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I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

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James 3:2 NKJV

For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Another translation (NIV) of the above verse says, *...anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.* It should be noted that the word “perfect” used here does not mean flawless, it carries the meaning of being mature, or fully developed. James goes on to tell how we can control horses with a bit and a big ship is controlled with a relatively small rudder. So, what the bit is to the horse and the rudder is to the ship is what your mouth is to your life. If he was writing today, he might have said something about the steering wheel of a car – the thing that controls the direction of the car.

It seems obvious to me that most people – even many Christians don’t really believe this. Why would I say that? Because of the way they talk. If you believed that what you say is either helping you or hurting you - bringing life to you or death to you - making you sick or healing you - bringing finances to you or keeping finances away from you... If a person really believed that, they would pay more attention to what they say. But if you just float along and say what everybody else is saying, it’s a strong indicator you don’t believe it.

What you say is important... Not just because I say it, but because the Bible says it. A lot of people don’t believe that words have much of an effect on their lives. People don’t value how important their words are in directing the course of their lives. Over many generations, Satan has deceived mankind into making light of the importance of our words.

One major problem is that many have the attitude that we see in Psalm 12 and verse 4: *Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is lord over us?"*

Isn’t that the attitude of a lot of people, even church people? *“Don’t tell me how to talk. My mouth is my mouth – I’ll say what I want to say.”* Yes, you can, but it will cost

you. But people don’t believe it costs them anything. They don’t believe there’s a connection between what they’re saying and what’s happening in their life. They can ignore the fact that the Bible is full of scriptures that show us that is what’s happening. They don’t want to believe it because it puts too much responsibility on them!

It’s important to control what we let come out of our mouth. When? All the time! It’s not so hard when you’re in church, but what about when it’s just you and a bunch of the guys, or a bunch of the girls? What about when it’s just you all by yourself? It matters. Because you know who else is there, even if you think you’re alone? The accuser of the brethren – your enemy, and he’s keeping track of everything you say. It matters what you say, all the time.

What comes out of your mouth is directly related to what you’ve been putting in your ears and eyes. If you feed on garbage (what you listen to, read, watch on TV...) Some modern music is full of profanity and nothing but negative messages and violence. If you listen to that all day every day, even if you listen to good Bible teaching for an hour or maybe two hours, how does two hours compare to the rest of the week? What will you be more full of?

So we need to get full of something good! I like to use the example of people being like a sponge and what ever is in us will come out when we are squeezed. When we’re pushed, faith should come out... the Word should come out. Love comes out, joy comes out, peace comes out. Jesus said, **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

Using words properly is kind of like having a big weapon – you need to be responsible. When I was learning how to handle a gun, I learned to be very careful where I pointed it because once I pull the trigger, I can’t get that bullet back. You can’t just shoot recklessly at anything you want. You can’t have the attitude that because it’s your gun you can shoot it wherever you want – you have to think about the end result of any shot you take.

In the same way, we need to think about the end result of



Above left: Students in Szakcs, Hungary are shown here watching and taking notes during a weekly lesson from the Light to the Nations Bible school.

Above right: The people in Szakcs are learning to be doers of the Word. Among the foundational teachings we focus on are the Biblical principle of seedtime and harvest, and the power of our words. Church members Jozsi Bacsı and Aniko are putting Biblical principles into action concerning their chicken raising business. Beginning with 50 eggs (seeds), they spoke life over the eggs, and every egg hatched and produced a healthy chick! But wait, there's more! After the success with the first 50, they bought 50 more (plus an incubation light) and continued with the same process of speaking life to the eggs, and every egg produced a harvest of a healthy baby chick! They (and we) are convinced that this is miraculous, because nobody they know who raises chickens has 100% success with hatching eggs. God is good!

Below left: With such success in the chicken "harvest", others from the Szakcs church are planting seeds in vacant fields near their homes and praying for a bountiful harvest.

Below right: Here, Szakcs church leaders Norbi and Aniko Rozsa minister to the people outdoors on a warm spring day. Thank you for your prayers for the growing group in Szakcs.



the words that leave our mouth. Once it leaves your lips it's too late - people will hear it, and it will find its target - whether you meant to hit that person or not. The Bible says some words are like arrows and some are like swords. The Bible says some words bring healing. Even if you didn't mean it, you are still responsible for it. Satan will still use it against you.

On the positive side, we can focus our words and make our words work for us instead of against us - we can speak life instead of death. We can also get answers and realize why things have been happening and realize that all I have to do is watch my mouth and things will change. This can literally change the course of your life. If a person doesn't

like the direction their life has been headed, they need to purposely take hold of that "steering wheel" and change course. It is true, as **Proverbs 18:22** says: *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Thank you to everyone for your support of Light to the Nations Ministries. Your prayers and financial support continue to be a blessing to many people.

Love and blessings,

Dan + Marta Lewis