



Week of September 6

Week 2: Holy Speech and Godly Communication

Read through the following Scriptures: Proverbs 18:2, Proverbs 29:11, Matthew 12:36, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 5:4, Colossians 3:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and James 1:19.

Sins of speech are epidemic among believers. The current generation has witnessed a virtual explosion in everything from gossip and slander to angry outbursts and ungodly e-mailing. Little affects fellowship and spiritual power like unyielded tongues and reckless keypads. Fully confess and forsake all sins of speech. Trust God to fill and empower you by His Spirit. After each of the following questions, pause and give God time to speak.

Questions for reflection:

- Have I uttered any inappropriate or slang speech? ____
- Do I have patterns of cursing or off-color words? ____
- Am I prone to exaggeration or lying? ____
- Do I have patterns of complaining and griping? ____
- Am I guilty of any form of divisive speech? ____
- Have I in any way spread criticism or lack of support for my spiritual leaders? ____
- Do I have any patterns of critical, judgmental speech? ____
- Have I blogged, e-mailed or forwarded anything that violated Scripture or grieved God's Spirit?

- Have I blogged or forwarded material when I was not entirely sure of its accuracy or appropriateness? ____
- Do I have a tendency to hurt and offend others? ____
- Have I said things when alone that would cause great shame if made public? ____

Remember, all will be revealed. Claim God's grace and trust Christ's indwelling Spirit for your victory.

For prayer and repentance, resolve now to put off all ungodly speech and wholly yield your tongue to Christ's lordship. Be very specific in your confession and repentance. List your key steps for obedience. Trust Jesus to fill your heart and empower your speech. Believe Him for the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit.