



Choosing Words of Life
as presented by Mary Lowman
The Christian Working Woman Summer Session II
July 16 – 20, 2018

Day 1 - Monday, July 16, 2018

The tongue has the power of life and death... (Proverbs 18:21)

Words of Death

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (James 3:6)

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. (James 3:10)

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. (James 3:2)

In order to control our words, we have to control our thoughts. We say what we think. In order to control our thoughts, we have to practice Philippians 4:8.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

The Word of God has a lot to say about how our words can deliver death blows to other people. Here are some examples.

Harsh words

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)

Gossip

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. (Proverbs 17:9)



Quarreling

It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. (Proverbs 20:3)

He who loves a quarrel loves sin. (Proverbs 17:19)

Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. (Proverbs 17:14)

Hasty words

Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (Proverbs 29:20)

WORDS OF DEATH

Here are some "words of death" that are very common. Check the one(s) you use too often:

- She really gets on my nerves.
- The weather is lousy today.
- There's no way I can get all this done today.
- Why does he always get here late?
- I am so tired.

Watch out for these words, and think of ways to deliver the message (if necessary) in non-offensive words.

Defensive words:

Use instead

"It's not my fault."

"It's not my job."

"I didn't say that."

"That isn't true."



"Finger-pointing" words:

Use instead

"You don't understand."

"You failed to notice."

"You missed the point."

"You neglected to mention..."

"I don't care" words:

Use instead

"It's not my job."

"That's not our department."

"I don't know."

Dictatorial words:

Use instead

"You'll have to..."

"Hold on."

"Fill out these forms."

When you have to deliver bad news:

1. Soften the blow - use empathy/sympathy.
2. Focus on what you can do, not what you cannot do.
3. Use positive words for negative messages.

Example:

Message: We cannot refund your money.

Say: *What I can do for you is offer a house credit.*