



## **Our Words are Important**

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“Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” How many times as children on the playground did we hear this saying? It didn't take long for most of us to come to realize this wasn't the truth. Why? Words are containers of power—positive or negative. They can create and they can destroy.

For some, their entire lives have been shaped by words that destroyed and robbed them of their destinies. I remember certain “looks” and “attitudes” that convinced me I couldn't sing. It didn't matter how many awards I won, including being chosen for the All-state Chorus. I was convinced I could not sing. My family could not get me to sing. I got to where I wouldn't sing around people at all. And today, I will only full out sing, when I am totally alone. All because of words carrying negative power to destroy a talent God had given me to praise Jesus!

My dad asked me when I was a young teen what I'd like to do when I grew up and I said matter-of-factly, “I want to be a choreographer.” My dad said there was no way I could grow up to be a choreographer and refused to let me take dancing lessons. But the ideas in my head still stir to this day regarding dancing and music.

When I was in high school I got the brilliant idea to quit typing class to join cosmetology to learn how to do hair. My mother politely reversed that decision telling me, “You will need typing as a skill so you can always have a job.”

The summer before I entered university, I was playing the piano at a Full Gospel Businessmen's Meeting, where I was offered a full scholarship in Music to Oral Roberts University. I turned it down. Why? Because I knew I couldn't sing!

When I entered a local university after graduating from high school, I got the brilliant idea to take a personality inventory to see what areas of study I should pursue. The answer came back as either forestry or theology. I shook my head and proceeded to work on a degree in English with a double minor in Chemistry and Journalism. But just for an easy “A” I took a music class and the head of the music department came and offered me a scholarship to major in music. I turned him down! Why? I couldn't sing!

The reason I tell you this? Because I want you to see how a destiny was changed by negative words and looks, at a pivotal time in my life. It's taken a long journey and it's taken me a long time to come to an understanding of what happened and why. I didn't have enough understanding of the Word of God to know that what others said and did had no ability to dictate my future except what I allowed. I blamed people. I blamed my lack of talent. I blamed circumstances. I blamed people in authority. But now I understand that the failure was entirely my own.

From the time we wake up in the morning until the time we go to sleep at night each action is the result of a choice. We make the choice to wake up and get out of bed or turn over and go back to sleep. We make the choice to get up and exercise, eat breakfast, take a shower, get dressed, etc. We choose either a healthy breakfast or not. We choose to go to pray or not. We choose to study the Word or not. We choose to be nice to our neighbors or not. Every single thing we do is a choice. In every decision we have to make there are voices. E.g., “Eat this donut.” “No, eat a

piece of fruit.” “Just have both.” The choice is ours. When we don't like the results of our choices we resort to blame. Women blame their outfits for making them look fat. Men blame their wives for this and that. Worse than this, oftentimes we blame God.

Satan has had a great time, between religion and the world system, convincing people that God is out to punish us if we aren't perfect. He has wanted us to think of God as our enemy. Even great calamities are called “Acts of God.” Why? So, we won't see satan as the real enemy he is. He has trained the world system to cause men to speak idle words and negative words to stop, rob, steal and destroy destinies.

Not long ago I gently corrected someone about spoken words. The response was, “I will speak however many idle words I wish to speak.” In Matthew 12:36-37 (AMP), Jesus said, “But I tell you, on the day of judgment people will have to give an accounting for every careless *or* useless word they speak. For by your words [reflecting your spiritual condition] you will be justified *and* acquitted of the guilt of sin; and by your words [rejecting Me] you will be condemned *and* sentenced.”

The Word of God has much to say about words:

Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” - Life and death.

Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” - Health

Luke 6:45, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” - Good and evil.

Proverbs 15:4, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

With our mouths, we move either into the blessing or the curse. When we refuse to pay attention to our words, we move into the land of curse. The reason? Because when we focus upon problems and speak about them, it's because our eyes are seeing the problems. Then our eyes are so blinded by the curse we can't see the blessing when it comes. This is precisely what happened to me. My eyes were so full of what people said I couldn't do, that when the blessing came for music scholarships from two universities, I missed them both because all I could see was—“I can't sing so before anyone notices and takes the scholarships away, I void them myself and save myself the embarrassment.”

Why do you think satan wanted to stop music in my life? Why do you think satan wanted to stop dance in my life? Why did he want me to not learn about cosmetology? Why did he want me bound to a typewriter and a job? It's obvious, because he didn't want me doing things that would bring praise to Jesus. He wanted me locked into the system of the curse depending upon men for a job, instead of God for provision. He didn't want me to be all God destined for me to be.

Today God has moved me back into the land of blessing. It took a lot of repentance, prayer, faith and a few miracles to get me back to the land of blessing, but I am determined to stay under the protection of God. God made miraculous provision for me in the ministry. I sang and danced on the way too. What satan robbed from me is nothing, compared to what God has destined for me now!!!!!!!!!!!! Restoration is a great gift of God! If you've been robbed of a destiny in God, today is the day to get back what was stolen from you.