Book, and as long as the quarterback calls an audible that is consistent with those rules, every player should follow his adjustment. The correlation here is that the Holy Spirit contextualizes the Word of God dynamically to our ever-changing lives, which requires flexibility and trust on our part.

THE ENGINE DRIVES THE CAR: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is like putting an engine in a car. The car is a body, but without the engine you're not going anywhere. It's the engine that lets the body of the car travel. It's the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer that allows you to move in concert with the will of God. But imagine if we go to your car after church service is over, and we choose to sit in our car, doing nothing, waiting to go somewhere. In short, we will stay right where we're at, not because we don't have a motor, but because the motor has not been engaged. If we do not engage the Holy Spirit, we lie dormant in our speech or give the wrong speech because we are not being led by the Spirit. How then do we get the car moving? We're thinking, "My tongue is moving, but I'm still going nowhere." Perhaps, because all that tongue does is argue, cuss, insult, show anger, put people down, gossip and slander, all contrary to the way of the Spirit. The result of all this is that it sounds as though the engine is trying to turn over but to no avail because it's just us sitting in the driver's seat making silly engine noises. In short, we all have the keys to the car, but until we slide that key into the ignition and turn it, the body of that car will go nowhere. The correlation here is that the quality of our speech is determined by our willingness to be led by the Spirit who wants to write our daily dialogue.

THE COMPLAINING MONK: One day, a man walked into a monastery to become a monk. The unique aspect of this particular monastery was that every monk in it was allowed to say only two words once a year, spoken directly

to the head monk. They accepted him, and after his first year, he walked into the office of the head monk and said his two words which were, "BED HARD." After the second year, this same monk walked into the head monk's office and spoke his two words for the year which were, "FOOD BAD." He came to the end of his third year, and he walked into the head monk's office to say his two words which were "I QUIT." The head monk paused for a moment, before looking this monk in the eye and said, "Well, I'm not surprised, after all the complaining you've done for the past three years!" The correlation here is that God's will—the mission of the Holy Spirit—goes unfulfilled in our lives when we choose to let our mouths speak opposite of that will desires. The monk spoke opposite of what His will desires. The monk spoke the opposite of what the head monk desired, and after a time, the two parted company.

SERMON LINES:

This message help you evaluate what is shaping and forming the words you speak.
This message will inform you that the God who calls you to speak truth to others will give you the words to speak when the time comes.
This message will encourage you with the knowledge that the Holy Spirit who dwells in you will guide your speech.
This message will teach you the value of submitting your mouth to the Spirit who wants to govern your gums.

QUOTES BY DR. EVANS:

"God knew that the tongue was so dangerous; He put it behind bars called teeth and put it in a cage called your mouth!"

"Since God made it and He wants you to use it, He will be in it when it's time to say it."

"God created words to create purpose."

"It's the job of the Holy Spirit to localize what you're receiving in church nationally."

"The Holy Spirit wants to audibilize your communication, but unless you are in contact with Him, you won't hear Him."

"God wants to be your speech writer, and He wants the privilege to edit in motion."



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MESSAGE 5:

VICTORY IN YOUR VOICE

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 20:1-25 (NASB)

¹ Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. ² Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)." ³ Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, ⁶ and he said, "O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. ⁷ "Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? ⁸ "They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, ⁹ 'Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.' ¹⁰ "Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), ¹¹ see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. ¹² "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You." ¹³ All Judah was standing before the Lord, with their infants, their wives and their children. ¹⁴ Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; ¹⁵ and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ 'Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will

find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you." ¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. ¹⁹ The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel, with a very loud voice. ²⁰ They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed." ²¹ When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." ²² When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. ²³ For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying them completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. ²⁴ When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they were corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped. ²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, including goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much.

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this sermon on "Victory in Your Voice" is to free those who feel shackled by the problems they face by encouraging them to surrender their battles to God, who compensates for our weakness with divine strength throughout our many struggles.



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INTRODUCTION:

We all face trials in our lives. Some of them we triumph over easily. Others require a little more work on our part. A few of them along the way overwhelm us. We buckle under the pressures of financial difficulty, marital conflict, habitual sin, and physical maladies. In those moments, how we handle such trials has a lot to do with our own closeness to God. He has given each of us a measure of faith to believe that every personal battle we face can be overcome through His mighty power.

God turns such moments into so much more than a quick fix for us. Ultimately, God wants us to pursue Him, to surrender to Him, and to offer genuine praise to Him in gratitude of His great love. So, at different times, he allows each one of us to face impossible situations for the express purpose of doing nothing other than standing firm in our measure of faith and declaring that the battle belongs to the Lord.

