



"WORDS – LIFE OR DEATH" BIBLE STUDY
ROBERT MORRIS – GATEWAY CHURCH

LESSON #2 – "THE TRUTH ABOUT WORDS"

Lesson #2 – Words Life or Death-The Truth About Words Robert Morris Teaching Series with the study guide. These are the verses in this teaching/video. Prepared by Salt Shakin Sister Outreach & Ministry: www.saltshakinsister.com

Lesson #2 Scripture Verses

Psalms 141:3

Proverbs 26:18-19

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Romans 12:17-18

Proverbs 12:25

Proverbs 18:21

NKJV Scriptures

Psalms 141:3-Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Proverbs 26:18-19-Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,
¹⁹ *Is* the man *who* deceives his neighbor, and says, “I was only joking!”

2 Timothy 1:1-7-Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus,² To Timothy, a beloved son:

Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.-³ I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵ when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. ⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Romans 12:17-18-Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Proverbs 12:25-Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

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

Lesson #2 Studied out with commentary/notes

Psalms 141:3-Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. What does guard mean? Watch over in order to protect or control, protect against damage or harm, shield, secure, barricade. What does watch mean? Inspect, scan, examine, witness, get a hold of, study, perceive.

Proverbs 26:18-19-Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,
¹⁹ Is the man *who* deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!"

*** Let's research this verse out:

"Practical Jokes" proverb. That is because it describes what can happen when practical joking gets out of hand.

The proverb speaks to us of a certain madman. This guy is out of control. He is throwing three things in his insanity. The first is firebrands - which are akin to something like a flaming arrow. This crazy guy is also shooting regular arrows. The third thing he is dealing in is death. The first two are easy to understand, but this last one is a little more cryptic.

He is throwing around these things that hurt physically - but he is also throwing something that hurts emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. He is throwing "death" - he is killing relationships and injuring people so that they are dead to him emotionally. His actions are hurting things and killing someone's ability to be around him - interact with him - and receive anything from him.

So we see three pretty rough things going on here. All three are destructive and can cause great harm. The interesting thing is that since he is a madman - his aim may not be the best. From how this is stated, it seems as if a rather random pattern is being followed in how these things are being shot and thrown. Thus he will not hit everyone, but when he does, it is going to hurt badly. It might even kill someone. What could this be describing? Let's look, because the answer is given in verse 19.

Verse 19 tells us that the comparison is to a man who deceives his neighbor - then tells him he was only joking. First of all we need to see that this man does these things to his neighbor. The term here implies more than just a casual relationship. Some passages imply a relationship as close as a close friend or even a lover.

If we did not know the nature of this proverb through the word "ramah" - things become much clearer as we see that after this man deceives his neighbor - he eventually lets him know about it by saying, "Was I not joking?" There it is - a practical joke, pure and simple. But why is this such a strong statement? Is God adamantly opposed to all practical jokes? From what I read here I cannot say one way or the other. This is just a warning about consequences.

A day is coming when the practical joker is going to play a joke on someone and it is going to blow up in his face. He is like that madman randomly shooting arrows. Most will fall relatively harmless to the ground. Somebody gets physically hurt - and at times it is a bad injury. In other situations the pain is much worse - because it is emotional and relational.

In all honesty - when I consider that most practical jokes are done to humiliate someone - or at least to laugh at their expense - I think that a wise man should probably avoid them. He knows that such an action may result in an offended brother. And from other proverbs he knows that if this happens that brother will be very hard to win back.

Romans 12:17-18-Repay no one evil for evil. Have **regard** for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ **If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.** What does regard mean? Consider, look upon, see, think, contemplate, assess, interpret, gauge. What does the small word “if” mean? In the event that, as long as, on the condition that: NOUNS-doubt, uncertainty, hesitation, restriction, modification, pre-condition, vagueness.

Proverbs 12:25-Anxiety *in the heart* of man causes depression, **But** a good word makes it glad.

