



DOES GOD GRANT THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH?

THE IMPACT OF OUR SPEECH

1. Our speech has the power of life and death.

[Proverbs 15:4](#) “A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

[Ephesians 4:29](#) “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

[Colossians 4:5–6](#) “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

[Isaiah 50:4](#) “The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.”

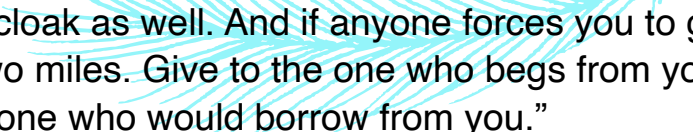
2. Our speech can bring ruin or joy to the speaker.

[Proverbs 12:13–14](#) “An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble. From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man’s hand comes back to him.”

[James 1:19–20](#) “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

[Matthew 5:38–42](#) “‘You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him





have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

3. Our speech can produce faith

[Romans 10:17](#) “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

CONSEQUENCES OF FAITHFUL SPEECH

1. Faithful speech will lead to persecution

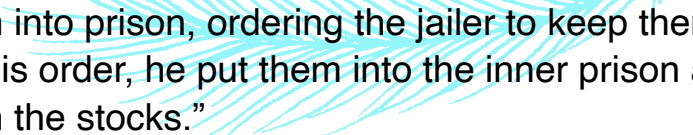
[John 15:19–20](#) “If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.”

[2 Timothy 3:12](#) “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,”

[Matthew 5:10–12](#) ““Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

2. Faithful speech can lead to the loss of freedom

[Acts 16:20–24](#) “And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they



threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

3. Faithful speech can lead to the loss of life

[Revelation 2:10](#) “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

RESPONSIBILITY

[Matthew 28:18–20](#) “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

1. We are commanded to preach the Word

[2 Timothy 4:2](#), “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

2. We are commanded to stand unwavering in our faith

[Daniel 3:16-18](#) “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.””

3. We must be ready for any outcome.



ACCOUNTABILITY

1. God does not grant us freedom of speech
2. Jesus tells us that we will be held accountable for our words

[Matthew 10:32-33](#) "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

[Matthew 12:36-37](#) "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.""

CONCLUSION

[James 1:22](#), "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

[Ephesians 4:29](#), "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."



QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of instances when your words have positively influenced others?
2. What eternal impact can your words have when you spread the message of Christ?
3. What eternal consequences can your words have if you speak foolishly?
4. Journal about a recent situation where their speech had a positive impact on someone or a situation where they faced opposition for their faith. Encourage them to reflect on how they can continue to use their words for God's glory in the future.