To dig deeper, 2 Chronicles 20:1-25 (above) makes an argument for the power of genuine praise in commissioning the Lord to fight our battles. The people worshiped Him (v. 18) and then praised Him (v. 19), and only after the praise of the people did the Lord save them from their enemies. The point here is that there is victory in the believer's voice of praise, which excites God to rescue us from the impossible situations we face in our lives.

SERMON POINTS:

1. SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS INTO OUR LIVES IN ORDER TO MOVE US TO A PLACE OF SURRENDER.

- We all have experienced difficulties or problems in our lives that have crippled us because we can't see the solutions to those problems.
- God allows each of us to be placed in those situations so that we might see the futility of trying to battle through them on our own.
- Sometimes, he desires us to lay aside our own struggle and let Him fight those battles for us so that we might be a people who rely on Him.

2. THE PROBLEM led TO PRAYER WHICH brought TO PROPHETIC HOPE.

- 2 Chronicles 20:3 tells us that when Jehoshaphat became afraid, he "turned his attention to the Lord" and prayed.
- His earnest prayer led to a word from the Lord via the Holy Spirit who spoke it to Jahaziel, who in turn spoke encouragement to the people as a prophet.
- The word from the Lord was both consistent with all that God had promised His children and relevant to Jehoshaphat's people in their specific circumstance.

3. SOME BATTLES ARE NOT FOR US TO FIGHT, BUT RATHER WE ARE TO STAND FIRM AND LET THE LORD FIGHT THAT BATTLE FOR US.

- Some of our personal battles require us to fight through and triumph with God's strength, while other battles God Himself fights for us.
- When the battle belongs to God alone, we are called to stand firm—confident that He will prevail against the struggle.

4. PRAISE, WHICH IS THE OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF A WORSHIPFUL HEART, WILL BRING ABOUT THE DELIVERANCE WE SEEK AS HIS CHILDREN.

- Worship is an attitude of surrender within the heart toward God.
- Praise is an outward expression of gratitude of that worshipful attitude.
- Our praise calls God to action against those very struggles we brought to Him in prayer.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

A man who went to his physician because he had a major problem: The doctor said, "Well, what's wrong?" The man replied, "I hurt all over." The doctor asked, "What do you mean, all over?" The man said, "Every part of my body is in pain." The doctor thought for a moment. "Well, let's delve a little deeper."



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So the doctor told the man to touch his knee, and the man yelped in pain. Then the doctor asked him to touch his ear, and the man screamed in agony. Finally, the doctor asked him to touch his chest, and the man continued to yell. The doctor then told the man, "Your problem is clear. You have a dislocated finger." The correlation here is that some of our problems become so painful, sometimes they overwhelm us and shut us down. We can't see the root of the problem because the problem takes over our whole life.

I'm asked fairly often why, at 65 years old, I still don't wear glasses: People say, "You've had no operation or eye adjustment, yet most men your age at least have reading glasses, if not more, so what's your secret?" Well, my situation isn't what you think. My left eye is actually quite fuzzy, and I struggle with it all the time. If I just close my right eye and look out of my left eye, things are not going to be clear at all since that eye is weak. But my right eye is strong. It's pretty close to twenty-twenty—so I can see very clearly through it. My right eye compensates for my left eye. So, because the strong eye is able to compensate for the weak eye, I am still able to function just fine without the need of glasses... for now. The correlation here is that while we may be weak to handle certain problems in our lives, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, the source of all our strength, and the Spirit can compensate where we are inadequate to the challenge. We can overcome impossible problems by relying on His strength in the midst of our weakness.

There was a lady not too long ago who was living out in the boondocks and, because of her remote location, was living without electricity: One day, the electric company for that region finally ran the requisite cables into the area that allowed for this woman to have electricity in her home for the first time. Keep in mind that she had been living all of her life without electricity. Months later, they discovered that a

very small number of units of electricity had been used by this woman, and they puzzled as to what the problem might be. She had electricity, but maybe something was wrong and it was not registering the amount of usage that was actually taking place. So they sent a representative to her house, and he knocked on her door and said, "Ma'am, we noticed that you have not been using virtually any electricity, and we wondered if there was a problem."

"Well, I happen to use electricity every day. No problems here. I turn it on long enough to light the room so I can light my kerosene lamp, then I turn it off!" The correlation here is that while we have the power of Almighty God to see us through our problems, many of us ignore that power and continue to try and solve our problems in our own strength.

