

## WATCH WHAT YOU SAY

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### Memory Verse: 32:52

Proverbs 29:20 (ESV) “Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

### Introduction 02:46

“Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?” (Psalm 34:11–12 ESV)

“Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” (Psalm 34:13–14 ESV)

To live a long and prosperous life, watch what you say.

### 1. What You Say Has Power 05:00

The first mention of the use of words was at creation:

“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3)

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:2–3 ESV)

Words carry **creative** and **destructive** power.

“The tongue is a fire... full of deadly poison.” (James 3:6–8 ESV)

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” (Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

### 2. What You Say Matters Long After You Forgot About It 14:21

Words leave a lasting impact—spoken or forgotten, they continue to bear fruit.

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.” (Matthew 12:36–37 ESV)

### 3. What You Say Reveals What’s Inside 18:07

The words you speak reflect the condition of your heart.

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34–35 ESV)

What is my heart saying?

“But God, being rich in mercy... made us alive together with Christ.” (Ephesians 2:4–5 ESV)

#### **4. Know What You Are Going to Say 25:12**

**Before speaking, pause and consider three guiding questions:**

##### **A) Is this motivated out of love?**

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” (1 Corinthians 13:1 ESV)

Love is seeking the best for another person.

##### **B) Is this the best time to say this?**

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths... as fits the occasion.” (Ephesians 4:29 ESV)

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” (James 1:19–20 ESV)

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##### **C) Is this gracious to the other person?**

Grace is showing unearned favor to another person.

“Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.” (Proverbs 16:24 ESV)

#### **Conclusion 36:16**

Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. (Psalm 34:11–13 ESV)

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. How have words—yours or others’—shaped your life for good or harm?
2. What area of your speech do you sense God wants to transform most?
3. How can slowing down before you speak change the tone of your relationships?
4. What practical steps can you take this week to speak words that give life?