

Greetings Open Bible family, friends and loved ones,

When I was younger, my mom used to have to stay on me about how I would say things in response to her or one of my siblings. She would always tell me, “Duane, it is not what you say but how you say it!” I really didn’t understand this fully until I was a little older because I thought I was saying it just fine.

This usually happened after my mom had asked me numerous times to do something and I procrastinated until I finally broke down and got it done. So only when she would ask me again and my task was completed would my response be less than kind.

My mom had a way of pushing my buttons. You know, those buttons where if I had only done what I was supposed to then there wouldn’t be any of those buttons to push buttons? After that exasperating encounter with her once again, I walked back to my room that I shared with my brother, closed the door and said to no one in particular, “That old battle axe!” You see, I thought I was safe but I didn’t realize my brother was in the room paying attention to me until later that day my mom brought that to my attention.

She looked me in the eye with a twinkle in hers and asked, “Old Battle Axe huh?” I was busted. How did she find out? My brother! My brother the narc. My brother the snitch. I didn’t even know what a battle axe was and didn’t know why I used that expression to describe my mom. And to this day, I could only guess it’s significance as a phrase.

Anyway, several scriptures come to mind. Numbers 32:23b says, “... you may be sure that your sin will find you out.” Or, Ephesians 6:2, “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise...” and I especially like Proverbs 10:1 where Solomon wrote, “A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his **mother**.” Which hopefully doesn’t describe too much of my childhood.

I used to remind my mom pretty often of what a great son I was. In fact, I would encourage her to come to her senses and admit that I was the

favorite of her six children. She was a pretty tough cookie and I almost got her to bend a few times, but she would always come back to the phrase, “You’re all my favorite!” to which I would use the word, “delusional” or “confused” to respond to her state of mind.

However, the scripture that really comes to mind has to do with my mouth. It is found in Proverbs 18:1, “The **tongue** has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” And in Proverbs 21:23, “Those who guard their mouths, and their **tongues**, keep themselves from calamity.” I’m sure over the course of my lifetime I could have avoided much heartache and embarrassment if only I did a better job of controlling my tongue. Times where I snapped at my wife or my kids, said something to someone I wish I could take back, spoke ill of someone to someone else out of anger or spite.

Why is this important? It is important for several reasons. First, because usually what comes out of your mouth is in your heart. (Luke 6:45 and Matthew 12:34). If your heart is full of garbage, then out of your mouth garbage will be spewed. But if your heart is filled with goodness and kindness then good and kind words will be spoken. Lord cleanse our hearts. And second, your words (the power of life and death) can be a blessing to someone or a curse, thus affecting the type of testimony of Christ you are trying to exhibit.

People are paying attention to our words. Lately, I have been trying hard to make sure my words are life giving and not destructive. I am working hard at being positive, good, and kind. God’s people are known by the words they use and don’t use. Proverbs again reminds us that those who guard their **mouths**, and their tongues keep themselves from calamity. (21:23) And that the mouth of a fool invites ruin. (10:14b)

My prayer, today is, Lord put a guard over my mouth and my tongue. May I only speak what is life giving to those that need to hear words of life. May my heart be cleansed of that which would come out of my mouth. May the Holy Spirit guide me to someone today that needs to hear a word of encouragement. May I cross paths with someone who needs to hear a positive comment. May I be the bringer of good news to someone who needs to hear that everything will be okay.

I am thankful for my mom reminding me that my words matter. They matter more than could ever imagine. They matter because I have something to say and I need to say it the way God would want me to say it.

Speaking Word of Love,

Pastor Duane

GATHERING INDOORS:

We are gathering indoors, every Sunday
at 9:30am

- Come Early!
- Come ready to Worship!
- Come ready to Receive the Word!
- Come ready to Give Generously!
- Come ready to see Friends & Loved Ones!

(If vaccinated, masks are optional. If unvaccinated, a mask is required)



SERMON SERIES:

Please join us this Sunday, July 25th, at 9:30am, as we begin our new sermon series:

"Life On The Vine"
Connecting With God
John 15:1-8

"GIVING" QR CODE:

Giving couldn't get any easier!

- Simply click on your phone's camera and then aim at the code on the right
- Once you see a new window appear at the top of your screen, click on that window
- It will bring you directly to the "Giving" page on: www.sjobc.com

Thank you all for your continued support!!



GIVING:



Every week we encourage you to be faithful in your giving. You can give four different ways:

- You can mail your gifts to the church
- You can bring them by and drop them in the mail slot
- You can give directly through your bank by setting up an EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)
- You can give online through our church website: www.sjbc.com

TEXT IN CHURCH:

A easy way for us to connect and keep everyone in the loop with what's happening at San Jose Open Bible Church

Please text **Connect** to:
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