

EMBERS FROM MY FIRE

July 2006 - By Pastor Ken Damon

THE AMAZING POWER OF WORDS!

Every person has experienced the tremendous power of human words to cause hurt or healing; harm or help; destruction or creation. The Bible speaks often about the great influence and responsibility involved in the use of words. The book of Proverbs especially addresses the powerful consequences concerned with exercising the gift of speech. The warnings and exhortations are sobering. An examination of some of these passages is enough to make a person seriously consider taking a vow of silence.

I'm going to list a number of these verses and let you draw your own conclusions from this impressive inventory of Biblical reflections on the attitudes, motives, morality, practice, and ramifications of the gift of speech. Ironically I was left speechless and cannot adequately communicate my own reaction to this study on the power of words!

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment.” (Prov. 10:19-21)

“From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.” (Prov. 12:14)

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Prov. 12:18)

“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.” (Prov. 12:25)

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger... The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.” (Prov. 15:1 & 4)

“A man finds joy in giving an apt reply— and how good is a timely word!” (Prov. 15:23)

“The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.” (Prov. 15:28)

“Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.” (Prov. 16:13)

“Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” (Prov. 16:24)

“A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.” (Prov. 17:27-28)

“A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.” (Prov. 25:11)

“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.” (Prov. 26:22)

“Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” (Prov. 29:20)

“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19)

“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)

“...but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. (James 3:8-10)

“But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.” (Matthew 5:22c)

“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)

“Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.” (Ephesians 5:4)

What more can I say?

Pastor Ken