Once there was a man who wanted to train his horse how to stop and go based on verbal commands: Being a religious man, he thought it would be good to get the horse to stop every time he said, "Hallelujah," and to go every time he said, "Praise the Lord!" The horse learned these commands well, but after many months, the man had stopped using the commands, resorting to simply using the reins every time he rode. In this passage of time, he himself managed to forget the very commands he taught his horse. One day, while riding, he decided to skip using the reins and revert back to his verbal commands and as the horse approached a cliff, the man suddenly realized that he did not remember the command for "stop." He tried every Christian word he could think of: "Amen!" "Jesus saves!" None of this helped, and the horse was nearing the edge of the cliff. But finally as the horse was getting to the precipice, he remembered, "Hallelujah"—right at the edge, and the horse stopped. He wiped his head and said, "Praise the Lord." The correlation here is that we must continually declare the promises that God has given us lest we forget what He has said. The victory over our struggles requires more than just passive knowledge of what He said. It requires us to declare those promises through praise to God.



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SERMON LINES:

This message will encourage you by showing you that your pain and your problems are no match for God.

This message will give you peace with the knowledge that the Lord has your back, and the battle is His.

This message will teach you about the power that exists in the praise that flows from a worshipful heart.

This message will transform you from a "do it myself" person into a "follow the Holy Spirit's lead" person.

This message will teach you that there is victory in the declarations of the one who stays close to God.

DR. EVANS' QUOTES:

"You will never discover that God is all you need until God is all you have."

"What He wants you to do today may be different than the strategy He wants you to use tomorrow that may be different than the strategy that you used yesterday."

"A problem led to a prayer that resulted in a prophet that brought about praise."



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MESSAGE 6:

LORD OVER YOUR LIPS

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Matthew 16:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on the "Lord over your Lips" is to encourage all believers to surrender their speech to the One they call Lord and to let Him write the words that proceed from our mouths.

INTRODUCTION:

Throughout the previous Watch Your Mouth sermons, the power of the tongue emerges as a clear theme. We can do great harm with our speech. Our present words incur future judgment. We hold the power of life and death in the words we say. That verbal power comes from the One who spoke everything into existence. Because of Him, we can invoke victory over our struggles through genuine praise to God. In short, we experience these truths by allowing the One we call "Lord" to rule over every word that proceeds from our mouths.

Just as Peter suffered rebuke from Jesus for disagreeing with what He clearly wanted to do (suffer at the hands of men), many of us deserve similar rebuke for speaking out ideas, plans and thoughts that are contrary with the will of God. We declare our slaves to Christ for the two hours we spend in church, but during the week, our conversations dishonor him. Our declared plans for the future serve our own earthly interests instead of His. In short, we have not surrendered our whole selves to Christ as master, choosing at best to honor Him in name only.

If we can surrender our speech to include the words we choose, the jokes we tell, the conversations we have, and the declarations we make, willing to take Him with us in every situation of our lives, we will begin to experience the godly lives we seek.

SERMON POINTS:

1. TO DISAGREE WITH ANYTHING GOD SAYS IS TO INVITE THE DEVIL INTO THE CONVERSATION.

- In the passage, Peter does not like what Jesus says (about his own suffering), so he denies that such things could happen.
- Jesus rebukes him by calling him Satan, which means that to disagree with Christ is to side with the devil.
- Both God and Satan are vying for control over our mouths because both know the power our words possess.
- If God said it, no matter how we are feeling about it, we need to submit to His rule.

2. TO CALL JESUS YOUR MASTER IS TO CALL YOURSELF A SLAVE.

- Simply saying that Jesus is Lord on a Sunday morning and then living the rest of your week as though you were in charge means nothing.
- Many of the disciples, including Paul, James, Peter and Jude, referred to themselves as bondservants, or slaves in shackles, for Jesus Christ.
- If Christ is Lord over all, He is Lord over your lips, and granting Him total control over what comes out of your mouth is part of the deal.
- Servitude to Christ is a lifelong, full-time arrangement, not a Sunday-only experience.

3. MAKE PLANS WITH THE LORD'S WILL AS THE FOCUS OF SUCH DECISIONS.

- If He is Lord over your lips, the plans you make and declare for all to hear should be rooted in aggres-



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sively seeking His will.

- Be flexible, as the plans we make are often changed by the One we call “Lord,” who guides us in unexpected ways.
- Because the mouth reflects the heart, saying “If the Lord wills it...” should be more than just empty, hollow words; it should be a meaningful orientation in life.

4. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST BELIEVE GOD, WE NEED TO CONFESS HIM BEFORE HUMANITY.

- To confess God before humanity is to agree with what He says publicly so that others can hear our commitment to his rule.
- To include God in a conversation as a token gesture or a way of justifying our own agenda is to declare that our own interests trump God's.
- To fail to confess (or agree) with God before humanity is the same as making a go of it on your own, which leads to inevitable chaos.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

JESUS CHRIST IS NOT THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND: Many of us treat our relationship with Jesus Christ as though He were the Queen of England. She's got a title. She just doesn't have any clout. Everybody recognizes her, pays homage to her, but she doesn't get to pass any laws or make any decisions. You know what they give the Queen of England? A weekly meeting. She meets once a week with the prime minister to get an update—sort of like we meet once a week at church to get a religious update. So we come and get our religious update, but Jesus is not going to make any decisions. He's not going to get control of my life. He certainly isn't going to tell me how to talk. But, in case anyone doubts my Christianity, I'll keep His name upfront so it looks like He's running this show. The correlation here is that we call Him Lord over our lives, but we don't live as people who have a Lord. We say He is Lord over our lips, but the language that comes out of our mouths indicates that we are the ones who call the shots.

THE FINANCIAL AND SPIRITUAL COST OF A GOOD-

LOOKING DRESS: A wife went to the store and bought an expensive dress. She came home and said to her husband, “Honey, how do I look?”

He looked at the dress and immediately said, “How much did that cost?”

She told him the price and, as you might expect, he hit the ceiling, as it was far beyond what he felt a dress should actually cost. “How could you spend that much money on one dress?”

“Well I put it on, and the devil told me how good I looked in it!”

The man became very excitable and irritated and said, “Well, why didn't you give the devil one of those ‘get thee behind me Satan’ lines?”

She said, “Actually, I told the devil to get behind me, and he went back there and told me it looked good back there too!”

The correlation here is that the devil knows how to talk, and if we fail to make Jesus Lord over our lips, the devil will find clever ways to convince us to say things that do not agree with what God has said.

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW: A week and a half ago, I was with a friend, and we were talking about his activities as a weight lifter and how he worked out all the time at his business. In this conversation, he was communicating to me some of his plans for the future—some of the challenges he would be facing, his goals for achievement, etc. And suddenly, three days later, I got a call from his wife, and she informed me that he died. He was a forty-eight-year-old man, a physical specimen, healthy as an ox, and now, without warning to anyone, he was gone. The correlation here is that no one knows the course that their life will follow, and making plans on your own without considering the Lord's will in it is a futile endeavor at best.

JUST WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?: A young private in the army had just been invited to be in his best friend's wedding, and he needed permission to attend the event. So he approaches his commanding officer and says, “Sir! Listen, there's a wedding on Saturday, and I wondered if I could get your permission to attend?”



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The commander checks the training calendar before saying, "Yeah, you can go to the wedding. Just be back by 1900 hours (7 p.m.)."

The young private shifts his feet uncomfortably before saying, "Well, sir, I don't think you understand. I know you want me to be back by 1900 hours, but I'm in the wedding, so that will never work!"

The commander pushes his glasses up the length of his nose and without missing a beat says, "Private, I don't think YOU understand. You're in the army, and I tell you what will and what won't work."

The correlation here is that when we declare Jesus as Lord, we are giving Him total and unconditional authority over every aspect of our lives. We have the freedom to ask for things and the freedom to make plans, but He has the authority to make whatever changes He thinks are best along the way.

SERMON LINES:

This message will help you understand that your words reflect whose interests you truly serve: yours or God's.

This message will provoke you to listen carefully to the things you say and for whom you are saying them.

This message will make you aware that a war is being waged between Satan and God for control over your mouth and what it says.

This message will prepare you for relinquishing control of what you say in regards to your plans over to God, who guides in the right way.

DR. EVANS' QUOTES:

"Whenever your discussion disagrees with what God says, it's not just you talking—it's the devil using you to have his way."

"God doesn't just want you to believe it—He wants you to say it."

"God and Satan are surfing on your saliva" (In other words, both God and Satan are vying for control over the words you say).

"You call Me 'master' but obey Me not. You call Me 'light'

but see Me not. You call Me the 'way' but follow Me not. You call Me 'wise' but seek Me not. You call me 'faithful' but trust Me not. You call Me 'mighty' but fear Me not. You call Me 'provider' but ask Me not. So if I condemn you, blame Me not."

Found on an inscription from the Lübeck Lutheran Church Cathedral in Lübeck, Germany.



Watch Your Mouth Growth and Study Guide

Tony Evans' newest Bible study designed to take you through the truth of Scripture to better understand the power of the tongue.

Available online where Christian books are sold.