Proverbs 18:21-Death and life **are in** the power of the tongue, **And** those who love it will eat its fruit. (“It”=either Death OR Life)

2 Timothy 1:1-7-Paul, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ **by** the will of God, according to the **promise of life**, which is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, a beloved son: **Grace, mercy, and peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God, whom I **serve** with a **pure conscience**, as *my* forefathers *did*, as **without ceasing I remember you in my prayer’s night and day**, ⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being **mindful of your tears**, that I may **be filled with joy**, ⁵ when I call to remembrance the **genuine faith** that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

⁶ Therefore ***I remind you to stir up the gift of God*** which is in you **through the laying on of my hands.** **What does this mean-laying on of my hands, how does this apply to me personally?**

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **power** and of **love** and of a **sound mind**.

The following notes are from Life Gateway 2 Timothy online Bible Study

Fear is the chief enemy of faithfulness. It is the great immobilizer; it has frozen many people in their tracks and kept them from accomplishing all they were created to do in God's kingdom. Fear caused the Israelites to grumble and complain as God was about to deliver them from Pharaoh's advancing army. Fear froze the armies of Israel before Goliath, it caused the disciples to wake Jesus from His sleep in the midst of a storm, it caused Peter to deny Jesus during the passion. Many great people who ultimately proved to be faithful, along the way were tempted to give up.

Paul had poured his life into Timothy. He had worked hard at developing him into the person he would need to be to assume the responsibilities he would one day inherit. Timothy, however, by personality and nature is not one we as humans would normally deem fit for the task. Shy and retiring, timid and fearful by nature.

God does not see things as man sees them. Whereas man looks at the external appearances, God looks at the heart. God sees us, not based upon what we can do, but based upon what He can do through us.

We overcome fear and remain faithful by reassuring one another (vv. 3-4) The nature of this letter is intensely personal. Paul loved Timothy as a son and writes to him as a father would write to a son. While he is painfully honest, notice that before he calls upon Timothy to rekindle the flame within him and abandon his fear, he begins with words of reassurance, words that encourage and strengthen.

All of us need words of reassurance. All of us need someone who will love us enough to encourage us. In verses 3 and 4 Paul says five things that speak to reassurance. Five ways to reassure one another:

1. **Gratitude - I am thankful for you (v. 3)** -It's always encouraging to know that someone can appreciate what God has done through you and is thankful to God for you.
2. **Faithfulness - I am praying for you (v. 3)**. One of the most encouraging things I have ever experienced as a pastor is the knowledge that there are folks out there praying for me, praying that God will protect me, will use me and will continue to guide me.
3. **Fellowship - I want to spend time with you (v. 4)** Time and distance had in no way diminished the strength of their friendship
4. **Empathy - I know what you are going through (v. 4)** - Anyone who has spent a substantive time in ministry understands that sometimes the going gets tough. Sometimes the stresses and strains, the disappointments and difficulties lead you to tears It is encouraging to realize that others understand what we are going through and can empathize with us.
5. **Blessing - You are a blessing to me (v. 4)** It is always encouraging to know that you've been a blessing to others. We overcome fear by reassuring one another.

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We overcome fear and remain faithful by rekindling the gifts God has given us (v. 6) -Doubts and fears have a tendency to cause us to let the flame of passion, the fire for action burn low in our lives. The Greek word here, translated "keep ablaze," or "kindle afresh," literally means "keep the fire alive." Allow me to suggest four things that I believe will continuously add fuel to your fire and keep it burning brightly within you.

1. Strong in your walk -. *Our fellowship with God keeps us connected to the source of our fire, and God has given us other Christians to fan that flame, to hold us accountable, to encourage us, to exhort us and to work alongside of us. If you want the flame for ministry, the passion for service to burn hot within your spirit, you must stay strong in your walk.*

2. Spiritual in your worship- God becomes more of a ritualistic practice than a relational passion, the fire within us will grow cold and die.

3. Study in the word-It is nearly impossible to stay solid in your walk, to be spiritual in your worship and keep the fires alive when you absent yourself from time in the word of God. Like the prophet says in Jeremiah 20:9, "But His word was in my heart like a burning fire." If you want to keep the fire burning within you, study the word and it will ignite your soul.

4. Steady in your work-Keep your priorities what they need to be

We overcome fear and remain faithful by Relying on God's strength (v. 7)- The strength of man will always leave you fearful. There is always someone bigger, someone better, someone stronger, someone of whom, in your own strength, you should fear.

Application

1. **Be an encourager**
2. **Be mindful of the past** -Look back on where you are and where you have been. Yes, you may be in a difficult position now, but if you'd be honest, you've been in difficult times before. Has God not always been faithful to you before? And will He not continue to be faithful to you in the future.
3. **Be active in the present** -One of the best ways to overcome fear is to step forward in action. The only way to overcome your fear is by exercising your faith, and faith without action is not really faith. God is telling you to exercise your faith, to step out in action and as you exercise your faith, as you put that faith in action

God has given all of us gifts, if you're not sure what your service gift is, pray, ask God to show you, He will. You might be surprised to find out you've been using your gift(s) and just didn't realize it. We as Christians, are all called to share Jesus with others.

If you know your gift and you've grown cold or indifferent towards God or others, repent, ask God to forgive you and "stir up" and move back into the joy of serving again. Sometimes, this joy to serve will come immediately upon repentance, but most of the time, you have to fight the negative lies Satan continually throws at you and just "press on" persevere, endure, fight the good fight of faith! Keep praying, confessing and asking God to change your heart and renew your mind through quoting scriptures God gives you, in order to "get through" your valley days. The rain will come, **don't give up!**

Just remember, talk to God first and know that the deliverance will come "from Him" alone and don't get caught up in, depending on or leaning on others too much. There is a lesson to be learned! The quicker we learn it, and quit fighting and complaining about it, the quicker we pass the test and move on. There will always be new tests, **so dress for battle!**

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.

Don't be "ashamed" of knowing Jesus as your personal Savior. Share what He did for you with others. Know His Word so you are built up in Him and the Holy Spirit, who gives you strength and courage to share your faith in Jesus. If you're ashamed of God, He will be ashamed of you. Some people are born with bolder, more outgoing personalities, and sharing Jesus might appear to be easier with them.

Jesus perfect love casts out fear! As you learn and grow from infancy (baby Christian), God will give you more and more confidence in Him to share your faith in Him. God does not get in a hurry like we do. He will gently guide you. Living a Christian Life is being a light and walking out in obedience what the Bible says. That's not being ashamed We are not saved by our works, they are a "result" and evidence of our salvation. We have a new heart and should "yearn" to be more like Jesus

NLT Scriptures

Psalm 141:3 (NLT)

³Take control of what I say, O LORD, AND guard my lips.

Proverbs 26:18-19 (NLT)

¹⁸Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon

¹⁹is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."

2 Timothy 1 : 3-7 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus.² I am writing to Timothy, my dear son. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

Encouragement to Be Faithful-³ Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day, I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.

⁵ I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. ⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Romans 12:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Proverbs 12:25 (NLT)

²⁵ Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT)

²¹ The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Lesson #2 Scripture Review Questions:

1. In Psalms 141:3 - What are we to set over our mouths? _____
 - a. What does this word we are giving the answer to mean?
2. What does it mean to “keep watch over the door of my lips”? _____

3. In Proverbs 26:18-19 – (IF any of you were able to read the notes I added to this lesson on pages 4-5) What and how does a madman act? _____

 - a. What is wrong with “I was joking” and what happens to those on the other end of the joke? _____

4. In 2 Timothy, what are the 3 things Paul tells Timothy?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - i. What kind of a conscience can we serve with? _____
 - ii. How should we pray for others? _____
 - iii. How long should we remember others? _____
 - iv. Who was shedding tears in this verse and why? _____

 - v. What are we to “stir up”? _____
 - vi. Do you know what that is in your life? _____

- vii. God has not given us a _____ of _____ but of power, _____, and a _____.
- viii. Proverbs 12:25- What are the two things we often have to deal with and how do we overcome them? _____

- ix. In Romans 12:17-18, If it is possible, and much depends on us, how are we to live? _____

5. Key Verse: Write it out here – Proverbs

18:21 _____

Lesson #2 – Video Notes from Robert Morris Teaching Video – by bfc